HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Summary Report 19-20 July 2018 \

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 July 2018

Capacity Development Workshop on monitoring the implementation of urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda

The training workshop, hosted by the New School, provided an opportunity for civil society organisations, government representatives and UN officials to have a tripartite dialogue on strengthening capacity on the collection, analysis and reporting on human settlements indicators, focusing on urban SDGs indicators as well as corresponding levels of data disaggregation.

Monday 9 July 2018

Influence of local governments in implementing and monitoring SDGs

Panelists from a various cities, industries and regions shared experiences localizing SDGs through institutional collaboration (Malaga), actualizing the mutually reinforcing nature of various SDGs (private sector), learning across the border (Belgium), and improving infrastructure (South Africa).

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Training tool – Practical tools to localize and implement SDG11 and NUA

The event focused on how ICTs can serve as a tool to better address the challenges to achieving SDGs.

Sustainable Cities in Saudi Arabia

The meeting discussed efforts that have been made so far through several initiatives: the Saudi National Spatial Strategy (NSS 2030), transportation metropolitan strategy, and a model of environmentally Sustainable cities concept which was adopted in Jubail and Yanbu industrial cities.

Learning from Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge for transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies (SDG 15)

The event underscored challenges indigenous people face in keeping their traditional knowledge due to lack of policy support.

Training: Practical Tools to localize and implement SDG11 and the NUA in Cities and the Developing World

The training reviewed the linkages between SDG 11 and the NUA and UN-Habitat's ongoing projects such as the City Prosperity Index and the National Sample of Cities. The training emphasized the importance of working on indicators, spatial data collection, monitoring and reporting outcomes. Participants looked at the applicability of UN-Habitat's tools at the local level, data sources for indicators calculation, UN-Habitat's role on SDG reporting/monitoring, UN-Habitat's tools applicability on cities under crisis, informal versus formal data, and data disaggregation.

Tuesday 10 July 2018

HLPF Main Event: Transforming Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies - LDCs, LLDs, and MICs

This looked at countries with high exposure to risk and weak structural resilience which are particularly vulnerable to shocks. The panelists suggested new pathways and policies to build resilient futures for each society which poses multidimensional challenges for all Member States at all levels of development.

SDG 5 and SDG 11 critical drivers of the Leave No One Behind aspiration for the 2030 Agenda: Improving Accountability for the gender responsive implementation of the NUA (UN-Habitat, UN Women, Huairou, NGO Committee for Sustainable Development.)

The Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, told the meeting that cities are planned by men and for men. "The ambitious targets we have set to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cannot be achieved if women, who are the majority dwellers in cities are unable to enjoy the benefits of urbanization, nor empowered to contribute to urban development through economic, administrative and political leadership," she said.

The Chair of the Huairou Commission said it was important to recognise role of grassroots women in bringing solution sand innovations to the Sustainable Development Goals and that grassroots women should have meaningful participation in decisions as partners. The Co-Chair of the Older Persons Partner Constituent Group, General Assembly of Partners, emphasized the importance of focusing on the large numbers of those over 60.

Transforming security sector governance for safe and resilient cities (co-organised by Humanity & Inclusion, with Belgium and Luxembourg)

This focused on the linkages of SDG 11 to SDG 5 and SDG 16. Emphasis was placed on security sector reform and localizing best practices and lessons learned in terms of crime control and prevention.

Safer and Inclusive Roads and Transports for Cities that leave no one behind

Road safety and accessibility are major challenges. Without safe mobility, many vulnerable road users (e.g. persons with disabilities, children, older people, pedestrians) are exposed to considerable health risks. Meeting participants called on all stakeholders to develop inclusive policies and practices.

Achieving SDG Alignment through Partnership for Goal 11 as guided by the NUA
This invited urban stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society, and international institutions to share their activities to promote SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

Pathways to peace in the city – Building on the World Urban Forum
Cities can be centres of destabilization and fragility, or they can provide a bulwark of stability and peace in a turbulent role. This shared the preliminary analysis from the Democratic Control of Armed Forces research project "Security Sector Governance for Safer Cities: Supporting States to achieve SDG 11", and local actors discussed promoting partnerships in providing safety and building urban peace. The UN-Habitat speaker talked about localizing knowledge of different urban contexts to implement and advise more comprehensive security policies.

Interagency Coordination Meeting on Public Space
UN-Habitat convened partner agencies to discuss possible areas of collaboration relating to public space.

Urban walk
The ED joined UN-Habitat staff, academics, NGO staff members and others for an informative walk to 34th Street with two experts from NYC who discussed the road transport design, bike lanes, buses and other equitable sharing of street space.

Wednesday 11 July 2018

Main event: HLPF Thematic Review: transforming towards sustainable and resilient societies - LDCs, LLDs, and MICs
The session reviewed and evaluated progress made and challenges encountered in achieving transformation for LLDCS, LDC and MICS which face socioeconomic inequalities and lack of data.

UN-Habitat event: Press conference with the Executive Director
ED shared her key messages about SDG 11 with around 20 journalists just after the noon briefing and highlighted that many SDGs targets have a direct connection to urbanisation. She spoke about the potential and challenges of cities. Journalists asked questions including on whether SDG 11 could be met by 2030 and her main messages.

Main event: HLPF Review – ED on the panel
The panel, chaired by Marc Pecsteen, ECOSOC Vice- President, included Benjamin Rae, UN DESA, Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing who called for a human rights approach saying inadequate housing assaults human dignity and moderator Rohit Aggarwala, Columbia University. Panelist Penny Abeywardena, New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs, said New York's Mayor Bill de Blasio had announced the world's first annual city-based HLPF Voluntary Local Review, and declared 11 July "Global Goals Day." Panelist UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif described urbanization as a transformative force and panelist Meera Al Shaikh, Smart Dubai, UAE, described steps to make Dubai the "happiest city on Earth".

During the discussion Thailand described slum upgrading programmes that harness flexible finance schemes. Brazil outlined efforts to make its housing programme, aimed at a deficit of 6.2 million housing units, inclusive and Turkey pointed to providing sustainable transport for all as challenge.

The Netherlands spoke of radicalization in disadvantaged areas saying it is essential to make cities work for the younger generation. Sweden said implementing the 2016 New Urban Agenda is crucial and Bahrain presented a partnership with UN-Habitat to assist the government with public-private partnerships for addressing urban management issues. Algeria said Algiers has become the first African capital without slums. indonesia announced national development plans to reduce urban waste by 18% and Morocco presented a national strategy on human development supporting fragile populations.

WFP called for urban planning to integrate rural-urban linkages, UNESCO said cities should raise awareness of cultural diversity, and safeguard indigenous cultures and practices and UNEP called for designing resource-efficient cities At the closing the UN-Habitat Executive Director reiterated UN-Habitat's commitment to SDG 11 implementation.

Global Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (Training)
This event invited the partners of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) to introduce how higher education institutions are integrating the SDGs into sustainability strategies in the form of research, teaching, pedagogy, and campus practices, and to position Higher Education Institutions as key drivers for achieving the SDGs.

UN-Habitat side event: Quantifying the Commons: Achieving Indicator 11.7
This evaluated the next steps required for measuring the quantity, quality, distribution of and access to public space. UN-Habitat and partners discussed methodologies for producing comparable data on public spaces in sample cities. The session called for agreement on a universal definition of 'urban', engagement of local and national governments on aggregation and disaggregation and increased financing to implement and monitor indicator SDG 11.7.1.

Implementing SDG11.4: Local Voices and Global Agendas for Cultural and Natural Heritage
The UN-Habitat speaker underlined the importance of culture and heritage in cities, underlined that UN-Habitat advocates for culture and heritage from a strategic proactive approach and called for bringing culture in policy processes to maintain a long term perspective.

UN-Habitat Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif © IISD

Migration governance at local level

The workshop focused on gathering inputs from expert participants on an assessment framework for migration governance at the local level that can be applied across cities with different economic development levels and migration profiles. UN Habitat's intervention emphasised the need to address questions like: "Are cities aware of the duty national governments bear with reference to human rights?"

UN-Habitat side event: The Executive Director's meeting with partners

Over 60 representatives of academia, civil society, private sector, women, children and youth, professionals and other stakeholders engaged with the ED Executive Director, on her mission and vision for the agency– a better quality of life for all in a rapidly urbanizing world.. She reiterated her drive to regain trust of member states and stakeholders alike, and to ensure that stakeholders contribute effectively to the identification of UN-Habitat priorities and strategies. Stakeholder welcomed the ED's message with its emphasis on people, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, assessing impact, transparency and accountability. They applauded her decision to establish an international advisory group and internal steering committee on partnerships to facilitate coordination, alignment and enhanced stakeholder engagement in policy and programmes across the agency. Other key issues raised by partners included the role of science and technology, cities in crisis, migration, emerging partnership structures, access to justice and the right to the city, and the revived role of the World Urban Campaign. Key highlights included the role of data and evidence in monitoring implementation of SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, gender equality, youth, sustainable and friendly partnerships.

Side Event: The Role of Water Utilities in the Implementation of SDG6 and the New Urban Agenda

Convened by Spain and Tajikistan and organized by UBSB/GWOPA

Member States and their UN Permanent Representatives were briefed on the role of water utilities in the implementation of SDG 6 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and on urban water management.

In her keynote speech, the Executive-Director of UN-Habitat acknowledged Tajikistan and Spain for being strong water advocates at the global level. She emphasized the importance of inclusion for water for all activities but warned that providing services, water and sanitation utilities are often unable to ensure that no one is left behind. UN-Habitat showcased the successful model of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA). The session heard that partnership between NGOs and government bodies has created ripple effects in facilitating better sanitation services and strategies on water utilities across the globe.

Side Event: Cities and the Global Agenda: On the Road to the U20 in Buenos Aires

Panelists addressed some examples of practices around SDG 11 and the NUA as well as the challenges. She called for a rethink on what decision makers have been doing regarding urban planning and governance and emphasized inclusion and integration as well as linking urban issues to inequalities. Eduardo Moreno (UN-Habitat) reinforce ED's call on the implementation of global urban agendas through an inclusive process. UN-Habitat emphasized the crucial role that data collection and analysis play on evidence-based decision-making processes.

Side Event - Youth, Peace and Resilience

The event reviewed how United Nations, academia, and NGOs are contributing to youth development in the context of peace and resilience. The panelist from the UN Secretary-General's Office highlighted how youth are actively raising their voice through the UN Security Council. Other panelists shared their fieldwork projects in developing countries using community building and localization.

UN-Habitat Side Event - Effective Implementation, Monitoring and Financing of SDG 11

This side event was convened to provide inputs to the HLPF review of SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, focusing on: how interrelations across development goals can be enhanced and policy coherence be achieved; and key enablers that accelerate implementation, monitoring, and financing for SDG 11.

UN-Habitat Executive Director, **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, said that SDG 11 plays a fundamental role in catalyzing all 17 SDGs, especially ones related to energy, economy, environment, society, and science and technology. She said the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) demonstrated that countries are making progress but not aligning SDG-related policies to: enforce ownership; effectively collect and use data; and improve finance. Mohd Sharif said that the UN Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) offers tools and methodologies for cities to formulate policies.

Sylvia Meier-Kajbic, Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, said the EU was strengthening partnerships with local authorities in the third countries, and that it was integrating the SDGs into its policies.

Thomas De Bethune, European Commission, said the Urban Agenda for the EU was a new multi-level cooperation mechanism.

Rosario Robles, Minister of Agrarian, Land and Urban Development, Mexico, outlined her country's efforts to: integrate SDGs into national urban policies, including a housing policy; and reform laws.

Carlos Zedillo, Infonavit, noted that 305 cities in Mexico use the CPI.

Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group, underlined challenges for securing development finance for cites, including inadequate data on cities and the need to effectively utilize local knowledge and capacities.

During the ensuing discussion, topics included: disaggregating data at the local level to enhance access and usability; the role of culture and heritage as a cross-cutting issue in the SDGs; tools and solutions for implementation of the SDGs; municipal ID, the Right to the City, and no one left behind in

the UN-Habitat framework; linking culture and urban renewal; and strengthening partnerships on SDG 11 and under SDG 17.

Friday 20 July 2018

Side Event - Partnership Exchange
The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Office for Partnerships and UN Global Compact convened the day-long exchange where participants identified ways of aligning diverse stakeholders, highlighting the importance of soft skills and putting in place the enabling system to build institutions fit for partnering.

The morning agenda featured sessions on building institutions and platforms that are fit for partnering, and focusing on maximizing impact of partnerships at the national level. Moderating the discussion on building institutions and platforms, Darian Stibbe, TPI Executive Director, noted that the exchange

was viewing partnerships in a broad sense, as vehicles for development rather than formal public-private partnerships.

The first session also identified internal changes that organizations can undertake in order to become fit for partnering. At the UN level, participants flagged the need to make entry points for collaboration clearer, but noted that platforms are not only UN-led and can be government-run, housed within universities or driven by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Common themes from the second parallel session, moderated by Simona Marinescu, UN Development Programme (UNDP), include the need to see partnerships as a "people business," where managing people is key to success in maximizing value.

The afternoon sessions opened with remarks by Marie Chatardová, President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),

Liu Zhenmin, USG for Economic and Social Affairs, and UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed who called for the scaling of solutions so that partnerships reach "not millions, but billions of people."

The event's Partnership Showcase featured presentations of 15 multi-stakeholder initiatives that contribute to the SDGs under review at this year's HLPF.

Side Event - Challenges of the NUA
UN-Habitat's Executive Director called for reviewing and rethinking what decision makers have been doing regarding urban planning and governance. She emphasized inclusion and integration as well as linking urban issues to inequalities. There was a focus on the crucial role that data collection and analysis play on evidence-based decision-making processes and speakers reinforced the need for collaboration to look for best practices and analyze mistakes to ensure the full implementation of SDG 11 and the NUA.

Side Event - Engaging Young Men and Women in City Planning: The Saudi Experience

The event highlighted the important role that UN Habitat in partnership with the Saudi government and civil society organization play in the NUA and implementing SDG11 and some best practices including using Minecraft to engage youth on urban planning and design. It was clear that Saudi youth want to be involved in the development of their cities.

Side Event - Every Journey, Every Child: A Global priority for urban sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Goals address the issue of road safety from the perspective of SDG 3 and 11. This luncheon session aimed to advance the agenda and fought for building knowledge and finding common solution for this issue. The event featured a strong focus on causes of this growing phenomenon, including social injustice, property. To leave no-one behind, the session calls for actions to protect children and the vulnerable groups. Selected countries shared their national experiences and measurements that has been achieved so far in addressing this issue. Many of the national wide approaches are tightly linked to technological solutions, education and programming when it comes the promotion of road-safety.

The Role of Young People in Building Vibrant Communities

This event discussed how UN agencies, academia, and NGOs have worked on youth development on community levels. Panelists shared how they linked their youth programs to multiple SDGs: Goal 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) and Goal 5 (Gender Inequality). They agreed that youth participation, cooperation, empowerment, and engagement to SDG implementation should be more actively promoted at all levels.

Moving beyond crises: making cities work for IDPS

This Side Event was contextualized by the release of Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement. The greatest challenges to make cities work for IDPs are to collect good quality, city specific, disaggregated data; to integrate and support local authorities in the policy design and program management in addressing the challenges IDPs face in cities (access to basic services, employment, health, education); and to account for the shared vulnerabilities of the local population and IDPs in cities affected by crisis. There is an interplay of risks that urbanization and displacement carry - this poses challenges for the achievement of Agenda 2030 and SDG11. Existing tools such as the New Urban Agenda must be used and new innovative solutions harnessed to better capture and address the urban dynamic of internal displacement.

This side event provided a forum to discuss the challenges of accounting for IDPs in planning, financing and delivering urban basic services, particularly where displacement is protracted. UN Habitat representative spoke on ways to support national and local governments in addressing urban displacement, and how to tie these efforts into SDG progress monitoring, particularly with regards to achievement of SDG 11. The World Bank representative focused on how a better understanding of IDP numbers and displacement trends could be used by urban authorities in planning and delivering services.

Side Event - Making Arab Cities Sustainable, Safe and Inclusive

Arab cities face geospatial challenges include urbanization, disaster induced migrations and socio-economic disparities as well as unsuitable patterns of consumption and production. Arab countries are currently working toward implementing the agenda through clear plans and publics, while monitoring the pre-defined goals, targets and indicators. This side event highlighted the urbanization challenges in Arab cities including refugees, lack of families and inequality under the broad context of climate change. Presenters from civil society organizations underlined that both local and governments have obligations and commitment for a human-rights based approach to achieve sustainable development. Budget inclusiveness and transparency is required to be addressed along with the participatory and governance in the decision making process in order to strengthen the relationship with the citizens and local authorities.

Side Event - Accelerating Effective Implementation of SDGs through interlinkages and gender-sensitive, people-centred land governance and just land reform

Land rights and security of tenure are critical to inclusive development across all dimensions (social, economic and environmental). This increased global political commitment to address the land tenure insecurity through the integration of specific SDGs' land targets and indicators in the Agenda 2030 opened a window of opportunity for many countries to strengthen policies, programs and services that promotes secure land rights reforms and sustainable use of land, to strengthen rural communities and smallholders farmers, and to tackle a variety of development challenges, from eradicating poverty and hunger, to reduce extreme inequality, better adapt to and fight climate change, and create more peaceful, just, transparent and accountable societies.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

| 1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION |

| 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES |

| 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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