Informal CPR Briefing Session on UN-HABITAT’s preparations for Rio+20

25 January 2012
OVERVIEW

• Background
• UN-HABITAT preparations so far
• Draft Outcome Text: The Future We Want
• Partnerships, Products and Events
• Issues for Discussion
BACKGROUND

• The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio+20) will take place on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio, twenty years after the Earth Summit.

• General Assembly Resolution 64/263 stipulates that the Rio+20 Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

• UN-Habitat has been an integral participant in key aspects of the preparatory process for UNCSD including its Preparatory Committees and Inter-sessional Meetings.
Green economy

One of the two themes of the Rio+20 Conference is: “Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”

Read more
INFORMATION SHARING

• Informal briefings for the CPR:
  – April 2011, on Un-HABITAT’s take on the green economy
  – June 2011, for the African Diplomatic Corps, jointly with UNEP
  – 25 January 2012, on UN-HABITAT preparations
  – 14 May 2012, after the informal negotiations are completed

• 96 UN-HABITAT staff members at HQ and in the field regularly receive e-mail updates on Rio+20 as part of an on-going internal information dissemination effort. Two briefings were held with the Senior Management Board.
EARLY STAGES OF UN-HABITAT’s ENGAGEMENT

- CEB (2008), in response to the global crisis, decided that the UN agencies work on different themes based on their mandate.

- UN-HABITAT contributed to the social protection floor, coordinated by ILO, and to the green economy coordinated by UNEP.

- PrepCom 2 for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD - Rio + 20) (GA resolutions 64/236 and 65/165)
  - Green economy in the context of sustainable development & poverty eradication
  - Inputs to draft outcome by 1 Nov 2011.

- UN-HABITAT publications related to the green economy
  - Urban energy, green building, cities and biodiversity, urban patterns

- Preliminary Questions and Answers (Q&A prepared)

- Expert Group Meeting What does the Green Economy mean for sustainable urban development? 17-19 Feb 2011
EXAMPLES

Bogota –
Bus Rapid Transit

- successfully improved public transportation
- now has inter-modal connectivity
- uses GPS to help manage traffic flow

http://www.streetsblog.org/2006/10/24/dot-announces-five-bus-rapid-transit-corridors/

Kenya –
geothermal energy Naivasha/
wind energy Ngong

- underground hot water sources can be turned into electricity
- alternative energy is becoming more feasible for cities in future

GC23 RESOLUTION AND DIALOGUE

• UN-HABITAT’s 23rd Governing Council adopted resolution 23/17 on “Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure”. The resolution encourages Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to include the issue of sustainable urban development in their contributions to the preparatory process for Rio+20.

• The report of the one-day Dialogue on this theme has been sent by the President of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council to the Rio+20 Bureau in a separate communication.
UN-HABITAT INPUTS

The UN-HABITAT inputs were submitted on 1 November 2011. The inputs include the following:

- Draw attention to sustainable urban development as a key element of sustainable development;
- Identify gaps in the implementation of Agenda 21 since 1992;
- Highlight emerging challenges;
- Explore the role of cities in the green economy;
- Highlight the importance of local level as part of the institutional framework for sustainable development;
- Show what UN-HABITAT can contribute; and
- Propose new/reformulated goal and eight targets on sustainable urban development.
UN-HABITAT PROPOSALS for
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT GOAL AND TARGETS

Overall Goal:
Promote cities that are environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive

Targets:
1. National Urban Policies
   By 2030, increase to 50% the number of countries adopting and implementing national urban policies to coordinate different ministerial and sectoral efforts in order to achieve sustainable urban development.

2. Urban Planning and Design
   By 2030, increase by half the number of metropolitan regions, cities and towns adopting and implementing policies and strategies for sustainable and effective urban planning and urban design in order to respond to expected urban population growth in the next few decades.

3. Slums
   Halve the proportion of people living in slums at the city level by 2030, and prevent the formation of new slums.

4. Urban Space
   Increase public space up to 40% through adequate urban design, land use and building regulations by 2030.

5. Urban Ecology
   Reduce cities' ecological footprints by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30%, increasing the share of renewable energy sources by 30% and improving energy efficiency in all public buildings by 20% by 2030.

6. Urban Water, Sanitation and Waste Management
   Achieve universal access to safe drinking water supply and adequate sanitation services, and double the availability and use of waste water treatment and solid waste management services by 2030.

7. Urban Energy and Mobility
   By 2030, increase by 30% the number of countries coordinating urban growth with planned national energy and transport corridors and guaranteeing access to energy at the urban level, and the number of cities with sustainable urban mobility plans.

8. Urban Job Creation
   By 2030, increase by 50% the number of cities adopting and implementing specific policies to improve the lives of urban dwellers through urban job creation based on effective city management and development of basic services.
CRITICAL ISSUES

• These inputs have been shared with the CPR members, who were encouraged to share these inputs with their capitals with the view of informing their deliberations.

• Member states, UN agencies and Major Groups (including Local Authorities) provided more than 500 inputs for inclusion in a compilation document.

• Seven critical issues for Sustainable Development have been identified by UN-DESA: Jobs, Energy, Cities, Food, Water, Oceans and Disasters.

• UN-HABITAT has contributed to policy briefs on sustainable cities. Each of these topics is supported by DESA through an information campaign.
### COMPILATION DOCUMENT

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Submissions that include more than 5 occurrences of “Cities”: C40, Japan, Veolia, Tokyo, Sustainable Cities Working Group, UN-HABITAT, IGES, Japanese Stakeholders, ICLEI, World Bank, Ecocity Builders, EU-CoR, UCLG, nrg4SD, Philippines, Kenya, Brazil, USA, Tunisia, Ford Foundation, European Union, UN-Water, Algeria, Suez, UNEP, Asia-Pacific Youth, etc.
On 10 January 2012 The Co-Chairs of the UNCSD Bureau presented the zero draft of the outcome document entitled “The Future We Want”.
DRAFT OUTCOME TEXT (2/3)

• Paragraph 20 on the “essential role of local governments and the need to fully integrate them into all levels of decision making on sustainable development”;

• Paragraph 72 on the commitment to “promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities…”

• Paragraph 97 on the “establishment of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) based on the text of CSD 19.”

• Paragraphs 105-110 on measuring progress through Sustainable Development Goals
With regards to the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, the zero draft includes several sections that are relevant for UN-HABITAT.

- “GA, ECOSOC, CSD, Sustainable Development Council proposal” (paragraphs 45-49)
- “UNEP, specialized agency on environment proposal, IFIs, UN operational activities on country level” (paragraph 50-58)

The outcome document may have implications for the future reporting and governance of UN-HABITAT. The outcome of Rio+20 will also provide inputs to define the contents and modalities of the Habitat III Conference.
WHAT COULD BE STRENGTHENED?

• Better balance between environmental, economic and social dimensions in the outcome text
• Recognition that the prevailing urbanization model is not sustainable.
• Commitment to work towards more compact, integrated and connected cities
• Emphasizing the role of cities as key actors in addressing climate change challenges
• Emphasizing the need to address urban youth employment, particularly in slums
COUNTDOWN TO RIO+20

• Negotiations on draft outcome text in New York:
  – 25-27 January (NY): Discussion on Sections I and II
  – 13-17 February (NY): Discussion on Sections III, IV and V
  – 19-23 March (NY): Negotiations on the draft
  – 30 April – 4 May (NY): Negotiations on the draft

• Schedule of activities held in Rio de Janeiro:
  – 13-15 June (Rio): 3rd Preparatory Committee
  – 13-22 June (Rio): Side Events and Learning Events
  – 16-19 June (Rio): Four thematic Days, incl. ½ day on Sustainable Cities (organized by Host Country – Federal Government, no details available yet)
  – 20-22 June (Rio): UNCSD Summit
PARTNERSHIPS (1/3)

• The New York based permanent missions of **Sweden** and **Singapore** have formed a “**Group of Friends**” on **Sustainable Cities**, inviting about 20 other Permanent Missions to attend.

• This group holds monthly meetings to raise awareness of the connections between sustainable cities and other critical issues such as health, water, jobs, governance,.
PARTNERSHIPS (2/3)

• Collaboration with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability:
  • ICLEI is the focal point organization for the UNCSD Major Group on Local Authorities.
  • ICLEI will host a Global Town Hall with sessions running from 13 to 22 June. This will offer a forum for debate, presentation, seminar and performances on issues related to sustainable cities/local authorities issues.
  • UN-HABITAT is supporting ICLEI in a Survey on Local Sustainability 2012, analysing trends on local sustainability initiatives, to be launched at Rio+20.
  • ICLEI will hold its World Congress in Belo Horizonte on 14-18 June.
PARTNERSHIPS (3/3)

• The World Bank has initiated discussions on a Partnership on Sustainable Cities, with inputs from various international agencies, local government associations and the private sector. This partnership would focus on knowledge production, measurement/metrics, infrastructure investment, etc.

• UN-Habitat is contributing to the Benchmarking (indicator) exercise on Sustainable Urban Development promoted by the Ford Foundation.
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

• UN-HABITAT is proposing a **high level event** with the key Local Government Organizations on “The Role of Cities in future Sustainable Development”

• Leaders of UCLG (Mayor of Istanbul), Metropolis (President of Ile de France), ICLEI (Vice Mayor of Vancouver), C40 (Mayor of New York), to attend hosted by the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro.

• Meeting would issue a statement to be read at the Summit, on behalf of the local authorities.

• To be held on (18 or) **19 June 2012**. Preparatory meeting possibly at the end of April.

• This will be facilitated through UNACLA.
PRODUCTS

• UN-HABITAT has published a paper on “Urban Patterns for Sustainable Development – towards a Green Economy” and organized an Expert Group Meeting on the same topic as well as a Side Event at the 2nd Prep. Com.

• UN-HABITAT will launch a set of Quick Guides on how cities can contribute to greening the economy through: Planning around ecosystems of resilient cities; Planning for compact urban growth; Planning infrastructure for sustainable cities; and Urban competitiveness in the green economy.
EVENTS

• UN-HABITAT will propose
  – one official **side event** (by 30 March); with high level speakers at Head of Delegation level, focusing on commitment to develop National Urban Policies to promote sustainable development;
  – **one learning session** (by 28 February); both to be held at the Rio Centro at the main conference venue; focus to be decided.
ADVOCACY

• UN-Habitat is leading the mini-campaign on Sustainable Cities, within the framework of “The Future We Want”. Advocacy, Outreach and Communications Unit (AOC) is willing to present an abstract of the Report “State of the World Cities 2012-2013” in May 2012 as part of the mini-campaign on Cities.

• UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the City of Rio and the Local Authorities Associations, is working on an Exhibition on Cities. It will be aimed to citizens and held on the beach area (Copacabana/Ipanema). In addition, Rio+20 would be the launch of the Awareness Campaign “I’m a City Changer”.
POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

• Further engagement with member states, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners regarding the draft outcome text.
• Linkages between Rio+20, UN-HABITAT Governance Review and Habitat III
• Involvement of Governing Council and CPR leadership in selected events at Rio+20
• Any other issues