Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Nairobi, 20 November 2013
I. Overview
II. The Transformative Power of Urbanization
III. Milestones in Sustainable Urbanization and International Responses
IV. Performance Review
V. From Habitat II to Habitat III: Changing Approaches
VI. Challenges and Opportunities of Urbanization in a Rapidly Changing World
VII. Objectives of the Conference
VIII. Need for a New Urban Agenda
IX. Delineating the New Urban Agenda
X. A Shared Vision for Change: Agreements and Outcomes
I. Overview

17 years since the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda II

In 2001, a review to the Habitat Agenda, resulted in the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium.

Today, urban centres are now the dominant habitat for humankind

New forces, new powers, new actors, new challenges and opportunities

This urgently requires a review of the global urban agenda.
II. The Transformative Power of Urbanization

- One century ago, 2 out of 10 people in the world lived in urban areas.
- Today, urban population outnumbers rural population.
- The ‘urban millennium’
  - Half of mankind living in cities.
  - The number of urban residents growing by nearly 60 million every year.
Density, proximity and economies of urbanization and agglomeration constitute the transformative power of urbanization.
II. The Transformative Power of Urbanization

In 2020, the urban population of Africa will be:

• equal to the total population of Europe
• larger than the urban population of LAC.

In Asia, 1.85 billion people lived in urban areas, generating 33 percent of world output in 2010.

Latin America is living a second urban transition
### III. Milestones in Sustainable Urbanization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Habitat II: The Istanbul Declaration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Millennium Summit - MDG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Review the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Rio+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Post 2015 Development Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Habitat III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Post 2015 Development Agenda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**World Urban Forum**, a major non-statutory conference
IV. Performance Review

The XXV special session of the General Assembly called for an **overall review and appraisal** of the implementation of the outcome of the Habitat II conference.

The cumulative impact has not been sufficient to achieve **adequate shelter** for all and sustainable human settlements development.

---

From Habitat II to Habitat III, revealing fundamental shifts.
IV. Performance Review

*Fundamental shifts*

- *Retreat of the State - reliance on the private market*
- *Informal land and housing formed the basis of urban growth*
- *Multiplication of non-state actors*

Habitat III provides an opportunity to:
Re-examine previous approaches and adopt a new global housing strategy

Habitat III provides an opportunity to:
Review progress on slum and poverty eradication
Address increasing inequalities
• Cities generate 70% of human-induced GHG

• Urbanization offers opportunities for mitigation and adaptation through urban planning and design.

• Rio+20 Declaration:

  Cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies, if they are well planned and developed.
Initiatives have been taken to:

- Improve urban governance,
- Ensure subsidiarity,
- Civil society participation,
- Transparency and accountability
The transformation of

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

into

a full-fledged United Nations programme
V. From Habitat II to **Habitat III**: Changing Approaches

1. from a sectoral implementation, to an integrated effort.
2. from deregulation of the housing market, towards direct public sector approaches.
3. from the city and the ecological environment, to the stronger nexus of the city and its environment.
4. from the city as a platform, to a vector force.

Emphasis is now placed on **Sustainable Urban Development**
VI. Challenges and Opportunities

Opportunities

1. Urban has become the dominant habitat of humanity,
2. Cities are becoming prominent players in global development,
3. The emergence of new urban configurations, mega-regions, urban corridors and city-regions
4. Housing: productive or speculative asset? more than 100 countries have the right to adequate housing. large amount of abandoned, underutilized or vacant houses
5. The amplification of different types of crises and protests
VI. Challenges and Opportunities

**Challenges**

1. The persistence of an unsustainable model of urbanization,
2. The Reduction of poverty and the increase of inequality,
3. The steady increase of the number of slum dwellers,
4. The urban risks of climate change, and disasters,
5. The negative consequences of violence and crime in cities.
VII. Habitat III: Conference Objectives

(a) To undertake a critical review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

(b) To identify constraints to the implementation of the goals and objectives

(c) To develop a shared perspective on human settlements and sustainable urban development,

(d) To tackle new challenges and opportunities that have emerged since Habitat II,

(e) To outline a new development agenda, to achieve inclusive, people-centred and sustainable urban development,

(f) To revise and strengthen UN-Habitat’s mandate to ensure meeting the global challenges,

(g) To engender a collective agreement on the role that sustainable urbanization can play to support sustainable development.
Habitat III

To use the dynamic forces of urbanization to make a giant leap towards sustainability.

An opportunity to propose a new development paradigm connecting urbanization and development.

To Identify vector of change that can support this paradigm shift.
IX. Delineating the New Urban Agenda

**Enabling Vectors** deployed to increase productivity, enhance shared growth, and create multiplier effects:

- National Urban Policies
- Laws, institutions and systems of governance
- Urban Economy

**Operational Vectors** to support implementation:

- Local fiscal systems
- Urban planning
- Basic services/infrastructure
IX. Delineating the New Urban Agenda

Fundamental Aspects

• Democratic development and respect for human right
• The environment and urbanization agenda
• Recognize the right to adequate housing
• Safety and security
• Risk reduction, recovery and rehabilitation
• Global monitoring mechanism
X. Habitat III: Agreements and Expected Outcomes

Agreements

1. Consolidate lessons learnt
2. Identify best practices
3. Scale up actions and policies
4. Establish monitoring systems
5. Mobilize resources for technical assistance
6. Create networks
7. Produce effective government and city responses
8. Devise human rights strategies
9. Develop a shared perspective on human settlements
10. Revise and strengthen UN-Habitat’s mandate
X. Habitat III: Agreements and Expected Outcomes

**Expected Outcomes**

1. A New Urban Agenda,
2. A strategy to support the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda,
3. A set of strategic interventions,
4. A selection of crosscutting thematic actions,
5. A global monitoring tool,
6. A strategy to finance sustainable urban development,
7. A plan to engage civil society,
8. A capacity development scheme,
Habitat III: a *New Urban Agenda* to maximize the benefits of urbanization, make cities more prosperous and countries more developed.
Thank you