EVALUATION OF WUF5

Main Findings and Recommendations

Presentation to CPR Working Group on WUF

2 November 2010
Introduction

a. The presentation is about main findings and recommendation from WUF5.

b. The purpose is to discuss the findings and recommendations with intent of feeding into; and improving planning, organizing, and managing future WUFs.
Mandate for WUF5 Evaluation


b. The review was to give recommendations on various areas including Results-Based evaluation process to ensure that objectives of WUF relate to MTSIP and Work programme results.

c. Recommendation 9, from the review that expected WUF results and success criteria be clearly articulated in WUF planning documents and also recommended early appraisal (evaluability assessments) of WUF to ensure that WUF sessions can be monitored and evaluated.
Schematic outline of peer review process

During WUF

Pre-WUF

Post WUF
Evaluation Focus

Using RBM approach the evaluation focused four aspects:

1. Adequacy, efficiency and effectiveness of the planning process;

2. Programme format and content;

3. Efficiency and effectiveness of conference delivery; and

4. Outcomes of WUF.
Main Findings

1. Efficiency and Effectiveness of Planning Process

Leadership, Coordination and Management
- Roles and responsibilities were not clearly defined.
- Overlapping and unclear responsibilities; and on substantive and administrative aspects, often not obvious within and outside UN-Habitat who was responsible.

Results – based Planning and Budgeting
- Evaluability assessment established that planning documents were not results-based, with no articulated expected results, outputs, inputs with indicators of achievement or success criteria to measure results.
- Budget allocations seemed to have been done partly ad-hoc, not based on clarified criteria.

Negotiations and Planning with the host country
- There were good planning and negotiations with host country, including early engagement. However, this evaluation was not able to establish how good were the negotiations on important aspects of security, transports, media, interpretation and other logistical aspects.
2. Programme Content and Format

Selection of topics and themes

- 87% of respondents were satisfied with the relevance of WUF theme and topics.
- Some informants felt dialogue, roundtables, and discussions failed to link to the overall theme.
- Current public concerns like employment, economic crisis were not taken into account.
- Link of sessions to the State of the World’s Cities topics.
- There were improvements for discussions in WUF5 compared to WUF4.
Format and Session Types

- 74% of all respondents rated the events either useful or very useful.
- Most participants, 87% found the Dialogues useful or very useful.
- The other events rated useful were the thematic open debates at 86%, networking events at 85%, exhibition at 82%, and training events at 76%.
- The youth and gender assemblies received mixed feedback calling substantive improvement.
- For WUF report to be more utilized, it should focus on key substantive issues not on “COVER IT ALL type of reporting”.
3. Efficiency and Effectiveness of Conference Delivery

Pre-WUF arrangements
• 72% satisfied with timely information.
• Better information on booking for accommodation required.

Experiences and observations during WUF5
• On average, 62% of the respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with logistics and facilities.
• 73% were satisfied with the ease of obtaining forum badges.
• Despite positive ratings comments were on, transport, security, meeting rooms, registrations etc.
4. **WUF5 Outcomes**

a) **Abroad inclusive participation.**

22,269 people registered; 10,634 attended from 150 countries, excluding 3,161 organizing staff and volunteers.

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**Trend in WUFs: absolute numbers**

![Graph showing trend in WUFs: absolute numbers from WUF I (2002) to WUF V (2010).](image-url)
2. WUF was inclusive

Inclusiveness of various stakeholders
• National and local governments 29%
• NGOs and research institutions 15.9% and 15.7% respectively
• Private sector 8.8%
• Foundations 2.3%
• Inter-governmental organizations 1.7%
• United Nations/international organizations 4.4%
• Other 18.4%
• Level of female participation was 43%
• E-debates were effective in engaging people particularly from developing countries
3. Measure on WUF general objectives and roles

**A platform for advocacy**
- Main theme and sub-themes discussed and debated in dialogues, open debates, networking events, training sessions, seminars gender and youth assemblies all offered opportunity for advancing urban agenda.

**A platform for inclusive dialogue**
- Various stakeholders concerned with urban development – urban developers, decision makers, researchers, NGOs, private sector, the youth, the women etc, jointly interacted to explore how to make urban towns and cities inclusive

**WUF was a platform to share knowledge, experiences, best practices and identifying practical solutions**
- Some key informants indicated public concerns such as economic crisis, unemployment, disasters could have been better intergrated into topics and presentation.
- Some participants felt that they did not get much information as they had wanted
A platform for policy guidance
• WUF brought together political and policy actors as well.
• Through execution of 12 round tables of Ministrial, parliamentary, mayors, Habitat professions, etc, WUF was a venue for identifying strength and weakness areas of policy; and ways to address various urban issues for people to find in cities necessary conditions for their political, economical, social and ecological realisation.

A facilitator for networks and partnerships
• WUF provided participants and organizations an opportunity for find and consolidate partnerships.
• 95% of respondents indicated they being likely to maintain new contacts.
• Of real concerned was limited participation of UN organisations (4.4%).

An accountability mechanism
• WUF facilitated deals and compacts. The challenge is how to follow up and report on these commitments.
Recommendations

1. Decide on the level of ambition for WUF7 and act accordingly
   (a) appoint a strategist, (b) outsourcing event organization and management
   functions to a specialized conference management, (c) UN-Habitat to have a
   clear accountability function and use partners more strategically in substantive
   events.

2. Decide and establish an internal management and coordination structure for
   WUF
   The ED should assign responsibilities for WUF to a lead officer and a small
   team to take responsibility for specific tasks.

3. Define procedures for selection of WUF themes
   Establishment of clear procedures for UN-Habitat to take a pro-active role for
   identifying strategic themes for WUF, including topics of public interests that
   are linked to the MTSIP and work programme priorities.

4. Develop a detailed action plan with related budgets for WUF
   A detailed WUF plan with expected accomplishments, indicators and targets,
   activities, timelines, responsibilities and related budgets. The plan should be
   developed in a transparent manner with clear links to the MTSIP and work
   programmes.
5. **Production of a WUF manual by the WUF Unit**

   The WUF Unit should take a lead in producing a Manual/Guidelines for WUF, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in planning, negotiations and event management.

6. **The preparation of the WUF report should be professionalized.**

   Resources Permitting, it should be outsourced to give more time to substantive staff to engage with partners.

7. **All UN-Habitat staff attending WUF should be assigned specific roles and functions they will be accountable for**

8. **Implementation of logistical “must do’s “ for WUF6**

   - Detailed programme to be available at least 4 weeks before the event
   - Programme to be easier indentified according to themes
   - Networking events and training organizers to submit a summary texts to be posted on the internet prior to WUF session
   - Set up an electronic messaging system at WUF and communicate the presence of the system through websites and other means
   - Ensure that that there is internet connectivity in public areas during the WUF session

9. **Plan for and allocate resources for evaluation of all future WUFs**

10. **Follow up and implementation of recommendations resulting from WUF evaluations**
Conclusion

• Significant achievements by WUF5

• A lot remains to be done and there some fundamental challenges in implementation.
Thank You for Your Attention