The role of stakeholders towards (and beyond) Habitat III

Process, outcome and reflections on future partnerships

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Inputs to the New Urban Agenda

- National Reports
- Regional Reports
- Global Reports

- Habitat III Issue Papers
- Habitat III Policy Units

- World Urban Forum
- Thematic and Regional Meetings
- Urban Thinkers Campus

Other UN inputs:
- DRR (Sendai)
- FFD (Addis)
- SDGs (NYC)
- COP 21 (Paris)

General Assembly of Partners

- Local and Subnational Authorities
- Research and Academia
- Civil Society Organizations
- Grassroots Organizations
- Women

- Parliamentarians
- Children and Youth
- Business and Industries
- Foundations and Philanthropies
- Professionals

- Trade Unions and Workers
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples
- Media
- Older Persons
- Persons with Disabilities
The General Assembly of Partners

Partner Constituent Groups

- Business and Industry
- Children and Youth
- Civil Society
- Farmers
- Foundations and Philanthropies
- Grassroots
- Indigenous Peoples
- Local and Subnational Authorities
- Media
- Older Persons
- Parliamentarians
- Persons with Disabilities
- Professionals
- Trade Unions and Workers
- Research and Academia
- Women

General Assembly Partners (GAP)
Founded April 2015

GAP Executive Committee
34 members PCG co chairs
President and Vice President

GAP Plenary
877 Unique Organization Members
1,218 Individuals

STAKEHOLDERS OF THE WORLD

Unique Organizations
- Networks/Coalitions
- Single Organizations

Individuals
How did stakeholders contribute to the New Urban Agenda?
GAP role in Habitat III process

• Participated in all PrepComs
• Served on Advisory Committees of all (11) regional and thematic meetings
• Served on Policy Units
• Served on Advisory Committees for regional reports
• Prepared and Submitted “Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda”
• Engaged in multiple rounds of informal consultations/negotiations on the Zero Draft – April/May/June/September
• Provided written comments/ language inputs on all Drafts
• Organised side events to explore key concepts and proposals included in various Drafts
• LOBBIED!
Value–added of GAP in the HABITAT III process

**For stakeholders:**
An opportunity to put their views forward in a structured manner, which increases their chances of being heard by member states.

**For member states:**
An opportunity to receive inputs in a streamlined fashion, collective rather than individual positions, without being swamped by thousands of ad-hoc suggestions.
GAP proposals for implementation of the New Urban Agenda

- Advocacy
- Experimentation/ Innovation
- Monitoring
- Knowledge
- Investment advisory and monitoring
Success factors

• **A focus on synergy among groups rather than perfect agreement**, which allowed different constituencies to come together with an open mind and agree on a small number of critical elements, which were summarised in the GAP outcome document “Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda”, and formed the basis of GAP’s collective advocacy.

• **A commitment to be as inclusive as possible**, which was reflected in (a) the expansion of the 14 PCGs originally incorporated in GAP to 16, to include Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities, both of whom are not part of the nine Agenda 21 Major Groups formally recognized in the UN system; and (b) geographical and gender balance within the GAP EXCO.

• **Political and financial support from the Habitat III secretariat**, which opened up the spaces for GAP in Advisory Committees of Regional and Thematic Meetings as well as Policy Units, and provided funding support to enable them to physically participate in these activities.
The road ahead for partners and stakeholders...

- Holding national governments to account over their commitments
- Supporting local authorities in implementation
- Demanding/supporting reforms in national/regional/local policies
- Joining the dots
- Building up and sharing knowledge
- Testing and helping scale up innovations
- Bottom-up monitoring
- Continued advocacy
Partnerships for implementation of global agendas: Some reflections

• Let a thousand partnerships bloom - sectoral/issue-based; activity-based; organization type-based; etc.

• Inclusion is critical – for too long global processes have been “captured” by a few CSOs and networks

• Transparency important but beware of over-coordination

• Institutionalisation of partnership arrangements critical - at global/ regional/ national/ local levels

• Genuine commitment to partnerships requires political and financial support at all levels
For more information...

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