

The role of stakeholders towards (and beyond) Habitat III

Process, outcome and reflections on future partnerships

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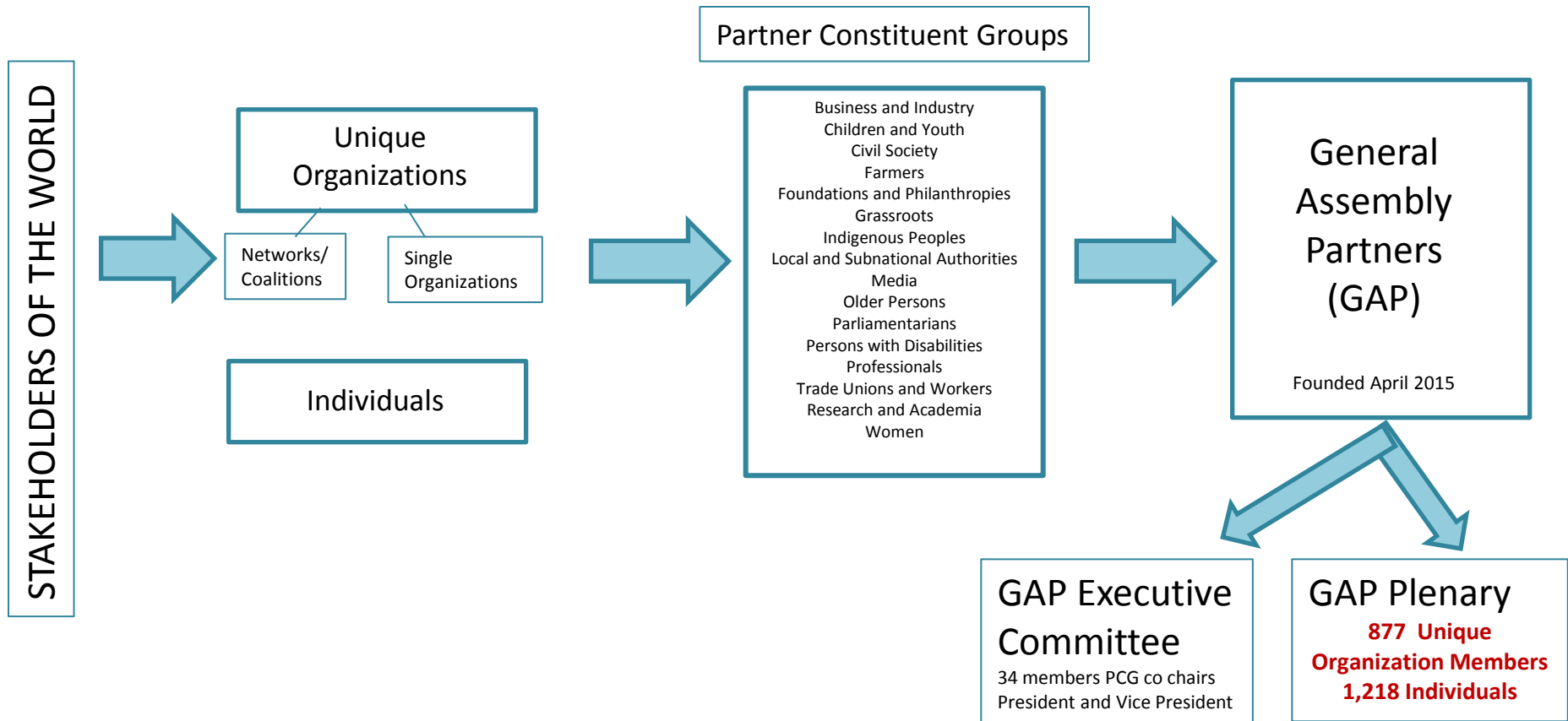
Bangkok, 28 November 2016

Inputs to the New Urban Agenda





The General Assembly of Partners





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

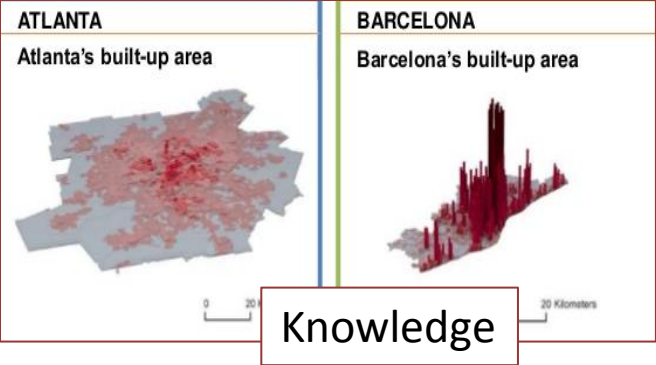
For stakeholders:

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





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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