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Habitat III National Reporting Processes: Locating the Right to the City and the Role of Civil Society

Coordinated by Alexandre Apsan Frediani with
Rafaella Simas Lima

**In collaboration with Habitat International
Coalition Habitat III Working Group**

With the support of Adriana Allen, Vanesa Castán
Broto, Caren Levy and Barbara Lipietz from the
Development Planning Unit

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Graphics /Layout by Paola Fuentes

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Harar, Ethiopia. Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dpu-uci>

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Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Photo credit: Juan Camilo Maya

1. Introduction

In October 2016 Habitat III will bring together global actors in Quito, Ecuador, to build on the work of Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996 and Habitat I in Vancouver in 1976. The stated aim of Habitat III is to adopt a “New Urban Agenda”, meant to guide the actions of national governments in pursuit of more sustainable urbanisation (UN-Habitat-a). The new agenda is meant to draw from reports prepared at national and regional levels that outline the major urban challenges for those countries and regions, along with visions to be incorporated into said agenda. UN-Habitat has laid out guidelines for these preparations, recommending the participation of diverse stakeholders, suggesting but not requiring the inclusion of civil society (UN-Habitat-c).

A key challenge that emerges is how Habitat III may build upon Habitat II commitments—namely, the Habitat II Agenda and corresponding Global Plan of Action—in an accountable and inclusive manner. Civil society groups represented by Habitat International Coalition (HIC) are eager to see Habitat III remain accountable to Habitat II and for civil society to be fairly and democratically represented in the process. They also have a number of values they hope to be represented, such as a recognition of the rural-urban continuum and the Right to the City (see “Summary of HIC Key Proposals for the Preparatory Process of Habitat III”). They thus formed a working group¹ to further interrogate the Habitat III process and to explore how it might be useful for civil society to further engage in the process.

This research conducted by the Development Planning Unit of University College London and in collaboration with Habitat International Coalition emerges from these discussions, and aims to provide an examination of some key national reporting processes in advance of the second Preparatory Committee. The focus is on the preparation of national reports, as this is the main channel through which Habitat III preparations are currently taking place. This report outlines criteria for meaningful participation in national reporting processes, and then assesses the production of reports taking place in eight different countries. It then uses a framework based on the Right to the City² to analyse the content of four draft national reports. Ultimately it is concluded that Habitat III reporting processes have been limited, not least because of a lack of robust guidelines coming from UN-Habitat. Still, civil society groups have initiated some mechanisms that may prove to expand the space for meaningful participation of social actors.

It should be noted that the national reports are only one element of the Habitat III process, and it is unknown how much national reports will ultimately influence the Habitat III Agenda. Still, national reports may represent the greatest opportunity for civil society engagement (as it is unknown how much regional reports and the Habitat III conference itself will be open to such engagement). It should also be noted that this report is a work in progress, that has examined select case studies based on information available through HIC networks. It is intended to serve as a basis for discussion and to initiate further investigations into Habitat III procedures.

NOTES TO CHAPTER 1

1. In the run-up to the next all-UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, concerned civil society organisations, and especially Members of HIC, are reflecting on how civil society can contribute to the current Habitat III process and content. The role of **HIC HII Working Group** in this process seeks a “New Habitat Agenda”—not merely an “urban” agenda—for the 21st Century that recognizes the ever-changing dynamics and continuity of human civilization and the built environment, respecting the urban-rural continuum, and realizes greater autonomy, meaningful participation and respon-

sible citizenship at the local level. See Annex 1 for list of participants of Working group.

2. The Right to the City is a concept that has been central to HIC’s work and has also been used in UN-Habitat documents (Görgens and van Donk, 2012); it represents “a politically useful framing for increased calls for a far more explicit and pragmatic construction of participatory spaces capable of transcending scale and building novel alliances between stakeholder groups” (ibid., p. 11).

2. Methodology and Theoretical Framework

Methodology for this project consisted of interviews with civil society informants in five countries (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Peru, and South Africa), along with the use of web pages and information obtained through HIC contacts (Egypt, Jamaica, Indonesia) to gather information about report production. In addition, the analysis of four publicly-available draft national reports (Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa) was conducted. Case studies were chosen largely on the basis of what national report drafts were publicly available and which contacts were available through HIC and DPU networks. Data from these two approaches was assessed using two key analytical frameworks, one to assess the “process” behind the national report production leading up to Habitat III, and one to assess the “content” of the national reports looking for the presence of Right to the City principles. These were informed by UN-Habitat’s Habitat III website and other UN agencies that have elaborated processes for the participation of civil society as well as key texts on the Right to the City, such as the HIC-led *World Charter on the Right to the City*.

2.1 Process Framework

Understanding the way in which civil society groups engage in Habitat III processes illuminates the room that civil society groups have to influence national reporting. The following is a framework for understanding the process behind the production of national reports and other preparations leading up to Habitat III. They are criteria to understand who is involved, how, and what room there is for civil society groups to participate and influence the debate. These are not necessarily recommendations for the radical transformation of decision-making bodies; rather, this is the minimum that would be required for meaningful civil society participation. The criteria mainly draw on frameworks from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP). While UN-Habitat itself has not elaborated detailed ways that civil society can be involved in the Habitat III process, other than saying that it *should* happen, criteria from other UN agencies could be used to more effectively hold it to account.

1. Participation in the national reporting process

This asks in what way civil society groups are involved in the reporting process—for example, if they are involved in decisions around what the content of the report should be, or if they are merely consulted at a later stage, etc. This looks at whether there is a participatory space that respects diverse voices and knowledges and creates space for the voices of marginalised groups, but also whether there is the possibility for civil society groups to have a meaningful impact on the national report and in decisions related to Habitat III in their country.

2. Balanced civil society representation

This asks whether there is a diverse representation of civil society members represented in the national reporting process, in terms of social identity (gender, age, ability, etc.), geography (inhabitants of different areas in the country including urban/rural, inner-city and peripheral areas, different municipalities), and groups (representatives from different types of groups such as social movements, NGOs, academia, etc.). FAO’s model dictates that the following must be present for balanced civil society representation: 75% of all constituents, 50% women, one third youth, 75% of all regions concerned, and diverse types of organisations (FAO).

3. Transparency and accountability for mutual benefit

This refers to the extent to which the Habitat III process is transparent, whether a record is made of meetings and events, and whether relevant documents are made easily accessible. It also asks whether the process is accountable to those involved and commitments are followed through.

4. Continual learning and improvement on current participation processes

This asks whether there is a commitment to ensure conditions are in place that facilitate meaningful participation of civil society groups, and if there is a willingness to learn and continually improve on current participation practices.

2.2 Right to the City Framework

Ever since Lefebvre first used the term in 1968, the “Right to the City” has been taken on by social movements, NGOs, and even some government officials around the world to articulate a myriad of demands. The term has emerged “because it has served to correlate a common set of crosscutting concerns that have emerged from a particular global pattern of capital accumulation and dispossession” (Görgens and van Donk, 2012, p. 4). It is a contested term as it has been adopted and defined in many ways. Still, in trying to measure the extent to which the Right to the City is present in national reports being produced towards Habitat III, there is a need for a defined analytical framework. It is not enough to look for whether the “Right to the City” itself is mentioned

(indeed, only one out of the four reports examined does so), but to look for clues as to the way that Right to the City principles may be articulated in other ways.

The following framework is based largely on the World Charter on the Right to the City, which is itself based on a human rights framework, not because the Right to the City is a separate human right but because it is “the right to enforce other rights that already formally exist” (Mathivet, 2010, p. 22). Furthermore, civil society groups have also been drawing on this concept to generate transnational discussions and alliances such as actions through the Global Platform on the Right to the City³. The following categories brought together in this framework are not meant to represent separate, static concepts, but overlapping and intersecting ones.

1. Social function of land and property:

- a. Management of land and real estate speculation to ensure redistribution of benefits based on principle of equity: prioritising collective goods over private interests;
- b. Recognition of the use value of land and property towards equitable outcomes.

2. Right to the Social Production of Habitat:

- a. Recognition and support of community-led/people-led housing;
- b. Right to adequate and secure housing, including the recognition of diverse types of tenure.

3. Full exercise of citizenship and democratic management of the city:

- a. Right to inclusive participation that takes into account differing abilities and unequal power relations, creating space for the voices of marginalised groups;
- b. Right to meaningful participation where constituents are able to affect policy and planning as well as modes of production.

4. Right to a just economy:

- a. Recognition and valuing of different types of work and economies (e.g., informal, care, and solidarity economy);
- b. Redistribution of economic output (e.g. taxation going towards benefits) as well as input (e.g. mode of production), in a manner that absorbs labour and provides decent work.

5. Right to a Healthy Environment and to Equitable and Sustainable Development:

- a. Reduction of risk (including environmental and physical risk/safety);
- b. Protection of the commons, including valuable natural areas and historic/cultural heritage;
- c. Equitable management of environmental commons/resources.

6. Spatial justice:

- a. Equitable distribution of environmental goods, e.g., good-quality services and public spaces, and equitable prevention of environmental risks and hazards;
- b. Right to inclusive public transport and urban mobility;
- c. Confronting socio-spatial segregation.

Finally, we have identified three cross-cutting issues that must be addressed throughout: *social diversity*, *recognising rural-urban linkages*, and looking at what

kind of *legal, policy and planning instruments* (if any) are in place to operationalise these Right to the City principles.

NOTES TO CHAPTER 2

³ Global Platform on the Right to the City was set up during the international meeting in São Paulo which took place in November 2014, gathering 158 participants from Latin America, Africa,

Asia and Europe, bringing together a total of 104 institutions from local, regional and international levels. For more information, see <http://www.righttothecityplatform.org.br>.



3. Process Analysis

3.1 Process Analysis: Measuring “participation” in national reporting procedures

Countries under investigation: Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Jamaica, Egypt, South Africa and Indonesia

The extent to which national reporting processes were open to the participation of civil society groups varied greatly between countries. Going by UN-Habitat guidelines for the production of national reports, participation of civil society is by no means required. Rather, UN-Habitat merely recommends the creation of a National Habitat Committee (NHC) to lead the reporting process, in turn, this committee *should* include a variety of stakeholders, including civil society. Still, we have undertaken an analysis of Habitat III processes, because it is through these channels (in existence or in the process of being created) that civil society groups may influence the national reports to reflect, say, Right to the City principles. This section explores the existing participatory aspects of national reporting processes according to our criteria for meaningful participation. (See Annex 2 for a summary of each country process.)

1. Civil society participation in the national reporting process

Most countries under investigation have taken the cue from UN-Habitat to try and include a wider range of stakeholders in the production of the reports, but it is not always clear to what extent civil society and groups with less institutional power are able to access this process. Egypt has so far been a rather closed process, with a report drafted and submitted by the government with no external input before the first Preparatory Committee. They are now promoting an urban forum to presumably input on the final draft but it is unclear how this will proceed (Email from Schechla, 25 February 2015).

In Jamaica, an NHC was formed to gather information and draft the report. Consultations were held in three regions to gain input from private and public sectors, but it is unknown what exactly the procedure behind this was. These consultations were mentioned in the report itself so it seems that emerging challenges were incorporated at least somewhat (Jamaica National Report). In both Indonesia and South Africa, broader workshops were held to include a wider range of stakeholders, though it is not

known to what extent civil society views were actually taken into account from these spaces (Indonesia and South Africa National Reports). Civil society members involved in the South African process felt that the meeting was held without a lot of notice or preparation. From the meeting a few organisations were asked to contribute something to the report (among them the Isandla Institute and the Federation of the Urban Poor) and these were incorporated in the report to varying degrees but mainly included in the annexes (Interview with van Donk and Kitching, 26 February 2015). Brazil’s reporting process, while still on-going, has the potential to be the most accessible to civil society groups and wider actors, as the report is in the process of being drafted based on input from online surveys and two open forums to date (Interview with Comaru, 26 February 2015) (see Box 1 on Brazil online platform).

In Latin America, there are three countries that are engaged in some form of “alternative” Habitat III reporting process. In Chile, the report was drafted by a civil servant and not widely shared. However, certain members of civil society were able to pressure the year-old National Council of Urban Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*), which has been charged with the Habitat III process. The Council then officially sponsored a forum held in late January to gain wider input on the report. Within this it was decided to produce an alternative report, not to replace the “official” one, but to address issues that participants felt were not included in the original report. However, it is still not known to what extent this input will be included in the documents ultimately presented to UN-Habitat (Interview with Sugranyes, 27 February 2015).

In Mexico, the initial writing process was also closed with the report drafted by the Secretariat of Rural, Territorial and Urban Development (*Secretaría de Desarrollo Agrario, Territorial y Urbano*) without any external input. However, the government was not opposed to a civil society-led forum process to discuss the report. This forum led to a document of recommendations for the national report which included, for example, the proposal to strengthen participatory planning instruments. This document was sent to the government; it now remains to be seen if their recommendations will be taken into account (Interview with Zárate, 24 February 2015). Finally, Peru has been a very closed process with the national government largely unresponsive and vague as to what they are doing in preparation for Habitat III. Therefore, NGOs and civil society groups are in the process of organising themselves to begin an alter-

native process (perhaps for a complementary report like that under development in Chile), in the chance that the government is not preparing a report or if their process is deemed not inclusive or unjust (Interview with de los Rios Bernardini, 25 February 2015). In these cases, the government made little to no effort to engage civil society groups or external actors to input in the report, but it was actors in the NGO/academic/civil society sector that initiated and created a space for participation where one previously did not exist. These have come to be sanctioned by national governments to varying degrees.

It is difficult to measure the degree to which diverse views and knowledges were respected without having been present at forums and consultations meetings. Even if stakeholder meetings or forums are attended by a diverse array of civil society groups, this does not automatically ensure that their views and knowledge will be valued and

that their recommendations will be honoured over the long term. Still, it is certain that the knowledges of social actors will not be valued at all if they are not present in these processes.

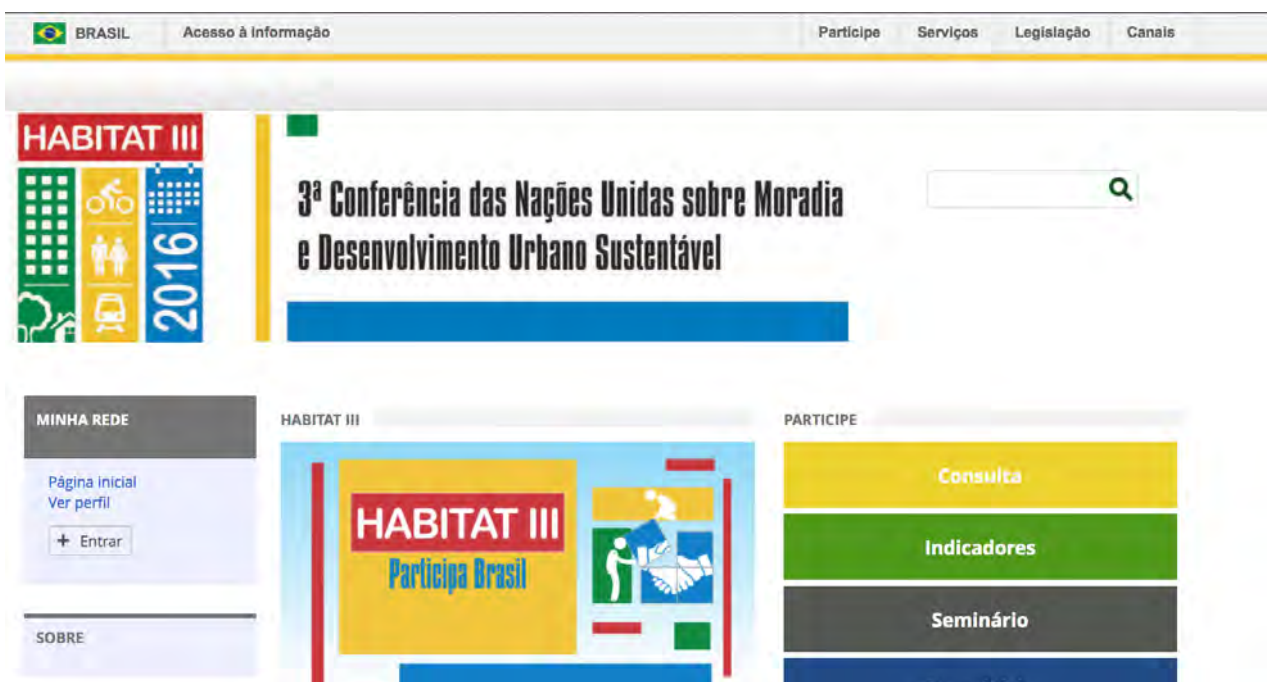
2. Balanced civil society representation

Ensuring balanced civil society in national reporting processes was not necessarily a priority for most of those charged with the Habitat III process and it represented a major challenge across all countries in the research. As seen in the previous section, most government-led processes did not incorporate any civil society in the actual drafting of the report, but had more consultative processes to discuss an existing draft. South Africa was one example of this. Out of approximately 48 groups represented at the forum, seven were civil society organisations. While the

Box 1: “Participa.br” Online Platform for Habitat III in Brazil

In Brazil, an online platform was developed on the government website *participa.br* dedicated to Habitat III (<http://www.participa.br/profile/habitat#.VQBCdka-VW0>) to gather quantitative and qualitative information to be included in Brazil's national report. It is open to anyone interested, and the initial questionnaire regarding perceptions of urban development in

Brazil was estimated to have received about 1,000 responses (Interview with Comaru, 26 February 2015). The site also contains information about the forums held and links to videos from of those gatherings. The report is now in the process of being drafted using information from these mechanisms; the draft will purportedly also be available on the website.



“The goal of this consultation is to amplify debate in society, with its diverse actors, highlighting our regional diversity and the identity of our people.” (http://www.participa.br/habitat/apresentacao#.VP6_R0a-VW0)

forum was diverse geographically in terms of government, with the presence of the South African Cities Network and many local and provincial government representatives, most civil society groups were national or international and not necessarily representative of different areas of South Africa (South Africa National Report).

In Mexico, over 100 people were brought together at a forum organised by universities and a professionals' network, *Forópolis*. Different kinds of groups were present as there were representatives of NGOs, academia, and leaders of social movements. However, there was not a lot of diversity in terms of social identity represented and the forum was heavily weighted towards people from Mexico City or national organisations based in Mexico City. There were very few people from provinces and almost no one from non-urban areas (Interview with Zárate, 24 February 2015). The forum in Chile brought together 15 civil servants and 45 representatives of civil society groups. Because there was not a lot of time to plan the event, many social movements were not present, but many were contacted and able to contribute to the proposed alternative report draft. Again the forum was weighted most towards those groups from Santiago and there were not many indigenous groups represented due to distance (Interview with Sugranyes, 27 February 2015). In Brazil, a forum with about 130 people at the Universidade Federal do ABC in São Paulo was followed by a larger forum in Brasília attended by at least 200 people, including representatives from NGOs, civil society, social movements, private sector, etc. Again there were more representatives from São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, but every region in Brazil was represented by at least one person (Interview with Comaru, 26 February 2015).

3. Transparency and accountability for mutual benefit

Most report processes were not very transparent. Brazil is on the more transparent end: it has made most report steps accessible on its website and uploaded videos from the forums held; Chile also now has an official website for the Habitat III process that includes the most recent forum (Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano). While some report drafts (Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa) were easily searchable online, the process behind their production was not easily traceable. Others are closed off entirely. A few interviewees also spoke to the fact that the Habitat III process was not very "alive" in their country in the sense that many people do not seem to know about it or be engaged in it in some way.

Accountability is a very difficult topic to address. In many ways it remains to be seen how those in charge of preparing national reports will be held accountable (if at all) to the commitments they make. Accountability is also a major issue in the Habitat III process as a whole, and will be discussed further in the conclusions section.

4. Continual learning and improvement on current participation processes

It is difficult to know the level of commitment to improving participatory practices, as so many governments have effectively adopted participation jargon but use this more as a way to simply legitimise existing policies. South Africa's government launched a National Forum on Human Settlements and Urban Development in October 2013, though this was never convened until the Habitat III consultation meeting was needed (Interview with van Donk and Kitching, 26 February 2015). There is potential for Habitat III to spark a continuation of such a forum process. In addition, there are civil society-led processes that are expanding participatory processes, both within the Habitat III conference and outside it. For example, in Mexico civil society are in the process of initiating a national platform so that there may be a more permanent space of discussion and interaction between different actors and to discuss national and international agendas. Habitat III has thus been used as an opportunity to gain momentum for this (Interview with Zárate, 24 February 2015).

Concluding remarks on report processes

We can see that "participation" when initiated by government was mostly in the form of consultative meetings, workshops or forums. Most processes were weighted towards urban areas or capital cities where meetings took place; rural groups were not very represented and it is unlikely that very marginalised groups would have access to these spaces. In addition, reports often seemed to be heavily "bureaucratized" with political motivations dictating whether energy is spent towards this Habitat agenda or other international agendas (e.g., Post-2015 Goals, development finance, climate change). It will be difficult to draft a Habitat III Agenda without input from diverse groups, both urban and rural, and without strong political commitment at the national level.

As governments were the first point of contact for Habitat III, tasked with the preparation of national reports, the space with which civil society groups may influence the process is limited from the beginning. In addition, a lack of clear process framework from UN-Habitat has meant that processes have been highly centralised and bureaucratized, with no minimum standards for civil society participation. Still, within these conditions civil society groups have initiated certain innovative practices that have involved a wider array of actors and building on new or existing participatory spaces, some of which have come to be officially sanctioned to some extent. The challenge remains in how and if these spaces will meaningfully translate to the ultimate Habitat III Agenda.



Cairo, Egypt. Photo credit Rafaella Simas Lima

4. Content Analysis

4.1 Content Analysis: Searching for the Right to the City in national reports

Countries under investigation: Mexico, Jamaica, South Africa and Indonesia

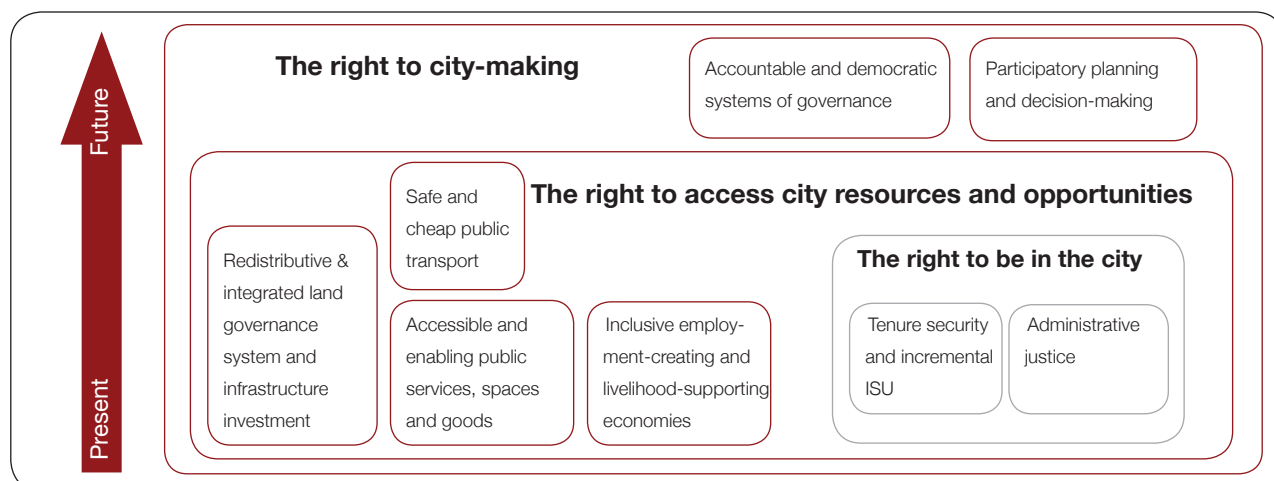
The guidelines from UN-Habitat towards the production of national reports constitute six topics, thirty issues and twelve indicators that should be elaborated so that report outputs might be standard and comparable (UN-Habitat-c). However, these guidelines do not propose a normative vision of key principles that should be taken into account

when interrogating the “New Urban Agenda”. Meanwhile, civil society groups have been engaging with the notions of the Right to the City as a means to generate an overall framework to guide collaborations, practices and commitments (See Box 2 below for insights from South Africa on the role of the Right to the City concept in that context). This research examines four national reports with the objective to assess how far they relate to key principles associated to the Right to the City. What follows is an overview of how each principle is addressed across the four reports. (For more detailed information, see Annex 3 for a summary of each principle broken down by country.)

Box 2: Right to the City Dialogues in South Africa

In 2011 a year-long Dialogue Series focusing on the Right to the City in South Africa was initiated by Isandla Institute in partnership with the Community Organisation Resource Centre (CORC) and the Informal Settlements Network (ISN). One series of dialogues brought together members of the urban poor in Cape Town to discuss their struggles and priorities, and a second series brought together urban NGOs from across the country to discuss priorities in an urban development approach in South Africa. In between, the outcomes of each dialogue were shared with the other group in an iterative process, and at the end both dialogues produced documents describing what the Right to the City means in South Africa, that fed into a National Policy Dialogue that included representatives of both groups as well as government representatives.

After much debate regarding the importance of acknowledging rural-urban linkages, participants in the dialogues affirmed the continued use of the Right to the City due to: (1) the distinct nature of cities; (2) the current economic, social and environmental trends towards urbanisation and the concentration of poverty in urban areas in South Africa; and (3) the strategic advantages of building on an internationally recognised concept (Gorgens and van Donk, 2012, pp. 7-8). While this took place long before any preparations began towards the Habitat III conference, it constitutes an interesting example both for participatory processes and for focused discussions on the Right to the City within a national context, as a global movement also builds.



“Component rights and key priorities that make up the Right to the City in South Africa” emerging from the Right to the City Dialogues in Cape Town (Gorgens and van Donk, 2012, p. 12).

1. Social function of land and property

The way that the social function of property came through was varied. In South Africa's report, the social function of land is recognised, though mainly in relation to public space and public facilities, and not much further elaboration is provided. This seems to come from Isandla's recommendations on the social function of land, which were included in the annex of the South Africa report. However, the report does not engage with issues around speculation. Indonesia's report interestingly states one of its land management goals is to: "Improve government control to land speculation and large scale land holdings which are detriment to the public interest that lead to the loss of history, identity, and social functions of the city" (Indonesia National Report, p. 101), acknowledging both speculation as a problem and the social function of the city, though concrete mechanisms to address this are not discussed. Mexico mentions briefly the need to limit speculation and the possibility of capturing value produced "in favor of the city" (Mexico National Report, p. 10), and also says that the "phenomenon of vacant buildings" must be connected to the demand for housing (*ibid.*, p. 46). However, Mexico as well as Jamaica discuss the importance of tax incentives for private developers, and the opening up of land for private development. South Africa's report mentions that there is some land that could be ideal for housing development but that municipalities cannot afford the price of this land due to the "propensity to sell it at inflated market values" (South Africa National Report, p. 65). In this sense the reports in many ways acknowledge the control of markets over land that could be used for housing and thus fulfil the social function of land and property. However, often the proposed strategies to address this are by further accommodating market mechanisms, which continue the prioritisation of the exchange rather than use value of land and property.

2. Social production of habitat

The social production of habitat is the least apparent principle across the reports. The reports mostly emphasise the need for financial schemes to enable access to housing, focusing on formal and individual ownership as tenure arrangements. There are isolated references to community-based housing processes, though there could have been much more substantial elaboration of these. The Indonesian report mentions the need to empower communities to gain better access to housing, indicating the need to:

"Build management capability and institutional system that provides legal certainty on the status of collective ownership or communal land by empowering community organisations either as formal "mediator" or informally to gain access to

sources of financing for the construction of housing and urban basic services" (Indonesia National Report, p. 103).

The Jamaican report outlines grants awarded to over 50 non-state actors (primarily NGOs and community-based organisations) that have helped to "strengthen community capacity to be stronger actors in their own development processes, through improving the managerial and entrepreneurial capacity of communities and community actors" (Jamaica National Report, p. 35). The Mexico report states that it is fundamental to create mechanisms and subsidies for 'autoproduction' and improvements to existing housing, especially for those people not affiliated with credit institutions as they are usually the people most in need of this. Meanwhile, the South African report mentions that communities need to be involved in decision-making regarding planning and/or alternative accommodation in insecure settlement areas. However, while there is some limited recognition of the roles communities can play in the production of housing (such as collective ownership in Indonesia, social entrepreneurship in Jamaica, autoproduction in Mexico and participatory planning in South Africa) there is little exploration on what would constitute such processes and how it can move beyond isolated cases to a wider integrated framework for housing production.

Furthermore, the reports make very limited efforts to engage in a responsive and comprehensive analysis of the various types of tenure needed to ensure the right to adequate and secure housing. The major focus is on the enablement of the housing market by stimulating supply through large-scale private sector housing production and enhancing demand through access to mortgages. Affordable rental schemes are briefly mentioned in the Mexico, Indonesia, and South Africa report, although the focus remains on individual ownership. There is no engagement with other tenure possibilities, and most surprisingly, no significant recognition of housing insecurities caused by evictions or market-led displacements.

3. Full exercise of citizenship and democratic management of the city

While the reports analysed seem to agree that there should be more participation in decision-making processes, the term "participation" itself is never defined. As a result, the reports end up producing ambiguous statements, where participation is applied mostly as lip service rather than a serious reflection as to how residents can meaningfully participate in the "democratic management of the city". For example, in the Jamaican report, though participation is mentioned periodically, it is mostly in involving youth in youth programming and in gender mainstreaming throughout government. However, it is not ar-

tulated what steps will be taken to achieve such goals. Potential processes for meaningful participation by civil society or marginalised groups are not explored.

The Indonesian, Mexican and South African reports are more explicit in the acknowledgement of the need for increased participation in planning processes. The Indonesian report asserts that quality of participation must be improved and that people must be able to participate in urban development programs in a fair way. This is outlined as part of the challenge of “building a more inclusive social life and inter-group tolerance and respect to basic human rights” (Indonesia National Report, p. 96). Meanwhile, the Mexican report outlines that the current system of participation is limited to consultation of citizens for the modification of plans, and that there is not a lot of accountability to guarantee suggestions of citizens are taken into account. The South African report recognises extreme inequalities in its society and that the dominant culture does not recognise the participation of women in public life. The need for more participatory governance is outlined, and that there should be “local participation and ownership in city development processes” (South Africa National Report, p. 51). The report asserts there is a legal framework in place for community participation, although this mainly seems to refer to the system of ward committees at the municipal level. However, similarly to the Jamaican report, these reports place no substantial emphases on how the challenges of meaningful participation will be addressed.

4. Right to a just economy

The way the economy is interpreted in the reports is generally a standard market-driven approach, with the city viewed as a driver of economic growth and an occasional nod to inclusiveness and supporting informal economic activities and small businesses. For example, Indonesia’s report is heavy on market-based language, emphasising the need for “growth”, “competitiveness”, free trade and attracting investment, with little exploration as to how this investment might be used in a just way. Still, the report also states that there should be a more inclusive economic policy targeted to marginalised social groups (Indonesia National Report, p. 105). Though Mexico’s report recognises the need for quality employment with social rights and access to social security, it generally presents the city as a driver of economic growth that needs to be productive to generate jobs and maintain a dynamic economy. South Africa’s report interestingly states a need to “move beyond the discourse of ‘competitive cities’” (South Africa National Report, p. 66), and that there should be more partnerships for job creation for the poor and continued focus on infrastructure expansion for economic growth.

Jamaica while at once asserting need to abide by “smart growth” principles (which are not defined), also recognis-

es the challenge of mobilising resources towards meeting the needs of the poor (Jamaica National Report p. 41), and focuses largely on expanding the tax base to improve delivery of goods and services. It states that a “major challenge is to identify gaps in the wealth creation process and address these gaps with appropriate responses” (ibid., p. 42), and mentions a pilot Local Economic Development programme that “seeks to direct the interventions necessary by developing capacity in Local Authorities to facilitate economic development in their jurisdiction” (ibid.). The question remained unanswered is whether these are the type of response needed to address “gaps in wealth creation” towards more equitable outcomes.

The most progressive inputs came from the South Africa’s report, which recognises the need to engage with the informal economy, as it “not only represents an important livelihood strategy, but is now a critical and distinctive policy focus in South Africa, as seen by the recent approval of the National Informal Business Upliftment Strategy (2014)” (South Africa National Report, p.61). Nevertheless, none of the reports engaged with the wider sector of the solidarity economy and the conditions to support collective forms of production that may support equitable outcomes.

5. Right to a healthy environment and to equitable and sustainable development

Every report expresses the need for environmental protection and reflects an understanding of the threat of climate change as well as natural disasters. There are also general calls for better public transport and reducing reliance on automobiles. Indonesia states the challenge of utilising resources sustainably and restoring environmental damage “without compromising the needs of economic growth and of social welfare” (Indonesia National Report, p. 94); similarly Jamaica asserts need to protect eco-sensitive land as well as agricultural land so that food security is not jeopardised. Mexico’s report recognises the link between housing policies and disaster preparedness, and another reason to secure housing in safe areas for low-income groups is that they are the one most affected by disasters if their homes are disproportionately located in risky areas. South Africa’s report also acknowledges the way that risk is distributed across communities, and its section on the environment is one of the more progressive, calling for a “pro-poor climate agenda” which advocates the urgent review of the impacts of macroeconomic policies on the poor as well as reviving land and agrarian reform agendas (South Africa National Report, p. 44).

Ultimately there is not much mentioned in terms of *management* of environmental commons and resources, though there are some isolated calls for greater community involvement. Jamaica’s report suggests that any

change in use of land should be subject to public control and regulation. Indonesia's report calls for a more inclusive urban planning and environmental design that takes into account the needs of children, youth, women, families, the elderly, and the disabled, going towards a new city model of climate/disaster resilience through program integration by "structuring, managing, and controlling the use of urban space that is efficient, equitable and environmentally friendly..." (Indonesia National Report, p. 102). South Africa's report explores the idea of community energy programs and efforts to get women and girls more involved in community disaster resilience.

Furthermore, the approach of the reports to environmental issues is mostly focusing on parallel and self-contained initiatives attempting to minimise hazards and threats, rather than reflecting a more substantial engagement with the intent and instruments to transition towards a more sustainable mode of urban development and city planning.

6. Spatial justice

On the one hand, there is general recognition of the need for equal access to services and some recognition of persisting socio-spatial segregation. Indonesia's report calls for:

Creating an equitable distribution of development....reduce social inequalities and paying special attention to the disadvantaged groups and regions; drastically alleviate poverty and unemployment; provide equal access to services for the social and economic infrastructure; and eliminate all kinds of discrimination including gender (Indonesia National Report, pp. 99- 100).

Jamaica's report recognises the differentiated use of and control over infrastructure facilities between men and women: "It is assumed that women and men will automatically equally benefit from new infrastructure, without due acknowledgement of the full range of differential socio-economic impacts, whether positive or negative" (Jamaica National Report, p. 12). The report also mentions the need to improve service access among the aging population, the homeless, and the mentally ill. South Africa's report recognises the impact of lingering apartheid spatial patterns and segregation by race and income. One example is HIV disproportionately affecting informal areas due to a lack of basic services in those areas. Unequal access to services such as transport is also mentioned.

In Mexico's report there is a very clear recognition of socio-spatial segregation and unequal access to public services, and that this is due in large part to rises in land value that have expelled the poor to the periphery as well as

an absence of policies that facilitate the poor's access to well-located land. There is also a stated need for a more integrated and efficient transport system which currently operates in a very fragmented way, more "as a business" than as a public service (Mexico National Report, p. 45). According to the report, spatial segregation must be addressed if there is to be social inclusion.

On the other hand, there are not many concrete suggestions elaborated as to how to address these issues. Mexico seems to mostly focus on the financing of homes in a way to facilitate vertical expansion of cities with better access to services. South Africa's report seems to assume that since apartheid has ended, provision of services is now "'wall-to-wall' and inclusive" (South Africa National Report, p. 48). And while there are efforts to improve road quality and expand the train system, it is unclear how new transport projects will directly link to improving spatial justice. Otherwise, the hope seems to be that increased capacity of local government will address the unequal use of space. In Indonesia's report, besides the above-quoted passage about the equitable distribution of development, the report focuses largely on market mechanisms and economic growth, and it is not clear how these two approaches are to be linked rather than contradict each other. Finally, Jamaica's report includes the puzzling and highly problematic statement that "The squatter settlement represents the most ineffective model of community development and there are too many such in urban and peri-urban spaces. They represent the most vulnerable and criminogenic models of communities" (Jamaica National Report, p. 13). This very moralistic view of squatter settlements does not seem reconcilable with the aim of more inclusive and equitable development.

Concluding remarks on report content

The reports often display an understanding and recognition of certain Right to the City principles, however, concrete methods to address associated problems or even clear principles that might be suggested for a "New Urban Agenda" are not clearly laid out. For example, some of the reports state the need to address entrenched socio-spatial segregation, but there are few elaborated instruments that could adequately address this problem. Some points of the reports seem to be contradictory, especially between stated needs for more equitable cities on the one hand and the market-driven approach to the urban development on the other. For example, Mexico's report explores more than once the spatial segregation of different income groups, but the urban economy section is focused on the need for cities to be competitive/engines of economic growth. In other words, there is limited recognition of market forces in reproducing socio-spatial segregation and limiting the enactment of the Right to the City. This is nothing new; in fact, Satterthwaite (1997) talks about the conflict emerging from the Habitat II docu-

ments (the Istanbul Declaration and the Habitat Agenda) between:

Support for market-driven solutions (with market mechanisms seen as the major means by which housing and living conditions will be improved) and statements that require considerable government intervention to ensure that poorer groups can actually enter the markets for housing, land, and housing finance... the documents do not recommend the kind of redistribution of incomes and assets that would allow low-income groups to "participate in housing markets" and be able to afford adequate housing (pp. 12 - 13).

In this sense the reports do not present a coherent vision of a more just and sustainable development and are not building substantively on Habitat II commitments. Indeed,

in most of the reports, Habitat II commitments are not concretely dealt with, unless they assume (as with Indonesia and Jamaica) that the content of the report shows "progress" since 1996.

But this must be brought back to the guidelines provided by UN-Habitat itself. While detailed, the guidelines are largely a checklist covering topics that should be included in the report. They do not ask for substantive measurement of achievement of Habitat II commitments, nor do they ask what instruments will be used to implement new possible commitments. The mainly descriptive guidelines and lack of serious reflection on Habitat II compromise the potential for substantive engagement leading to binding agreements at the international level to effectively realise the Right to the City. Nevertheless, as outlined above there does emerge in the report the occasional iteration of the Right to the City, and points that could possibly be used by civil society for negotiation.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Photo credit: Juan Camilo Maya

5. Conclusion

As this report shows, there have been diverse approaches to the Habitat III national reporting process in multiple countries, with some interesting examples of civil society involvement. However, these processes have in many ways been restricted by UN-Habitat's limited guidelines, which have not created an enabling environment for meaningful participation and substantive commitments towards a New Habitat Agenda. It becomes clear that much reflection must be given to the upcoming steps in the Habitat III process if a coherent vision for a more just and sustainable urban development, that takes into account the voices of diverse actors, is to emerge.

Still, it should be acknowledged that civil society groups hoping to see a clearer expression of the Right to the City in a new agenda are not starting from scratch. There is plenty of work to build on from Habitat II, which itself expressed some Right to the City principles. For example, the Habitat II Agenda already recommends the facilitation of community-based production of housing and the capturing of land value for public gain (The Habitat Agenda, 1996). A detailed Global Plan of Action was already agreed upon in 1996, this work must not be discarded in working towards a new agenda in Habitat III.

Based on existing initiatives from civil society-led mechanisms as well as entry points identified in the national reporting thus far, we recommend the rethinking of Habitat III activities, towards:

1. A clearer monitoring and accountability framework for Habitat II and Habitat III

The lack of discussion and emphasis on how countries and regions have been meeting the previous targets is problematic as it hinders the possibility of holding relevant actors to account and compromising the possibility of generating meaningful future commitments. Therefore, it is crucial to generate guidelines for participatory production of the Habitat Agenda and monitoring strategy that will enable the discussion of past and future targets. The process framework articulated in this report is an example of guidelines that could be applied towards this goal.

2. A commitment to a coherent vision towards social justice and urban sustainability

The absence of a comprehensive transformative vision underlying the debate around the "New Urban Agenda" has led to a series of inconsistent, contradictory as well as problematic accounts in the national reporting pro-

cesses. Meanwhile, civil society groups are generating transnational visions based on the notion of the Right to the City that present the opportunity to stimulate debates and commitments that are more in line with ideals of social justice and urban sustainability. If Habitat III is to have the ambition to generate transformative outcomes, it becomes necessary to listen to these initiatives and collaboratively produce criteria for an explicit engagement with the vision of social justice and urban sustainability. The framework for content analysis proposed in this report is an example on how normative visions could be applied to stimulate debate and hold the reporting process to account to wider notions of change, in this case associated to the Right to the City.

3. A comprehensive framework for the implementation of a vision of social justice and urban sustainability

At this point, there seem to be great uncertainties among international, national and local stakeholders on the reporting process. There is also a lack of envisioned mechanisms to ensure that the new agenda will enable the full exercise of the Human Right to Habitat. This lack of transparency hinders the possibility for a longer and more strategic planning for the reporting process, in a manner that can actually operate as initial steps towards setting up the conditions to implement the new agenda. Therefore, it is necessary to elaborate and disseminate the long-term framework for Habitat III in a manner that ensures that the institutional structures are in place internationally that can realistically hold governments accountable.

It is crucial for the next steps in Habitat III to respond to these recommendations, from the national reports, to the regional reports, to the New Habitat Agenda itself. The Habitat III process is an opportunity to build spaces for meaningful participation for deliberation about more just urban development and the Right to the City at national and international levels, by enabling transnational dialogues and alliances. The lessons from this research indicate that some of this potential is already operating in practice, especially through the spaces of deliberations driven by civil society groups. This research also identifies glimpses of productive entry points in the national reports that could be used to advance the Right to the City agenda. However, if Habitat III is to achieve this catalytic role, then more transparent, comprehensive and substantive commitments are required from the international agencies guiding this process.

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Annexes

Annex 1: List of HIC Habitat III Working Group participants

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Annex 2: Table summarising report processes in each case

Country	Contact	Process
Brazil	Francisco Comaru Universidade Federal do ABC	A working group was formed from the National Council of Cities (Conselho Nacional de Cidades) along with Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA). A forum was held at Universidade Federal do ABC (UFABC) to debate general themes with about 130 people. There were speakers in the morning and in the afternoon everyone divided into working groups to delve into the topics more in-depth. Then there was a forum in Brasilia with at least 200 people. Many different groups participated including NGOs, civil society, social movements, private sector, etc. Geographical representation was weighted more towards São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, but every state in Brazil was represented by at least one person. The format was mostly panels with four people each and 20 minute presentations followed by open discussion. In addition, an online platform was developed on the government website participa.br dedicated to Habitat III gather quantitative and qualitative information to be included in Brazil's national report. It is open to anyone interested, and the initial questionnaire regarding perceptions of urban development in Brazil was estimated to have received about 1,000 responses. The site also contains information about the forums held and links to videos from of those gatherings. The report is now in the process of being drafted using information from these mechanisms; the draft will purportedly also be available on the website.
Chile	Ana Sugranyes Habitat International Coalition Santiago	The National Council of Urban Development (Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano) has been charged with the Habitat III process, and the report was initially drafted by a civil servant and not widely shared. However, with pressure from civil society the Council then officially sponsored a forum held in late January to gain wider input on the report. Within this it was decided to produce an alternative report, not to replace the "official" one, but to address issues that participants felt were not included in the original report. The forum in Chile brought together 15 civil servants and 45 representatives of civil society groups. Because there was not a lot of time to plan the event, more groups from Santiago were present and many social movements were not present, but many were contacted and able to contribute to the proposed alternative report draft. An alternative report has now been drafted based on this and will be shared with the government, but it is still not known to what extent this input will be included in the documents ultimately presented to UN-Habitat.
Egypt	Joseph Schechla HIC Housing and Land Rights Network Cairo	Egypt submitted its national report before the first Preparatory Committee meeting, and has not authorised UN-Habitat to publicise the report. Currently, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Housing/General Office of Public Planning are promoting a National Urban Forum, but it is unclear whether this will link up to the national reporting process. The proposed NUF would cover five "urban" themes: Urban planning and renewal, Urban governance, Urban service delivery, focusing on housing, Urban service delivery, and Urban economy, and five focus areas: Upgrading the informal areas, Transparency, accountability and access to information, Social inclusion (gender, youth and civil society), Environmental, sustainable development and disaster and risk management, and Education and professional training.
Indonesia	No contact currently - information from national report and available online	Workshop held to gain broader input, and report states that the draft involved "all stakeholders from government, academia, practitioners and observers." It is not known to what extent civil society views were actually taken into account from these spaces. Report draft available online.

Country	Contact	Process
Jamaica	No contact currently - information from national report and available online	A National Habitat Committee was formed to gather information and draft the report. Consultations were held in three regions to gain input from private and public sectors, but it is unknown what exactly the procedure behind this was. Report draft available online.
Mexico	Lorena Zárate Habitat International Coalition Mexico City	A national habitat committee was created in August 2014, with members of CONAVI (the national housing council), the department of foreign relations, SEDATU (Secretariat of Rural, Territorial and Urban Development), two major public universities (UNAM and UAM), and NGOs. HIC and Foropolis (professionals' network) are also represented. The report was drafted by SEDATU without any external input. However, the government was not opposed to a civil society-led forum process to discuss the report. The forum brought together 100 people, and different kinds of groups were present as there were representatives of NGOs, academia, and leaders of social movements. However, there was not a lot of diversity in terms of social identity represented and the forum was heavily weighted towards people from Mexico City or national organisations based in Mexico City. There were very few people from provinces and almost no one from non-urban areas. This forum led to a document of recommendations that was sent to the government; it now remains to be seen if their recommendations will be taken into account. In addition, civil society are in the process of initiating a national platform so that there may be a more permanent space of discussion and interaction between different actors and to discuss national and international agendas.
Peru	Silvia de los Rios Bernardini Centro de Investigación, Documentación y Asesoría Poblacional (CIDAP) Lima	Civil Society groups contacted the office of cooperation, part of the housing ministry, to ask about the Habitat III reporting, but did not receive a clear answer as to whether the ministry is taking steps to prepare a report or not. So far a national habitat committee does not seem to have been set up and there is no platform for different sectors to discuss Habitat III goals. HIC and others are liaising with various contacts in different sectors so that they may prepare something (an alternative report, a forum, etc.) if the government does not. This report would not be confrontational but complementary to any official report, to deal with issues that are not discussed in the official version. One of the main issues in Peru that Silvia feels would need to be dealt with in any report is the liberalization of housing policies and the battle for social housing. There needs to be new mobilization strategies to confront speculation. She also mentioned the idea of discussing binding agreements, that the rights approved in Habitat III should be binding.
South Africa	Mirjam van Donk and Adoné Kitching Isandla Institute Cape Town	In South Africa there is no formal committee established to preside over the production of the country report for HIII. Instead, a working group from the Department of Human Settlement was tasked with writing the report, and the National Urban Forum – launched in 2013 – was used as a vehicle to facilitate a stakeholder engagement in June 2014. Prior to this meeting the National Urban Forum existed only in name. The draft report was discussed at the meeting, and stakeholders (including NGOs like Isandla Institute) who attended the meeting were consequently asked to make contributions to the report. These were then included in the annexures and in the report itself, but not in a very substantive manner. The one-day meeting offered little time to engage more substantially in the report writing and review process. It is uncertain whether South Africa's preparatory process will be driven by the strong political leadership that it needs. In all, HIII is not particularly alive in South Africa.

Annex 3: Table summarising Right to the City in each report

Country	1. Social function of land and property	2. Social production of Habitat	3. Full exercise of citizenship and democratic management of the city
Indonesia	<p>The report states the importance of improving "government control to land speculation and large scale landholdings which are detriment to the public interest that lead to the loss of history, identity, and social functions of the city" (p. 101). Statement that priority should be given to the financing of housing for low-income groups, including programs for affordable apartment rental. "Land consolidation" and communal housing should be accommodated in new land laws. Besides improving the financial system, mechanisms to actually unlock the social function of land are not discussed.</p>	<p>While there is a mention of empowering communities to gain better access to housing ("Build management capability and institutional system that provides legal certainty on the status of collective ownership or communal land by empowering community organizations either as formal "mediator" or informally to gain access to sources of financing for the construction of housing and urban basic services" (p. 103)), the right of urban and rural dwellers to the production of their own habitat is not recognized nor the possibility of people-led housing projects. Tenure still conceived only in terms of formal tenure.</p>	<p>Assertion that quality of participation must be improved and that people must be able to participate in urban development programs in a fair way, this part of the challenge of "building a more inclusive social life and inter-group tolerance and respect to basic human rights" (p. 96). Report states there should be increased knowledge in strategic public affairs among the wider community. Example of Musreimbang community participatory planning is given.</p>
Jamaica	<p>The social function of land and property is not mentioned; the approach to housing is in terms of needing to meet future demand for housing, for which the approach is generally to improve housing finance to enable wider ownership (including for women and "vulnerable groups")--affordable renting options are not discussed. The new housing policy purportedly focuses on "the use of Government lands to facilitate affordable housing with interested private developers", and to encourage private sector and NGOs to make more land available through tax incentives. The report states that growing housing demand requires urban renewal, "smart urban growth" and even gentrification. Thus there is no discussion of speculation nor prioritizing collective goods over private interests.</p>	<p>The right of urban and rural dwellers to the production of their own habitat is not recognized nor the possibility of people-led housing projects. Tenure still conceived only in terms of formal tenure.</p> <p>Grants awarded to over 50 non-state actors (primarily NGOs and Community-Based Organisations) that have helped to "strengthen community capacity to be stronger actors in their own development processes, through improving the managerial and entrepreneurial capacity of communities and community actors." (35)</p>	<p>Though participation is mentioned periodically it is mostly in involving youth in youth programming ("Community infrastructure must be improved/upgraded/put in place to allow for development of urban youth and equally urban communities") and in gender mainstreaming throughout government. However it is not totally clear what steps will be taken to mainstream gender, mainly that it should be done. Suggestions for governance reform are mainly in terms of the need for "more planners" and better regulation of planners. Potential processes for meaningful participation by civil society or marginalized groups is not really explored and other marginalized groups beyond women not really recognized.</p>

4. Right to a just economy	5. Right to a Healthy Environment and to Equitable and Sustainable Development	6. Spatial justice
<p>Informal economic activities are recognized, and the report states there should be a more inclusive economic policy targeted to marginalized social groups (p. 105). Otherwise, the report is heavy in neoliberal language, and most of the focus is on "growth", "competitiveness", free trade and attracting investment with little exploration on how and for whom investment will be used.</p>	<p>Challenge of utilizing resources sustainably and restoring environmental damage "without compromising the needs of economic growth and of social welfare" (p. 94) Need for more inclusive urban planning and environmental design that takes into account the needs of children, youth, women, families, the elderly, and disabled, as well as a priority towards public transport. Going towards a new city model based on the "Green City" and climate/disaster resilience through program integration by (i) structuring, managing, and controlling the use of urban space that is efficient, equitable and environmentally friendly... (p. 102). Though this is not elaborated in much detail, argument could be made that there is "equitable management".</p>	<p>"Creating an equitable distribution of development, that is to improve of regional development; reduce social inequalities and paying special attention to the disadvantaged groups and regions; drastically alleviate poverty and unemployment; provide equal access to services for the social and economic infrastructure; and eliminate all kinds of discrimination including gender" (pp. 99-100)</p> <p>Besides this section, the main focus in the report is on market mechanisms and economic growth, not clear how these two approaches are to be linked and not contradict each other.</p>
<p>Recognition of the "unenumerated work of women" is recognizing diverse forms of labor. Finance is recognized as a major constraint in terms of reaching low-income people: can resources be mobilized and can these be used to meet the needs of the poor? Stated need to widen the tax base to ensure delivery of goods and services. Not many concrete mechanisms proposed for this but the reports states the need for "collaborative", "transformative" and "locally-generated" responses (p. 46).</p>	<p>The need to protect the environment is expressed, especially in terms of existing programming towards climate change and disaster risk reduction. Suggestion for more efficient transport and more energy renewal, as well as need to preserve eco-sensitive land and agriculture land so food security not jeopardized. Suggestion that change in use of land should be more consultative, subject to public control and regulation</p> <p>Distribution of risk among social groups is not really discussed nor is there any mention of equitable management of environmental commons.</p>	<p>The report recognizes the differentiated use of and control over infrastructure facilities between men and women:</p> <p>"It is assumed that women and men will automatically equally benefit from new infrastructure, without due acknowledgement of the full range of differential socio-economic impacts, whether positive or negative" (p. 12). It also mentions the need to improve service access among the aging population, the homeless, and the mentally ill. Apparently the need to improve transport emerged from consultations.</p> <p>However, highly problematic statement that "The squatter settlement represents the most ineffective model of community development and there are too many such in urban and peri-urban spaces. They represent the most vulnerable and criminogenic models of communities. The country must continue to improve policies with this issue. Planners must give focused attention to the contribution of internal migration to accelerated patterns urban growth. Rural development must be considered to stymie this trend" (p. 13). Thus there is a bit of a contradiction between supposedly wanting a more inclusive and equitable development, but very moralistic language towards squatter settlements.</p>

Country	1. Social function of land and property	2. Social production of Habitat	3. Full exercise of citizenship and democratic management of the city
Mexico	<p>While the report does not directly mention the social function of land and property, it does suggest coordinating with local government and finance institutions to capture added land value in “favor of the city” and to limit speculation. However, there is also the suggestions for tax incentives to encourage investment from the real estate sector. There is a stated lack of an integrated institutional approach to land policies which has hindered security of tenure and access to housing. The phenomenon of vacant buildings must be connected with the demand for housing; renting is mentioned as a possible alternative, though it may be difficult as Mexico’s rental sector is mainly informal. While the right to housing is recognized and there is a desire to limit speculation, there are not many mechanisms proposed to enact the social function of land and attempts to attract investment may further increase speculation.</p>	<p>“Autoproduction” of housing is mentioned numerous times in the report and it is acknowledged that many homes are produced this way in the unplanned development of cities. The report states that the National Housing Commission has granted subsidies for lower-income groups for autoproduction in the past, and also that it is fundamental to create mechanisms and subsidies for autoproduction and improvements to existing housing, especially for those people not affiliated with credit institutions as they are usually the people most in need of this.</p>	<p>The importance of and need for increased participation in planning processes is affirmed. The report admits that the current system of participation is limited to consultation of citizens for the modification of plans, and that there is not a lot of accountability to guarantee suggestions of citizens are taken into account. Societal participation in planning is very unequal, and there is not much opportunity for citizens to actually influence decisionmaking processes. It is suggested that more recent structures such as IMPLANES and Observatorios Urbanos should be reinforced to guarantee the presence of citizen voices, and that evaluation mechanisms should also be reinforced, for example, social monitoring of compliance with urban development plans. The report states that the ‘right to the city’ must involve the inclusion of vulnerable groups in urban politics.</p>
South Africa	<p>The "social function of land" is recognized in the report but with very little elaboration and mainly in relation to public space and public facilities. It seems this came from an annex prepared by the Isandla Institute which goes into more detail on the social function of land and property. The report mentions that there is some land that could be ideal for housing development but that municipalities cannot afford the price of this land due to the propensity to sell it at inflated market values. This land thus seems to not be serving a social function but there are not recommendations to address this and otherwise speculation is not directly addressed in the report. Access to housing is framed in terms of access to housing finance, multiple programs and mechanisms are mentioned that are intended to grant subsidies to low-income housing to afford a mortgage. Some social renting schemes are mentioned but focus seems to be still on ownership. There is recognition of informal settlements however they recommend that in a new urban agenda the priority should be to formalize land tenure.</p>	<p>Recognition that communities need to be involved in decisionmaking regarding planning and/or alternative accommodation in insecure settlement areas. One program is mentioned in which residents are more involved in housing decisions. Statement that state capability must be improved to support the "co-development of housing and settlement-making" between various actors including community. However, burden is placed on communities in that they must "hold government accountable" and "demonstrate resilience", though it is not made clear what exactly this means.</p>	<p>The report recognizes extreme inequalities in South African society and that the dominant culture does not recognize the participation of women in public life. There is a recognized need for more participatory governance, and that there should be “local participation and ownership in city development processes” (p. 51). The report asserts there is a legal framework in place for community participation, although this mainly seems to refer to the system of ward committees at the municipal level. For the new agenda, suggestions are made to address youth in terms of education and skills development and involving youth themselves in these strategies, educational programs towards mainstreaming gender equity, and that needs of the disabled should be included (including “universal design” but not much else is mentioned). Overall, clear recognition of need for more inclusive participation and especially of marginalised groups, but still unclear how communities can meaningfully impact policy and planning.</p>

4. Right to a just economy	5. Right to a Healthy Environment and to Equitable and Sustainable Development	6. Spatial justice
<p>The report presents the city as a driver of economic growth that needs to be productive to generate jobs and maintain a dynamic economy. Recognition of need for not just any employment but quality employment with social rights and access to social security. Lists objectives from the Mexican "institute for competitiveness" which are to support economies of agglomeration for productive economic relations, Make cities safer and more equitable, and to reduce the consumption of land, energy, and natural resources towards sustainability. Ultimately there seems to be a contradiction between the way the report approaches the economy and spatial justice.</p>	<p>Recognition that urban development can worsen climate change as it may cause deforestation or other damage, and at the same time the effects of disasters are worsened if housing is located in risky areas. Because of this a major challenge identified is securing housing for low-income groups as they are the ones most affected by disasters. Housing policies can also reduce environmental impact with more ecological housing technologies along with good planning that contains uncontrolled urban development. There is also the stated need for better public transport so there is less reliance on automobiles which worsen congestion and pollution. While the need to protect the environment and reduce risk is clear, there is no discussion of the need for equitable management of the commons.</p>	<p>Very clear recognition of socio-spatial segregation and unequal access to public services, and that this is due in large part to rises in land value that have expelled the poor to the periphery as well as an absence of policies that facilitate the poor's access to well-located land. There is also a stated need for more integrated and efficient transport system which currently operates in a very fragmented way, and operating more "as a business" than as a public service. Spatial segregation must be addressed if there is to be social inclusion. However there are not many concrete suggestions to address this other than the financing of homes in a way to facilitate vertical expansion of cities with better access to services.</p>
<p>The report recognizes informal economic activities, and also that the economy is not producing enough jobs and therefore not absorbing labor. States that this is now a policy focus in South Africa which supports the development of the informal sector and provides support to trader organisations as well as aiming for youth and women's empowerment. It also states the government is currently focusing on supporting small enterprises in townships. The report also recognizes the principle of inclusive economic growth and moving beyond the discourse of "competitive cities", and that there should be more partnerships for job creation for the poor and continued focus on infrastructure expansion for economic growth.</p>	<p>One of the most progressive sections of the report, calling for a "pro-poor climate agenda" which advocates the urgent review of the impacts of macroeconomic policies on the poor as well as reviving land and agrarian reform agendas, along with improving access to information and providing fora for further community involvement. There is acknowledgement of the way risk distributes itself across communities and the need for further efforts to reduce risk.</p> <p>There is also a stated need for more engagement with community energy programs and efforts to get women and girls more involved in community disaster resilience suggests going towards more equitable management of the environment.</p> <p>There are numerous mentions of a need for "Greening" and using new technologies but not much assessment as who this would be for.</p>	<p>The report recognizes the impact of lingering apartheid spatial patterns and segregation by race and income. One example is HIV disproportionately affecting informal areas due to a lack of basic services in those areas. Unequal access to services such as transport is also mentioned. However, while there are efforts to improve road quality and expand the train system, it is unclear how new transport projects will directly link to improving spatial justice. Otherwise the hope seems to be that increased capacity of local government will address the unequal use of space. Hope that new agenda will include urban areas including "gender aware" features. Assumption that as apartheid has ended provision of services is now "'wall-to-wall' and inclusive" (p. 48).</p>

Annex 4: UN-Habitat Guidelines for the production of national reports



THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HABITAT III)

GUIDELINES AND FORMAT FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS: ON SIX KEY TOPICS, THIRTY ISSUES AND TWELVE INDICATORS

BACKGROUND

The guidelines contained in the present document have been prepared in response to resolution 24/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council titled “Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)”, adopted at its twenty-fourth session, by which the Council invited Member States to prepare,

...before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, national reports which consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a “New Urban Agenda”, in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 67/216” (paragraph 40).

Through the same resolution, the Governing Council also requested UN-Habitat to suggest guidelines and format for the preparation of national reports, which should,

... consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as well as cross-cutting issues, in a balanced way (paragraph 2).

In the Habitat Agenda adopted in 1996, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to two main goals, i.e. “Adequate Shelter for All” and “Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World”, and to implementing a Plan of Action based on these goals.

With respect to the goal of “Adequate Shelter for All”, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to enabling people to obtain shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services, facilities and amenities, and in which everyone enjoys freedom from discrimination in housing and legal security of tenure – all fully consistent with human rights standards (paragraph 39, Habitat Agenda). In the Millennium Declaration, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. They also committed themselves to halving by 2015 the proportion of the population without adequate sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation.

With respect to the goal of “Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World”, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to developing societies that make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and by providing all people, in particular those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe, and productive life in harmony with nature and their cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values, and a life which ensures economic and social development and environmental protection, thereby contributing to the achievement of national sustainable development (paragraph 42, Habitat Agenda).

PREPARATION PROCESS

The General Assembly, through its resolution 67/216, paragraph 11, encouraged “... effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, major groups as identified in Agenda 21, the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the conference itself ...”.

Resolution 24/14 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council called upon “... Member States, using any available assistance and necessary guidance and support from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to form National Habitat Committees where they do not exist and strengthen the existing National Habitat Committees to ensure their effective and efficient participation in the Habitat III preparatory process, including the preparation of national reports”.

While countries are free to determine the processes they consider most appropriate for the preparation of their Habitat III national reports, the use of National Habitat Committees for the preparation of national reports is strongly encouraged, and the Habitat III Secretary-General has already distributed a guide on the formation (or strengthening) and functions of these committees.

As emphasized in that guide, UN-Habitat recommends that National Habitat Committees be fully inclusive of representatives from Government, civil society, the private sector, academic and research institutions, and all other relevant stakeholders. National Habitat Committees could also include country level representatives of the United Nations system organizations, the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund and others), regional development banks, and donors.

RECOMMENDED STEPS INVOLVED IN THE REPORTING PROCESS

Step 1: Organize a National Habitat Committee

The first recommended step is to initiate or re-establish a broad-based, gender-balanced National Habitat Committee. While Governments have the primary responsibility for reporting, it is important to promote dialogue and consensus among *all* stakeholders. It is also recommended that cities and communities establish their own local committees to report on progress at the local and community levels.

Step 2: Collect and analyze information

It is recommended that National Habitat Committees then initiate the collection and analysis of indicators, best practices, case studies good policies, action plans and other information. Examples of national and local plans of action include: national Habitat II reports, national urban policies (where they exist) national urban development strategies etc.

Step 3: Hold a national workshop to review plans of action

It is recommended that the National Habitat Committee organize a national workshop to review current national and local plans of action and their implementation since 1996 and to assess progress made and obstacles encountered in implementing the Habitat Agenda. It is suggested that this be organized in the form of an open and inclusive discussion with a broad-based and gender-balanced group of stakeholders.

Step 4: Agree on priorities, issues and challenges for a new urban agenda

In the fourth step of the reporting process, it is recommended that partners identify priorities, issues and challenges for a New Urban Agenda.

Step 5: Prepare a Habitat III National Report

Using the reporting structure provided below, it is suggested that the National Habitat Committees prepare and widely disseminate their country reports.

ASSESSING PROGRESS AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE NATIONAL REPORT

The National Report should not exceed 25,000 words, or 50 pages. This is inclusive of tables and illustrative material. The Report should be prepared using MS Word, single line spacing and font size 12, and should be submitted by 30 June 2014, by email, to the Habitat III Secretariat at <habitat3.secretariat@unhabitat.org>.

In cases where National Reports are prepared in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian, an English translation of the report should also be submitted together with the copy of the report in the original language.

The Report should be empirical, and illustrated with current data, as well as relevant programmes and policies, and should also be forward-looking. The sources of information, bibliography and individuals contacted in the process of preparing the Report should be provided at the end of the document.

The National Report should follow the structure provided in the outline below.

I. Urban Demographic Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

(Maximum of 4160 words inclusive of tables and illustrative material)

Describe what your Central Government, Local Authorities (including the major cities) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have **achieved**, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges**

experienced and lessons learnt in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

1. Managing rapid urbanization (540 words)
2. Managing rural-urban linkages (540 words)
3. Addressing urban youth needs (540 words)
4. Responding to the needs of the aged (540 words)
5. Integrating gender in urban development (540 words)
6. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas (1-5) (730 words)
7. Future challenges and issues in these areas (1-5) that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda (730 words)

II. Land and Urban Planning: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda (Maximum of 4160 words inclusive of tables and illustrative material)

Describe what your Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital or major city) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have **achieved**, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

8. Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design (540 words)
9. Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl (540 words)
10. Enhancing urban and peri-urban food production (540 words)
11. Addressing urban mobility challenges (540 words)
12. Improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities (540 words)
13. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas (8-12) (730 words)
14. Future challenges and issues in these areas (8-12) that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda (730 words)

III. Environment and Urbanization: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda (Maximum of 3560 words inclusive of tables and illustrative material)

Describe what your Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital or major city) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have **achieved**, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

15. Addressing climate change (540 words)
16. Disaster risk reduction (540 words)
17. Reducing traffic congestion (540 words)
18. Air Pollution (540 words)
19. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas (15-17) (700 words)
20. Future challenges and issues in these areas (15-17) that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda (700 words)

IV. Urban Governance and Legislation: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

(Maximum of 4160 words inclusive of tables and illustrative material)

Describe what your Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital or major city) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have **achieved**, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

21. Improving urban legislation (540 words)
22. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities (540 words)
23. Improving participation and human rights in urban development (540 words)
24. Enhancing urban safety and security (540 words)
25. Improving social inclusion and equity (540 words)
26. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas (20-24) (730 words)
27. Future challenges and issues in these areas (20-24) that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda (730 words)

V. Urban Economy: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

(Maximum of 4160 words inclusive of tables and illustrative material)

Describe what your Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital or major city) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have **achieved**, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

28. Improving municipal/local finance (540 words)
29. Strengthening and improving access to housing finance (540 words)
30. Supporting local economic development (540 words)
31. Creating decent jobs and livelihoods (540 words)
32. Integration of the urban economy into national development policy (540 words)
33. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas (27-31) (730 words)
34. Future challenges and issues in these areas (27-31) that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda (730 words)

VI. Housing and Basic Services: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

(Maximum of 4800 words inclusive of tables and illustrative material)

Describe what your Central Government, Local Authorities (including the capital or major city) and other subnational governmental authorities, in partnership with stakeholders, have **achieved**, through the Habitat Agenda, in the areas listed below. Also describe the **challenges experienced and lessons learnt** in these areas, as well as **future challenges and issues** that could be addressed through a New Urban Agenda.

35. Slum upgrading and prevention (540 words)
36. Improving access to adequate housing (540 words)
37. Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water (540 words)
38. Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage (540 words)
39. Improving access to clean domestic energy (540 words)

- 40. Improving access to sustainable means of transport (540 words)
- 41. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas (34-36) (780 words)
- 42. Future challenges and issues in these areas (34-36) that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda (780 words)

VII. Indicators

Provide data for your country for the following urban indicators. Data should be for 1996, 2006 and 2013, when possible disaggregated by gender.

- i. Percentage of people living in slums
- ii. Percentage of urban population with access to adequate housing
- iii. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to safe drinking water
- iv. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to adequate sanitation
- v. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to regular waste collection
- vi. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to clean domestic energy
- vii. Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to public transport
- viii. Level of effective decentralization for sustainable urban development measured by: (i) Percentage of policies and legislation on urban issues in whose formulation local and regional governments participated from 1996 to the present; (ii) percentage share of both income and expenditure allocated to local and regional governments from the national budget; (iii) percentage share of local authorities' expenditure financed from local revenue
- ix. Percentage of city, regional and national authorities that have implemented urban policies supportive of local economic development and creation of decent jobs and livelihoods
- x. Percentage of city and regional authorities that have adopted or implemented urban safety and security policies or strategies
- xi. Percentage of city and regional authorities that have implemented plans and designs for sustainable and resilient cities that are inclusive and respond to urban population growth adequately
- xii. Share of national gross domestic product (GDP) that is produced in urban areas
- xiii. Any other urban-related data relevant to the National Report

VIII. Case Studies and Policy Documents

Countries are encouraged to submit case studies, action plans, and policy documents etc. on successful approaches to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. These documents should be illustrative of the achievements mentioned in the Habitat III national report. However, these documents should not be submitted as part of the national report, but as additional material.

Note: To support countries in the preparation of their national reports with adequate data, an updated version of UN-Habitat's **Urban Indicators Programme** is being resuscitated. The Urban Indicators Programme will also provide the data needed for the preparation of the Habitat III global report, to be led by UN-Habitat.

Annex 5: The Habitat Agenda: Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements

Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements

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The Habitat Agenda



Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements

1. We, the Heads of State or Government and the official delegations of countries assembled at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996, take this opportunity to endorse the universal goals of ensuring adequate shelter for all and making human settlements safer, healthier and more liveable, equitable, sustainable and productive. Our deliberations on the two major themes of the Conference - adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world - have been inspired by the Charter of the United Nations and are aimed at reaffirming existing and forging new partnerships for action at the international, national and local levels to improve our living environment. We commit ourselves to the objectives, principles and recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda and pledge our mutual support for its implementation.

2. We have considered, with a sense of urgency, the continuing deterioration of conditions of shelter and human settlements. At the same time, we recognize cities and towns as centres of civilization, generating economic development and social, cultural, spiritual and scientific advancement. We must take advantage of the opportunities presented by our settlements and preserve their diversity to promote solidarity among all our peoples.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to better standards of living in larger freedom for all humankind. We recall the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, the celebration of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, all of which have contributed to increased global awareness of the problems of human settlements and called for action to achieve adequate shelter for all. Recent United Nations world conferences, including, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, have given us a comprehensive agenda for the equitable attainment of peace, justice and democracy built on economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. We have sought to integrate the outcomes of these conferences into the Habitat Agenda.

4. To improve the quality of life within human settlements, we must combat the deterioration of conditions that in most cases, particularly in developing countries, have reached crisis proportions. To this end, we must address comprehensively, inter alia, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in industrialized countries; unsustainable population changes, including changes in structure and distribution, giving priority consideration to the tendency towards excessive population concentration; homelessness; increasing poverty; unemployment; social exclusion; family instability; inadequate resources; lack of basic infrastructure and services; lack of adequate planning; growing insecurity and violence; environmental degradation; and increased vulnerability to disasters.

5. The challenges of human settlements are global, but countries and regions also face specific problems which need specific solutions. We recognize the need to intensify our efforts and cooperation to improve living conditions in the cities, towns and villages throughout the world, particularly in developing countries, where the situation is especially grave, and in countries with economies in transition. In this connection, we acknowledge that globalization of the world economy presents opportunities and

challenges for the development process, as well as risks and uncertainties, and that achievement of the goals of the Habitat Agenda would be facilitated by, inter alia, positive actions on the issues of financing of development, external debt, international trade and transfer of technology. Our cities must be places where human beings lead fulfilling lives in dignity, good health, safety, happiness and hope.

6. Rural and urban development are interdependent. In addition to improving the urban habitat, we must also work to extend adequate infrastructure, public services and employment opportunities to rural areas in order to enhance their attractiveness, develop an integrated network of settlements and minimize rural-to-urban migration. Small- and medium-sized towns need special focus.

7. As human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development, they are the basis for our actions as in implementing the Habitat Agenda. We recognize the particular needs of women, children and youth for safe, healthy and secure living conditions. We shall intensify our efforts to eradicate poverty and discrimination, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to provide for basic needs, such as education, nutrition and life-span health care services, and, especially, adequate shelter for all. To this end, we commit ourselves to improving the living conditions in human settlements in ways that are consonant with local needs and realities, and we acknowledge the need to address the global, economic, social and environmental trends to ensure the creation of better living environments for all people. We shall also ensure the full and equal participation of all women and men, and the effective participation of youth, in political, economic and social life. We shall promote full accessibility for people with disabilities, as well as gender equality in policies, programmes and projects for shelter and sustainable human settlements development. We make these commitments with particular reference to the more than one billion people living in absolute poverty and to the members of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups identified in the Habitat Agenda.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as provided for in international instruments. To that end, we shall seek the active participation of our public, private and non-governmental partners at all levels to ensure legal security of tenure, protection from discrimination and equal access to affordable, adequate housing for all persons and their families.

9. We shall work to expand the supply of affordable housing by enabling markets to perform efficiently and in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, enhancing access to land and credit and assisting those who are unable to participate in housing markets.

10. In order to sustain our global environment and improve the quality of living in our human settlements, we commit ourselves to sustainable patterns of production, consumption, transportation and settlements development; pollution prevention; respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems; and the preservation of opportunities for future generations. In this connection, we shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of different contributions to global environmental degradation, we reaffirm the principle that countries have common but differentiated responsibilities. We also recognize that we must take these actions in a manner consistent with the precautionary principle approach, which shall be widely applied according to the capabilities of countries. We shall also promote healthy living environments, especially through the provision of adequate quantities of safe water and effective management of waste.

11. We shall promote the conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of buildings, monuments, open spaces, landscapes and settlement patterns of historical, cultural, architectural, natural, religious and spiritual value.

12. We adopt the enabling strategy and the principles of partnership and participation as the most

democratic and effective approach for the realization of our commitments. Recognizing local authorities as our closest partners, and as essential, in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, we must, within the legal framework of each country, promote decentralization through democratic local authorities and work to strengthen their financial and institutional capacities in accordance with the conditions of countries, while ensuring their transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the needs of people, which are key requirements for Governments at all levels. We shall also increase our cooperation with parliamentarians, the private sector, labour unions and non-governmental and other civil society organizations with due respect for their autonomy. We shall also enhance the role of women and encourage socially and environmentally responsible corporate investment by the private sector. Local action should be guided and stimulated through local programmes based on Agenda 21, the Habitat Agenda, or any other equivalent programme, as well as drawing upon the experience of worldwide cooperation initiated in Istanbul by the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, without prejudice to national policies, objectives, priorities and programmes. The enabling strategy includes a responsibility for Governments to implement special measures for members of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups when appropriate.

13. As the implementation of the Habitat Agenda will require adequate funding, we must mobilize financial resources at the national and international levels, including new and additional resources from all sources - multilateral and bilateral, public and private. In this connection, we must facilitate capacity-building and promote the transfer of appropriate technology and know-how. Furthermore, we reiterate the commitments set out in recent United Nations conferences, especially those in Agenda 21 on funding and technology transfer.

14. We believe that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda will require the strengthening of the role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), taking into account the need for the Centre to focus on well-defined and thoroughly developed objectives and strategic issues. To this end, we pledge our support for the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda and its global plan of action. Regarding the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, we fully recognize the contribution of the regional and national action plans prepared for this Conference.

15. This Conference in Istanbul marks a new era of cooperation, an era of a culture of solidarity. As we move into the twenty-first century, we offer a positive vision of sustainable human settlements, a sense of hope for our common future and an exhortation to join a truly worthwhile and engaging challenge, that of building together a world where everyone can live in a safe home with the promise of a decent life of dignity, good health, safety, happiness and hope.

The Development Planning Unit, University College London (UCL), is an international centre specialising in academic teaching, research, training and consultancy in the field of urban and regional development, with a focus on policy, planning, management and design. It is concerned with understanding the multifaceted and uneven process of contemporary urbanisation, and strengthening more socially just and innovative approaches to policy, planning, management and design, especially in the contexts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East as well as countries in transition. For more information, see website: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu>

Habitat International Coalition. The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global network for rights related to habitat. Through solidarity, networking and support for social movements and organizations, HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, and works in the defence, promotion and realization of human rights related to housing and land in both rural and urban areas. For more information, see website: <http://www.hic-net.org>

This project was coordinated by Alexandre Apsan Frediani with Rafaella Simas Lima from the Development Planning Unit, in collaboration with the HIC Habitat III Working Group with the support of DPU staff members. To access outputs from this project and other initiatives by HIC Habitat III Working Group, see website: <https://habitat3hic.wordpress.com>

To know more about DPU's engagement with Habitat III, visit the website <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/habitat-III>



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