# WUF9: New Urban Annex



SymbioCity Kenya staff, Everlyne Otieno explains the SymbioCity Approach to a Kenyan delegation at WUF9

## Inside

# WUF9 Lessons for Kenya

Hundreds of Kenyans were among nearly 23,000 people who thronged Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre and other sites in Malaysia for the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9).

For the Kenyan participants, "Cities 2030 – Cities For All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda" was a befitting conference theme, coming in the wake of the passing of the National Urban Development Policy in December 2017, and the country's efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda (NUA). NUA was adopted at the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016.

"From listening to conference discussions, Kenya is definitely on the right track," stated Charles Otieno Konyango, the Director of Housing and Urban Development in the Ministry of Lands, Kenya. "The government is leading the process, and towards this end, we are progressing well with the creation of Urban Boards, with groundwork laid to ensure that the processes are consultative and inclusive."

Kenya's Urban Areas and Cities Act (UACA) 2011, directs the establishment of urban boards to facilitate management of cities and municipalities at the counties. The Boards are expected to facilitate the government's efforts to implement NUA and anchor it into the Counties'

Integrated Development Plans. Konyango states that a civil society organisation, Urban Boards Non-state Agencies (UBNA), is in the process of identifying organisations that can nominate members to sit in the boards, after which the body will induct and educate the

> **For the Kenyan participants, "Cities 2030 – Cities For All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda" was a befitting conference theme, coming in the wake of the passing of the National Urban Development Policy in December 2017, and the country's efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda**

Boards at the county assemblies.

George Wasonga, the Executive Director of Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP), agrees that the Kenya Government has already delivered an implementation framework, which incorporates the NUA agenda into the country's Vision 2030. "This means that the government is not deviating from its national strategic agenda to implement a global concern, which is a good thing," he states.

The urban development practitioner however adds that unlike other countries, Kenya lacks the critical local government tier in its governance structure, which takes care of urban areas. And whereas the urban boards are envisioned to take care of this space, George who is a member of the UBNA, states that its actualisation has been slow and difficult. This is because counties may not easily delegate their key sources of revenue, which is the urban areas, to the Boards.

## "The new structure may lead to power weaknesses based on resource management."

**In a session on innovative** implementation of the NUA, Ms Iye Moakofi, the Principal Planner at the City of Francistown Council, Botswana, detailed her country's approach of jointly implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the NUA. This approach is clever, given that the NUA is closely aligned to many SDGs, key among them being to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11).

## Like Kenya, implementation of NUA in Botswana is spearheaded by the national government.

Through a national multi-stakeholder urban habitat committee and a national steering committee on the SDGs created by the government, Botswana has managed to conduct countrywide campaigns to enhance ownership of the two development agenda, said Moakofi. Additionally, the SDGs are integrated in the country's national development frameworks and plans, complete with the supportive institutional frameworks.

# Kenya's Quest
## for Sustainable Cities



A conference participant adds a comment onto the SymbioCity wall

At the opening of WUF9, the Malaysian Minister for Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Noh Omar, stressed the need to reform and make cities safe, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous because more than 50% of the world's population currently lives in urban areas. Similarly, the African Union's Agenda 2063 has cities as one of the bases of Africa's structural transformation. In Kenya, affordable housing, alongside better-developed manufacturing sector, universal healthcare and food security are key features of cities that form the four pillars of national development in the next five years.

"Cities can't be wished away, and countries have to aim at better planned and sustainable urban places. This includes controlling the sprawling of cities and urban spaces," stated the Director of Housing and Urban Development in

the Ministry of Lands, Kenya, Charles Otieno Konyango. He added that Urban Planning and Development provided the platform, for example, to generate habitable housing, liveable centres, and the infrastructure for manufacturing. "This means that complementary services e.g. urban open spaces, parking lots, markets, roads, schools and health centres have to come into focus," he said.

Proper planning of cities also ensures non-encroachment into the food basket, which causes scarcity and food insecurity. This means that the cities should provide markets that stimulate food production through value chain creation, and through market hubs that allow producers to deliver their food and continue production. "Most markets in Kenya, like Wakulima Market in Nairobi, encourage encroachment into the food basket," said Konyango.

The senior urban planner was speaking at the WUF9. On housing, Konyango found that Malaysia, Singapore, Netherlands and Japan, among other countries, had proper plans for social housing (for low-income earners and new entrants into the labour market), concepts that he said were very similar to what Kenya had in the late 1970s and early 1980s. "As a matter of fact, Malaysia borrowed its model from Kenya, which experimented with social housing in Buruburu and Umoja Estates in Nairobi, and abandoned it," he said. "But we're back on the right track."

According to the Urban Development Director, Malaysia's Solid waste Management was superior as it was backed up by a comprehensive policy implementation regulations, e.g., every two Malaysian cites share one solid waste management plant and waste management sites. "They don't dump waste, but use landfills and recycling. In Kenya waste management is a problem in all major cities. We're even defeated to relocate the Dandora Dump Site," he stated.

### The Urban Management Boards

Development of sustainable cities is anchored in the county government. The UACA 2011 provides for the establishment of county urban boards to facilitate management of cities and municipalities. "The Urban Boards Non State Nominating Agencies (UBNA), a civil society organisation, is currently in the process of identifying organisations that can nominate members to sit in the boards, after which it has the responsibility to induct and educate county assemblies," explained Konyango.

The new model is rooted in consultations and inclusivity and therefore non-state actors play a critical role in the boards and all other processes. Being on the ground and hands-on, the civil society has important information, especially on areas of priority. Besides, they have the strength of mobilisation for purposes of public participation.

Konyango says that other stakeholders, e.g. street families, hawkers, dwellers of informal settlement, etc. also have to be permanent constituents of the boards as they have the solutions to urban planning and development. "These people have the solutions to their problems, and boards have to listen to them and make considerations. For instance, where do you think hawkers go for their ablution needs? Are the ablution blocks in slum areas safe – cost wise, management wise and design wise? Are the numbers even adequate, e.g. for women? These are answers professionals can't provide. The affected have to be consulted," concluded Konyango.

# "**Urbanisation** is the Future"



CSUDP CEO, George Wasonga (far right), at the WUF9

The Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) participated in the WUF9, with a focus on new developments in the implementation of the NUA, and particularly progress on the principle of inclusion. CSUDP interprets inclusion as information sharing, co-ordination of the people to participate, and mobilisation through institutions. George Wasonga, the Executive Director of CSUDP shared his thoughts with SymbioCity Kenya after the conference.

**Kindly share your feel of the WUF9, as a CSO player involved in urban development.**

The conference was very relevant coming when countries are developing partnerships for implementation of the NUA, with clear intentions in policies and legislation for further engagement. Although it was clear that no one is being left behind, the level of understanding of the Principle is still uncertain. It needs deeper interrogation and thinking amongst all parties to ensure that the lowest of beneficiaries can find a routine way of understanding and participating in delivering the NUA.

The other recurring question was whether the NUA is new or continuing or a re-emphasis of critical aspects of urban development that are ongoing or metamorphosing from the pressures emerging from urban areas. In some cases one would ask, "what's new exactly?"

**Former Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Joan Clos, and many key facilitators of the Forum, emphasised that grassroots representation was fundamental towards creating a legitimate process in urbanisation. Given that you work a lot with grassroots organisations in Kenya, how did you feel about the WUF hosting a Grassroots Assembly for the first time?**

The mere presence of the grassroots organisations does not represent significant gain. From the history of WUF, grassroots organisations e.g. Slum Dwellers International (SDI) have been involved in raising attention towards some critical issues. E.g. SDI is very well known for its "Know your city campaign", because of drawing attention to the fact that the people are part of data used in planning development programmes.

Therefore, giving the grassroots organisations an opportunity to participate in the core programmes was a good element towards understanding their role. However, there is need for institutional and legal mechanisms that guarantee, and not upon invitation only, their right to participate in the WUF, with their contributions honoured, and their interests safeguarded. They represent the poor and the vulnerable in urban areas.

**What lessons did you carry home that are specific to CSUDP's programming, and for the Council of Governors' Urban Development Committee?**

My strongest lessons came from the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, and particularly actionable recommendation 2. It recommends the need for a national implementation framework, and I must state that Kenya is ahead in this context as it already has a national implementation strategy. There is need for concerted efforts between the national and county governments, and non-state actors to actualise the key performance indicators in the strategy to have a standardised form to accurately measure progress, and for harmonious working with all stakeholders. The measures should be agreeable to all players; otherwise everyone may end up with their own measures, which may not be globally acceptable.

Under governance and partnerships, actionable recommendation 5 also spoke to my heart. It spoke to issues relating to governance and partnerships for multiple government mechanisms at all levels, especially taking into consideration the vulnerable and excluded groups. This recommendation is good for CSOs who work with communities. The government can for instance listen to CSOs on housing, and consider housing models that have been tested and passed. For example, the national co-operative model that operates on savings and credit assures the poor and vulnerable of owning houses in urban areas.

**Related to the Declaration, do you think Kenya is on the right track on implementation of the NUA?**

Two things stand out: an implementation framework has already been delivered, which links implementation of the NUA to Vision 2030. This means that the government is not deviating from its national strategic agenda to implement a global concern, and ensures that the process remains on course.

Secondly, urban governance in Kenya was well envisaged in the Constitution. However, in the process of establishing the county governments, we lost a third tier: the local government to take care of urban areas. Whereas the urban boards are envisioned to take care of this space, its actualisation has been slow and difficult. The Boards have the feel of corporate entities that may mean good governance, but counties may not easily delegate to them their key sources of revenue, which is the urban areas. That said, we have no choice but to ensure that the boards are established in the most efficient way to avoid being figureheads that cannot build the urban image. Urbanisation is the future. We can't burry ourselves as we watch.

# Co-Designing a City Somewhere

Like a set before the pre-view of a highly publicised movie, participants were already waiting outside Room 406, on the fourth floor of Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, many minutes before 11:00 AM, when the session was to start. Two weeks before the WUF9, the event: "Co-design - Change Processes and urban form as enablers for Social Inclusion – Participatory tools and methods for the development of inclusive and integrated solutions" was fully booked and closed. That is how deeply the SymbioCity Programme, run by SALAR and SKL International had aroused interest.

In a room packed to capacity, the session begun with brief introductions about the programme, its location and the three towns: Dawei, Apartado and Ahero, that the participants were to co-design. The towns are in Mynmar, Colombia and Kenya, respectively. "Where is Kenya?" a participant from Mynmar asked me. I later spotted her co-designing Ahero Town, Kenya.

Marcela Restrepo Restrepo, the Advisor, Department of Territorial Planning, Apartado talked about the Colombia Town. Liniker Bwile, the Chief Officer, Trans-Nzoia County, talked about Ahero, Kenya; and Dr Sabe Pyu Lwin, the Deputy Director, Urban Research and Development Institute, Department of Urban and Housing Development, gave the background of Dawei Town. Apartado and Dawei have more than 150 thousand residents, while Ahero has just over 60,000. The three towns' socio-economic activities are: farming (specifically bananas in Apartado, and rice in Ahero), fishing, transport and commerce.

**It was clear from the onset that the three towns had more similarities than differences. Apart from common socio economic status and activities, their social challenges were also similar. They included unemployment, poverty, imbalanced trade, underdeveloped infrastructure (electricity), poor waste management, road safety, low access to education, lack of**

A conference participant during the co-designing

public spaces, environmental degradation, land disputes, lack of healthcare facilities, scarcity of water, pollution and flooding of rivers, insecurity, poor housing, low civic literacy and poor sanitation.

### "Cities are Born of One Mum"

With the background information, and the virtual reality technique to "travel to their towns", the participants gathered at four separate stations, each representing the three towns (Ahero had two) and started to design. Soon every hand was holding a smart phone and a photo viewer made of brown cardboard and a special lense, as they "travelled around" the streets of their towns, as presented in a unique 3600 photograph pasted on the wall. The plain manila papers on the walls begun to fill up with colour coded sticky notes, representing different stages of the design process.

All strangers brought together by the love for properly designed cities, the teams worked in harmony, learning how to apply participatory tools and methods that they would carry back to their towns. Meanwhile, their shared goal was to explore solutions and institutional changes that could improve the lives of residents of Ahero, Dawei and Apartado.

The participants shifted from one town to another to have a feel of all, and in the end, had brainstormed and interrogated ideas, and identified key aspects of their towns and stakeholders; developed inclusive and integrated solutions from a multi-stakeholder perspective; identified how to reach the proposed solutions through cross-sectorial collaboration.

## "Cities are similar; they are born of one mum,"
stated a participant from South Africa, when I asked how it was possible to design solutions of a city she had never lived in.

## Then they gave feedback

"This was a replication of real life where the different participants are unfamiliar with each other but breed familiarity based on their common needs and goals and then work together."

**"It is never one thread, and it requires back and forth on the processes for clarity."**

"Approaches are not cast in stone – some start from individualistic perspective, others from collective, but all towards similar goals."

**"Technological possibility in planning with stakeholders is an attractive way to draw them. However there is the danger of misuse and manipulation – which must be taken care of by quick and rapid documentation and responses, although late entrants may miss on key steps of the process."**

"Integration of different dimensions of space use and needs – environmental, economic, etc. came into play during the process."

**"Solutions can be based on improving or up-scaling what is working well, or designing what is not working."**

"Visual application helped to make the process more interesting."

**"There is importance in visioning in planning process."**

## What was the take home for the three towns?

**Marcela:** The importance of considering animals in the planning process stood out for me; I will apply the strategy on land development plans in our city. Creation of urban institute for capacity strengthening as well as strategies and tools for financing of the project were also key to me.

**Linekar:** The model is replicable in other towns in my county, Trans-Nzoia. It enhances participatory involvement and ownership by community, like it has done on Kiminini Town, where 70% of the trees planted by the community are thriving because residents have taken responsibility for them.

**Sabe:** Capacity building during planning is helpful because professionals are few on the ground.

## The organising team

Dr. Matthew French, SKL International, Fiji and Indonesia: "Space is not neutral, so participation is crucial as it opens up the scope for integration. And for meaningful participation, the context must be clear to everyone."

**Helena Ohlsson,** Urban Specialist, SKL International
**Ana-Karin Municio,** Associate Consultant, SKL International
**Lena Falcón,** Project Manager, SKL International
**Everlyne Otieno,** Urban Planning Specialist, SymbioCity Kenya

A conference participant during the co-design activity

# SymbioCity Model is the Best

The SymbioCity Approach is an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable urban development. This is the basis of the pilot town projects currently running in different towns in four countries across four continents. Everlyne Otieno, an Urban Planning Specialist at SymbioCity Kenya (SCK), has guided the programme since its inception in seven pilot counties in Kenya. She participated in the WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur, and carried home the following lessons.

**What lessons did you carry for the SCK Programme, and the Council of Governors, Urban Development Committee?**

The lessons are closely linked and difficult to separate. The theme was relevant to situations in most developing countries, where life is expensive and services are not accessible to all. The theme means therefore that there should be inclusion with different methods and approaches to ensure access to services by all.

Specifically, I learnt that proper management of urban areas is key to sustainable development and growth in all sectors. Second, governance and management are important in project implementation because they ensure participation of community members, leading to a long-term positive effect. Third, project plans must reflect the available budget to earn the trust of stakeholders. Plans that are too big tend to raise unrealistic expectations.

Fourth, horizontal working relationships are key in achieving a common vision during project implementation. Project leaders must therefore avoid work silos, because these come with different visions that may lead to exorbitant budgets. Similarly, the more influential silos may influence implementation of their preferred projects, while leaving out other important elements of development that may have been raised by weaker silos.

Fifth, participatory planning with communities, like the SymbioCity Model, is the best way to approach project implementation. Finally, when working with communities to establish their needs, always have visuals that provoke their thinking to dream big. Present to them examples of better-planned areas and thriving cities. Sometimes stakeholders are confined to their local community setting, and therefore have no idea of what is possible in their environment.

**You actively participated in the activities of SKL International at the booth, and during the open session on lessons from SymbioCity on four continents, as well as the Co-design training session. Did you achieve your objectives? And are there any lessons you learnt that the programme will carry forward?**

We had limited time for the interactive sessions, but our objectives were achieved. Participants were engaged in the real group work. They didn't know each other yet they worked together as a team.

The lessons that we will employ in the pilots are: one, group dynamics is a slow consultative engagement process that must be properly managed within the available time. Two, stakeholders' views must always be taken into consideration to encourage participation. Three, always allow individual thinking and analysis, especially at the initial stages to avoid a situation where ideas of the weak are swept over by those of the strong.

Four, write every thought expressed before commencing discussions, because ideas and thoughts can be merged during discussions. And finally, a flexible approach to planning and implementation can be used in different ways during stakeholder engagement. The activity during planning, for example, was repetitive, which allows for real priorities to be easily identified, especially if the issues keep shifting.

A sheltered walkway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

# **Who's Open** Space Anyway?

**U**mea City in Northern Sweden is apparently one of the fastest growing cities in the country. But Umea, a University City, is showing dysfunctional trends. According to Albert Edman, of Umea Kommun, the city is alive and vibrant by day, but "dead" by night, as the day population wanes to near non-existence. A lot of initiatives have been introduced to make Umea a great city. Housing for students and a residential area form part of the plans for Umea. What's most attractive about what Albert is highlighting about Umea is the planned development of open spaces.

Those attending the interactive event dabbed, "Public Space: a multi faceted approach to the implementation of SDGs" are all ears. Open spaces provide recreational amenities; enhance the health and aesthetic quality of the environment; and encourage social engagements in communities, but most developing countries, as the plenary session reveals, still grapple with the idea of open spaces.

Participants of a separate conference engagement had earlier debated on the need to shift the mindsets of governments, residents and other actors on the importance of public spaces. Also discussed had been how to

**>> FROM PAGE 9**

mobilise funds for public spaces, with the need to redirect focus from viewing public spaces as an investment to that of extra public benefit. Participants had proposed that gated communities and golf courses are taxed extra for the development of open spaces. They had also suggested inclusion of open spaces in slum upgrading programmes and plans.

"Open spaces do attract and retain residents, or repulse them forever," says Albert. He adds that Umea City is envisioned as a car-less city, for clean air. "Already we see a problem there, as men and women use public space differently. For example, men prefer to drive, while women prefer public transport, or to walk, or to cycle, which are progressive options that work for the city," states Albert. He adds

that the private and public sector will collaboratively provide befitting transport, which puts into consideration safety, drop-off and pick-up proximity to residential areas, parcel delivery and pick-up, including refrigeration for perishables!

Other initiatives for Umea include redesigning non-functional spaces e.g. unsafe ones like tunnels; creating new spaces to accommodate excluded populations like people with disabilities and teenage girls, e.g. by creating parks with wifi, among others. There are also plans to create children's play centres where families/women can leave children to play as they work. "With knowledge; courage to break

norms; the right methods; and the right spirit, it is possible to create cities that we want," concludes Albert, to a rousing applause.

Issues that arise during open discussions include how to deal with the hurdles and barriers of planning and maintenance of open spaces, and how to ensure public participation in such activities. Participants reveal that most governments prefer multi-dollar projects such as road construction, as opposed to simple problem solving projects like creating green parks that encourage more people to cycle.

Using Umea City's example, a participant from Nigeria states that corruption in Africa has blinded governments to the realities of contemporary times. He adds that most African residents would definitely opt for private cars, which serve a mere 1% of populations, yet occupying more space, than bikes that serve at least 35% of populations, occupy less space and sustain clean air. Albert re-joins that the simplest solution would be to give public vehicles priority over private cars at traffic stops as they ferry more people.

A Dual Lane in Kuala Lumpur City Centre with cycling lanes

Panelist, Councillor NL Khuzwayo, of eThekwini Ward 28, Durban, South Africa, adds that it is possible to create "the cities we want" anywhere in the world, with goodwill of political leaders like himself. He adds that good governance is crucial for satisfactory urban life. On the puzzle of developers preferring to get the most out of space without giving a thought to open spaces, Clr Khuzwayo responds that this can be achieved through strict law enforcement. He cites Durban as having achieved optimum planning, with strategies such as upfront reservation of land for open spaces for restricted development of recreational facilities.

He adds that zoning of service areas is also done to enhance order, among other initiatives. He says that sections of Durban roads are closed every so often to ease human movement and to reduce the use of public transport. "On such days the public uses bikes, or public transport that drops them off at designated areas, and we've not heard of complaints. So yes, it can be done! It takes strong leadership," he says.

Durban has heightened the use of one of its stadiums by introducing a park that has recreational facilities for all age groups and people of all kinds, as well as a cable car around the stadium. "Instead of using it exclusively for rugby matches may be once in two weeks, the stadium is now a busy and safe place," he explains.

At the Durban City Hall, free wifi was introduced, and has seen the area look like a meeting place even at night. Which makes it safe for the students living in the neighbourhood.

# **Open Spaces** in Kenya

Kenya has playgrounds, public parks, public seating/picnic areas, cemeteries, parking lots, public halls and theatres, among others. But these spaces are only available in a few urban areas, and where they are found, they are few, poorly managed and often unsafe, or turned into temporary market places. Besides this, a majority of the Kenyan public don't seem aware that they have a right to open spaces. I seek opinions of a few urban planning experts in Kenya.

### Charles Otieno Konyango,

Director, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Lands, Kenya

"Open spaces have in the past attracted a lot of attention where they were perceived as vacant spaces that were available for conversion and development. This was because there were no regulations and legislation on their management. Currently under the Urban Areas and Cities Act, they are an "ingredient" for urban development. The National Land Commission is tasked to manage all open spaces, starting off by securing titles to ensure that they are not forcefully taken. There was no legislation in the past.

I learnt several lessons on management of open spaces from the WUF9. **Malaysia, Ghana and South Africa had excellent examples on management of open spaces. Those countries' National Lands Commissions had long secured the spaces in law.** But as I've mentioned, in Kenya they are now secured, making them useable is a different case.

The countries I've mentioned developed their open spaces with the requisite community furniture i.e. landscaping; water; sanitation; rest places; footpaths; cycling paths; gaming areas, etc. These were developed to cater for all categories of people, the young, the old and the disabled. This is the next step that Kenya has to move into. Thankfully, the upcoming Urban Boards have the mandate by law to do this."

### Everlyne Otieno,

Urban Development Specialist, SymbioCity Kenya

"Open spaces have been left idle for too long in Kenya, giving room for forceful take overs. If made active, these spaces would cease to attract "grabbers". As I walk to work every day, I notice how Kenya has focused on building roads, and neglected the convenience and safety of pedestrians. We forget that cities are for people.

**There is need to change our thinking in order to plan for the people. Public spaces must be secured and made to function for the benefit of the people.** Consider this: a majority of Kenyans cannot even afford private vehicles, yet more infrastructure has been developed for private cars. It is about time we created interactive spaces that can be used by the majority. Make spaces more attractive. I saw very good examples in Kuala Lumpur, where pedestrian crossing are wide and clearly marked, and some pedestrian walkways are sheltered. There were also sections of roads marked blue, or with bike signs, for the sole use of pedestrians or bikes. Surely we can achieve this in Kenya."

### *Constant Cap,

A Nairobi based blogger on Urban Planning

Open spaces, which include playgrounds, parks, gardens and general open spaces, are required in all residential areas. Public purpose land use management also provides for market centres, shopping areas and public halls. Most residential areas were duly planned with shopping/market areas and other public amenities in close proximity. However, **the last two decades has seen a rapid increase in the urban population, diminishing space for urban development and a corresponding increase in land value.**

The use of open spaces in middle and upper class residential areas however remains a paradox. Whereas public spaces in working class neighbourhoods are in constant use, middle class residents tend to prefer privately owned spaces such as members' clubs or gated community fields. As a result many public open spaces in middle and upper class areas remain dilapidated and abandoned, and an easy target for "grabbers". This ought to change."

*Read more from this blogger via: http://africancityplanner.com/nairobi-public-spaces-viable-or-open-for-grabbing/

An open air market in a Kenyan settlement. Residents of such areas have to be included in planning of cities.

**F**or the first time in history, Grassroots Assembly was hosted in WUF9, and former Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Joan Clos, plus many key facilitators, emphasised that grassroots representation was fundamental in creating a legitimate process in urbanisation.

At the roundtable of grassroots organisations, SDI's Joe Mulligan, challenged participants to work with grassroots organisations as equal partners, in the spirit of multi-stakeholder partnerships, as they were highly capable of devising innovative solutions to the challenges of urbanisation. The data collected under the SDI programme is standardised to reflect the regular lives and living conditions of the residents of the informal settlements, showing their level of informality and lack.

**From various sessions, participants from Africa, including Kenya (Kibera and Mukuru Slums), and Nigeria, outlined community data collection and mapping as important tools in creating safe and sustainable cities.** In a session on citizen and city collaboration in contested spaces, Patrick Muturi of Mukuru Special Planning Area (working under SDI) shared how data collection and mapping had enhanced safety in Mukuru Slum by ending criminal activities of gangs and cartels. Similarly, the national and county government had already declared the slum a special planning area, and a multi stakeholder team that includes different ministries, the community and experts, were planning for service provision.

Rasheed Shittu, of Justice and Empowerment Initiative, Nigeria, a

# In the Spirit **of Inclusion**

consortium of informal settlements working under SDI, highlighted having learnt from the Mukuru programme, the nyumba kumi initiative. The initiave improved community participation in the data collection and mapping, as well as advocacy processes.

**Participation of grassroots organisations in the multi-stakeholder partnerships not only improves governance, but also helps to advance gender equality in the process of fighting social discrimination.** A session on the success of using technology to address sexual violence, sponsored by the Red Dot Foundation, emphasised the role of women and local communities in making cities safe for women of all ages.

Making a contribution during the session, Jane Anyango Odongo, of Safe City, Kibera, Nairobi, said that data helped to analyse the locations, timings and causes of insecurity to women. For example, in Kibera, it was now clear that ablution blocks needed to be redesigned to reduce insecurity. "Women need more toilets and bathrooms, compared to men, and these have to be affordable and accessible," she emphasised. Other priorities towards women's safety in the slum include access to water, and proper lighting.

**Jane believes that the Kenya Government through the National Youth Service, although well meaning, goofed in their 2015/2016 elaborate infrastructure development undertakings in Kibera.** "Had they involved citizens in planning, they would not have built more toilets, but improved on the existing ones. They would have improved access to water, and sorted out drainages which cause flooding during rains," she stated.

Responding to Jane's sentiments, the Director of Housing and Urban Development in the Ministry of Lands, Kenya, Charles Otieno Konyango, said that Kenya now aimed at better planned and sustainable urban places, and had the tools to ensure that its cities and urban areas accommodated everyone. He listed the tools as: deliberate multi-stakeholder partnerships backed up by law and policy, as well as goodwill from the national and county governments.

# Kuala Lumpur Declaration
## on Cities 2030

**Drafted during WUF9 by an advisory group that included representatives of the host country and UN-Habitat, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 calls for accelerating NUA implementation by promoting and adopting:**

**1)** Frameworks for implementation, inclusive platforms for dialogue amongst all stakeholders, integrated territorial development and diversified means of implementation;

**2)** Governance and partnerships that engage all levels of governments to ensure co-responsibility in activities, and that promote multi-stakeholder constituency-based coalitions to use the NUA to respond to urban crises; and

**3)** Innovative solutions that foster a culture of creativity, implement monitoring and data collection including of community-generated data, create an enabling environment through municipal and other financing; and adopt accessibility and universal design as core principles.

The Declaration calls for further developing the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point in the UN system to support countries and mobilisation of stakeholders in the implementation, follow-up and review of the NUA. Below is the full text of the Declaration.

**KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON CITIES 2030 (FULL TEXT)**

We, the participants of the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum – representing national, sub-national and local governments, parliamentarians, civil society, older persons, women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, grassroots groups, indigenous peoples and

local communities, private sector, foundations and philanthropies, international and regional organizations, academia, professionals and other relevant stakeholders — gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to localize and scale up the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Led by a strong spirit of collaboration, creativity and innovation, we share our aspirations for the future of Cities 2030 as the Cities for all where no one and no place is left behind. To this end, we call for the deployment of all efforts, means and resources available towards the operationalization of the concept of cities for all, ensuring that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all.**

We believe that global, regional, national and local implementation frameworks of the New Urban Agenda being formulated since its adoption should be supported by key enablers capable of unlocking positive transformation, such as:

• Strengthening the role of subnational and local governments, urban governance systems that ensure continuous dialogue among different levels of government and participation of all actors, and increasing multilevel and cross-sectoral coordination, transparency and accountability.

• Encouraging sharing of creative solutions and innovative practices which enable a shift in mindset necessary to drive change.

• Building inclusive partnerships and strengthening age and gender responsive environments to ensure meaningful participation and engagement at all levels.

• Adopting integrated territorial development, including

through appropriate urban planning and design instruments, to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and land, appropriate compactness and density, diversity of uses, and revitalization of cultural heritage.

• Deploying monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including assessment of impacts, that encourage best practices for effective policy making.

We draw attention to the persistent challenges faced by our cities and human settlements, such as:

•Limited opportunities and mechanisms for youth, women and grassroots organizations, as well as other civil society organizations, local, subnational and national governments, international and regional bodies to work together in planning, implementation and monitoring;

•Inequitable access to the city, including to decent jobs, public space, affordable and adequate housing and security of land tenure, safe, efficient and accessible public transport and mobility systems, infrastructure and other basic services and goods that cities offer;

•Insufficient protection from human rights violations, including forced evictions, and inadequate inclusion of people living in poverty, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups in urban planning, design, and legislation processes;

•Gender inequalities in urban economic and leaderships spheres.

We recognize that today we face emerging challenges that require urgent actions, including:

•Recognizing that crises are increasingly urban, which calls for inclusive urbanization tools adapted to local contexts and to the nature of natural and human made disasters and conflicts, as well as to guide humanitarian assistance, fast track recovery, and contribute to building and sustaining peace.

•Managing the complexities of increased migration into cities, at all levels, leveraging positive contributions of all and using more inclusive planning approaches that facilitate social cohesion and create economic opportunities;

•Understanding the impact of new technologies and potential of open and accessible data, which require governance and design models that help to ensure no one is left behind;

•Addressing growing social and cultural inequalities, lack of access to economic opportunities, that are increasingly manifested in cities.

•Responding to environmental degradation and climate change concerns.

Actionable recommendations

We, the participants of the WUF9, leveraging the advantage of the Forum, which convenes thousands of decision makers, key actors, stakeholders and communities, generated a wealth of ideas.

We encourage the acceleration of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through:

## Frameworks

1.Encourage the formulation of implementation frameworks for the New Urban Agenda at all levels, including monitoring mechanisms, providing a coordinated space for an effective contribution from all stakeholders, aligning to the efforts and actions of the 2030 Agenda and other international, regional, national, subnational and local development frameworks.

2.Support the creation and consolidation of inclusive platforms and agendas for dialogue among all levels of government, decision makers and stakeholders such as regional, national and local Urban Forums and committees that can strengthen policy review and assessment of impacts. These can also foster exchange of experiences and cooperation, as well as scaling up voluntary commitments and actions from all partners.

3.Further develop and advocate for integrated territorial development, which includes integration of sectoral policies, institutions and investment; integration among the different spheres of government; spatial integration across the urban-rural continuum; improved coordination across actors; and enhanced alignment of national, subnational and local policies with international agendas.

4.Adapt innovative and robust mechanisms for the diversification and expansion of the means of implementation, to cater for complex and integrated approaches promoted by the New Urban Agenda. Technological innovations and improvements, research, capacity building, technical assistance and partnership development, among others, may require enhanced resourcing.

## Governance and partnerships

5.Adopt multiple collaborative governance mechanisms that actively engage national, subnational and local governments, all groups of society, including youth, women and grassroots organizations and particularly the excluded, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. This work in solidarity is critical to promote more buy-in and co-responsibility in the activities towards sustainable urban development, and to ensure the sustainability of the results.

6.Promote multi-stakeholder constituency-based coalitions to use the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to better prevent, prepare, and respond to urban crises.

## Innovative solutions

7.Foster a culture of creativity and innovation to be embedded in the way cities and human settlements operate.

8.Develop monitoring and data collection mechanisms, including community generated data, to enhance availability of information and disaggregated and comparable data at city, functional urban areas and community levels. This would promote informed and evidence-based decision making and policy formulation, assessing progress and impact at all levels.

9.Create an enabling environment and develop capacities for scaling up of good practices including municipal finance, sustainable private and public investments in urban development and job creation, and generating value while advancing the public good.

10.Adopt accessibility and universal design as core principles into national, subnational and local action plans for implementing the New Urban Agenda through inclusive, accessible and participatory processes and consultations.

We, the participants of the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum, recognize the value of the Forum convened by UN-Habitat as an inclusive platform to collect inputs from a broad range of stakeholders and to feed these into annual and quadrennial reporting on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

We call to further develop the role of UN-Habitat as a focal point in the United Nations system to support all countries and mobilization of stakeholders in the implementation, follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda, including through scaled up normative support.

We thank the Government of Malaysia, the City of Kuala Lumpur, and UN-Habitat for organizing the Forum, and commit to provide continuous cooperation to the next hosts, the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the city of Abu Dhabi.

Kuala Lumpur, 13 February 2018