



## The “Professionals” at the World Urban Forum 5



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Human settlements professionals, who represent a large spectrum of urban practitioners from architects to planners, have participated actively in the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum. Their presence was across all types of events, through the different dialogues, networking events, special sessions, roundtables as well as the exhibition.

The *Professionals Roundtable* was a key event for the professionals to debate and highlight best practices and principles for achieving urban sustainability. It was organised by the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF), a platform established after the Habitat II Conference, to foster cooperation and partnerships between professionals and UN-HABITAT. The *Professionals Roundtable* was also the opportunity for presenting the *HPF Charter: The role of human settlement professionals in delivering a sustainable and equitable future*.

## The Habitat Professionals Forum's (Terms of Reference)

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 **The Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) is a voluntary affiliation of international and regional associations of Human Settlements Professionals involved in sustainable urban development.**
- 1.2 The HPF aims to foster cooperation and partnership between the Human Settlements Professionals and UN-HABITAT through dialogue and partnerships, and by providing leading-edge information and expertise that contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and sustainable urban development.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 **Members will be independent, non-profit and non-governmental organisations** that are international or regional associations of Human Settlements Professionals supporting sustainable urban development.
- 2.2 Other organisations may apply, or be invited, to attend HPF meetings as Observers.
- 2.3 Organisations wishing to become members should notify the Secretariat at least two weeks before a Business Meeting. The Business Meeting shall have the power to approve or withhold membership, based on a majority vote of the organisations represented at that meeting.
- 2.4 HPF does not substitute for, or replace, existing organisations nor does it detract from the autonomy or initiatives of its members, but exists to support them.

### 3. FUNCTIONS

- 3.1 **To develop opportunities** for synergy and partnership between the Human Settlements Professionals and UN-HABITAT, and to engage as a consultative group for UN HABITAT.
- 3.2 **To promote and disseminate professional practices** in the field of human settlements to implement the Habitat Agenda through shared learning, training and evaluation.
- 3.3 **To promote the establishment of common values and ethics** for professional practice in the field of human settlements.
- 3.4 **To advocate the need for professional capacity and learning** in the field of human settlements, and develop the necessary knowledge, skills and exchange of experiences amongst our own professions, policymakers and the general public.
- 3.5 **To enhance partnerships** through a global network of Human Settlements Professionals.
- 3.6 **To promote exchange and dialogue** between Human Settlements Professionals and help them to contribute to UN HABITAT policy debates and agendas, and to take concrete actions around urbanization issues with other Habitat Agenda partners.

### 4. OPERATION

- 4.1 The HPF will hold a business meeting every 2 years during the World Urban Forum (WUF). The purpose of the meeting will be to receive reports on the conduct and activities of the HPF since it last met; and to plan the activities and responsibilities for the next two years and identify necessary resources.
- 4.2 The meeting shall elect a chair for the purpose of that meeting and an organisation from its membership to oversee the business of the Forum and fulfil the functions of a Secretariat for the Forum until the next meeting at WUF. The Chair and the Secretariat shall only be provided by a member organisation that is a UN-accredited organisation.
- 4.3 The HPF will convene an open Habitat Professionals Roundtable at each WUF.
- 4.4 The HPF will propose and facilitate themed HPF Networking Events at each WUF for its members.
- 4.5 The Secretariat will maintain a Professionals' Page on the UN-HABITAT website that promotes exchange and dialogues between Human Settlements Professionals.

## I THE HABITAT PROFESSIONALS FORUM (HPF) MEETING

Sunday 21 March

### Summary

The Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) meeting was convened in a separate venue for a full-day brainstorming session on the role of the HPF Charter and the way forward, as well as the eligibility criteria for joining the HPF, as a continuation of the March 2009 HPF Strategic Meeting.

It was decided that the Charter would be presented to professionals at the HPF Roundtable of Wednesday 23 March for comments. It would be debated and then, a one-year road map would be set-up to finalise the Charter and have it approved and signed at the next session of the Governing Council in 2011 by the HPF members.

The eligibility criteria for joining the HPF were refined and endorsed by all members present.

The HPF Chairmanship was also transferred from Derek Martin (Secretary General, International Federation for Housing and Planning) to Louise Cox (President, International Union of Architects) for the next two years.

### Participants

- **Alison Brown** Inclusive Cities/ Women in Informal Employment Globalising and Organising (WIEGO)
- **Asad Mohammed** Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)
- **Brian Waldy** Commonwealth Association of Surveying & Land Economy (CASLE)
- **Christine Platt** Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), President
- **Derek Martin** International Federation for Housing and Planning (IPHP), Secretary General, Chair of HPF to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010
- **Desireé Martínez** International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)
- **Janet O'Neill** Global Planners Network (GPN)
- **Joseph Opadeyi** Commonwealth Association of Surveying & Land Economy (CASLE)
- **Lluís Brau** European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP)
- **Louise Cox** International Union of Architects (UIA), President, CHAIR of HPF from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010
- **Pablo Vaggione** International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), Secretary General
- **Shipra Narang Suri** International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)
- **Steve Moddemeyer** International Water Association (IWA)
- **Will French** Global Planners Network (GPN)
- **Xavier Crépin** AdP "Villes en Développement" & ISTD, CEO

#### UN-HABITAT :

- **Christine Auclair** Chief, Private Sector Unit / Focal Point for Professionals
- **Laura Petrella** Urban Environmental Planning Branch

## II THE PROFESSIONALS ROUNDTABLE AND OTHER EVENTS

Wednesday 24 March



The Professionals Roundtable's panel (from left to right) : Ms. Désirée Martinez, Mr. Derek Martin, Prof. Stig Enemark, Mr. Pablo Vaggione, Ms. Christine Auclair, Mr. Nicolas Buchoud, Ms. Louise Cox, Mr. Xavier Crépin, Ms. Christine Platt, Ms. Alison Brown, Mr. Mohamed Faouzi Zniber

### Summary

*The Habitat Professionals Roundtable was focused on the theme “What role for urban professionals in the World Urban Campaign?”.*

*The meeting gathered about 200 participants from professional associations and individuals. They stressed the importance of professionals in responding to the challenges of urbanization, emphasizing the current tremendous pressure on cities. They debated the proposed new Charter that is meant to bring a new vision for the future of cities, bridging urban gaps. The Habitat Professionals Charter will be a key instrument and vehicle for professionals to commit to core principles and professionals practices. The Charter is envisioned as a new opportunity for the professionals to come together in a more sustained approach, to find a conduit for sharing their expertise and to make it available to other urban stakeholders. In that respect, the World Urban Campaign can play a key role in uniting the different partners around common objectives and commitments.*

**Chair:** **Mrs. Louise Cox**, President, International Union of Architects.

**Moderator:** **Mrs. Christine Platt**, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners.

**Panelists :**

- **Mr. Derek Martin**, Secretary General, International Federation for Housing and Planning
- **Ms. Alison Brown**, Professor of Planning, Cardiff University, United Kingdom;
- **Ms. Désirée Martinez**, Secretary General for the Americas, International Federation of Landscape Architects;
- **Mr. Nicolas Buchoud**, Senior Policy Advisor and Urban Development Expert, and a representative of Global Planners Network and Conseil Français des Urbanistes;
- **Mr. Pablo Vaggione**, Secretary General, International Society of City and Regional Planners;
- **Mr. Stig Enemark**, President, International Federation of Surveyors;
- **Mr. Xavier Crépin**, Director, Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement, France.
- **Mr. Mohamed Faouzi Zniber**, Vice-President, Moroccan College of Architects and Urban planners (CAUM), Global Planners Network member.

The Chair, Ms. Louise Cox, introduced the roundtable by stressing the importance of professionals in responding to the challenges of urbanization. She emphasized the current pressure on cities from a surge of urban growth. The way we manage that growth is crucial. She introduced the mandate of the Habitat Professionals Forum and outlined the vision and undertakings of the proposed Charter which aims to bring a new vision for the future of cities and bridging the urban divide.

Mr. Enemark emphasized the role of partnerships in improving professionals' practices. He stressed the importance of land matters in delivering the Habitat Agenda, of training professionals at all levels, and the need to incorporate informal settlements into surveyors' practices.

Ms. Martinez underlined the commitment of landscape architects in promoting innovation and best practices. She stressed the need for the Charter to be disseminated to the various networks comprising about six million professionals.

Ms. Brown stressed the role of professionals in ensuring sustainable urbanization, with particular attention to poverty reduction and climate change. She emphasized the importance of reaching people on the ground, addressing the urban poor, and bridging the formal and the informal components of urban space.

Mr. Buchoud focused on the aim of the Habitat Professionals Forum to establish a global reference point for all professionals to enhance sustainable urbanization. The Habitat Professionals Charter will be a key instrument and vehicle for professionals to commit to core principles and professional practices.

Mr. Vaggione recalled that partnerships are central to scale-up intervention and professionals' ability to act in practice. The Habitat Professionals Forum could be a multiplier of partnerships and as such is key to the growth of professionals. It was crucial that the Charter is owned by professional networks at all levels. He stressed the importance of going beyond capital intensive practices and of considering a wider range of issues in reconstruction, involving social and cultural issues.

Mr. Zniber stressed the importance of increasing networks and exchanges between the North and South. Professionals also need to sensitise urban decision-makers to inclusive urban policies that take into account environmental risk, cultural heritage and diversity.

Mr. Crépin called the Charter a new opportunity for professionals to come together in a more sustained manner. Professionals need to find a conduit for sharing their expertise and make it available to other urban stakeholders. The World Urban Campaign could play a key role in uniting the different partners around common objectives and commitments.

Mrs. Cox said that it was crucial for architects to reach out to the general public, and hear the real needs of people on the ground to improve their work in meeting urban challenges. It was also important to

consider post-disaster practices whereby professionals needed to recreate livelihoods taking into account the history of communities.

A numbers of participants engaged in discussions which reinforced the importance of partnerships, the need for grassroots action, inclusivity and innovation. They reaffirmed the importance of networks and exchanges to achieve this. Professionals also needed to sensitise urban decision-makers on inclusive urban policies that take into account environmental risk, cultural heritage and diversity.

Mrs. Platt reiterated the need for Habitat Professional Forum members to use their networks to carry these messages to the millions of human settlement professionals they represent.

Mr. Martin concluded the session by summarizing a number of key points and emerging issues, particularly:

- The need for global collective action and multidisciplinary partnerships among professionals.
- The need to mobilize member networks for grassroots action as catalysts for the delivery of sustainable urbanization.
- The need for professionals to be a conduit between communities and government to promote ethics commitment and effective laws and policies, especially those which are pro-poor and inclusive.

The Habitat Professional Forum Charter can play a key role in helping professionals deliver a sustainable and equitable future.

### *Habitat Professionals Forum at the launch of the World Urban Campaign*



On behalf of the Habitat Professionals Forum and its members, Mr. Derek Martin made a statement at the closing ceremony, besides several other UN-Habitat Partners.

He declared support of the HPF as one of the founding members of the World Urban Campaign steering committee and committed to spreading the messages of the Campaign among the world's architects, planners, engineers, surveyors and other professionals working in the urban sector.

### *Key "Professionals" events organised at the World Urban Forum 5*

- Mon 22nd**     **Planning Sustainable Urbanization and Right to the City; Global Planners Network, USA**  
14.00-16.00 *Networking Event 13*
- Tue 23rd**     **Reinventing Sustainability ? International urban workshops & Decentralized Cooperation;**  
**Les Ateliers, France / 14.00-16.00 Networking Event 41**  
**Bridging the North-South Divide in Sustainable Urbanization; ISOCARP / 14.00-16.00**  
Networking Event 55 /
- Wed 24th**     **Habitat Professionals Roundtable / 13.30-16.00**  
**Framework for Collaboration; Designing Sustainable Plans; American Institute of Architects,**  
**USA; 16:30 - 18:30 Networking Event 101**
- Thurs 25th**    **Revisiting Urban Planning / 15:30– 17:00 Thematic Open Debate**

## IV WAY FORWARD

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During the sessions, the professionals have engaged on a one-year road map to finalise the HPF Charter (below) to have it approved and signed at the next 23rd Governing Council; this process will be an active one embedded in the World Urban Campaign, to give it the required visibility.

### Habitat Professionals Forum Charter:

#### **“The role of human settlement professionals in delivering a sustainable and equitable future”**

##### **Preamble**

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The Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) was established in 1999 under the auspices of UN-HABITAT as an interdisciplinary partnership of Human Settlement Professionals and UN HABITAT. This followed the visionary initiative of a number of HPF founding members who came together in 1996 at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) in Istanbul, Turkey. HPF was established to promote the delivery of sustainable urbanisation and equitable human settlements development. It consists of international associations of human settlements professions which are democratic, non-profit, non-political and non-governmental.

On 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) was convened in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the future role of the HPF in the light of the new emphasis on “partnership” in UN-HABITAT’s Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008-2013 (MTSIP) and its World Urban Campaign (WUC). The WUC places partnership at the heart of UN HABITAT’s work and the partnership with the Human Settlement Professionals through the Habitat Professionals Forum is seen as central to the quest for sustainable urbanisation.

This Charter records the Vision and Principles on which the work of the Habitat Professionals Forum will be based and sets out the undertakings to which we, the signatories to this Charter, agree. We do this in acknowledgement of the need for enhanced global co-operation between professionals as well as the urgency of the challenges faced in mitigating inequality, the rapid rate of urbanisation in many countries, poverty, the impacts of climate change and the increasing incidence of disasters, and the depletion of natural resources, whilst promoting sustainable environments.

##### **Vision**

We, the members of the HPF, pledge ourselves to ensure sustainable and equitable urban development, in partnership with communities, civil society, the private sector and government, based on the principles of WUC, and in particular:

- *Social, economic and environmental harmony* which seeks to ensure that the strategic management of economic, natural and human resources will promote well – being in increasingly complex, interconnected and rapidly changing urban systems and that development is based on practice which integrates social, economic and environmental issues into policy – making and the design process;
- *Pro – poor and inclusivity* which seeks to ensure that human settlements professionals are responsive to the challenges posed by urban poverty and inequality and are sensitive to cultural differences, are gender aware and are agents for participatory governance;
- *Heritage, culture and sense of place* which seeks to reconcile development needs while maintaining identity, sense of place and protecting heritage in an increasingly interconnected world; natural and cultural heritage needs to be respected and conserved: every human settlement is unique and a sense of place is an attribute to be fostered and cherished.

- *The impacts of climate change and disasters* which will make increasing demands on our knowledge and skills. Human settlements professionals need to be able to plan, design and deliver settlements which are more resilient and carbon-efficient, and where risks are reduced through prevention, adaptation and mitigation.

This will require changing practice and rapid action on the part of HPF members, including the re-engineering of cities at all scales of urbanity, city-greening policies, market responsiveness and increasing partnerships and resources for innovative solutions and new approaches to urban development and management.

## Undertaking

Through this Charter, we, the members of the HPF, commit to supporting the work of UN HABITAT by promoting human settlements, sustainable urbanisation and harmonious and inclusive urban settlement through:

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1. increasing inter-professional co-operation and communication for the transfer of knowledge and skills through education, practice and lifelong learning,
  2. the global promotion and updating of professional values and ethics consistent with the principles set out in the Vision of this Charter, and
  3. promoting innovation and best practice, strengthening professional networks to deliver sustainable urbanisation, especially at the “grassroots”, building up capacity in countries without it, and providing practical support to those of our members who, in seeking to follow these HPF principles, lack local resources and support.
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