



human settlements

Department:
Human Settlements
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

REPORT ON CONSULTATION ON HABITAT 3, SOUTH AFRICA'S VIEWS ON NEW URBAN AGENDA, IN SOUTHERN SUN OR TAMBO HOTEL 20-21 JULY 2016

Introduction

On 20-21 July 2016, the Department of Human Settlements held the consultation on Habitat 3 to obtain South Africa's input on the New Urban Agenda.

The General Assembly of the United Nations will hold the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in the city of Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October 2016. Habitat III is expected to generate a 'New Urban Agenda' for the 21st century. Habitat III will secure a renewed global commitment to addressing housing and sustainable urbanisation through the adoption of a forward-looking, action oriented outcome document. South Africa will be expected to implement the outcome of Habitat III, so it is important that we play an active role in shaping it, in consultation with our Stakeholders.

The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Zou Kota-Fredericks and the Department of Human Settlements invited sector stakeholders to a consultation towards a South African position for Habitat III. The inputs received will assist to shape South Africa's participation at the Third meeting of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee in Surabaya, Indonesia from 25 to 27 July 2016.

Day 1 (20 July 2016)

Session 1: Framing the discussion towards a South African Position on the New Urban Agenda

This session sought to present the:

- background and context to South Africa's participation in the HABITAT III Urban Policy Process
- explore how South African Urban Policies relate to the current international proposals contained in the Zero Draft / New Urban Agenda

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Zou Kota-Fredericks and supported by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Ms Nomacawe Mafu. In her opening speech, the Deputy Minister highlighted the road to Habitat 3 and South Africa's preparatory process in that regard, including the successful outcomes of the Habitat III thematic conference on Informal Settlements held in April 2016. She highlighted that the New Urban Agenda will be built amongst others on the Common African Position on Habitat 3. She urged everyone to give inputs to New Urban Agenda which will be further discussed at the Prepcom 3 in Indonesia in July 2016.

To set the scene after the opening address by the Deputy Minister, the workshop considered the following presentations:

- a) Habitat 3: Development of the content- Roadmap by Monika Glinzler from Department of Human Settlements (DHS)
- b) South Africa and the New Urban Agenda: Linking the Integrated Urban Development Framework to the New Urban Agenda by Modjadji Malahlela, from Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs(COGTA)

Session 2: Towards a South African Position on the New Urban Agenda- Reflections: From Policy papers to Zero Draft

This session sought to present what has been contained in the policy papers developed by the nominated international experts in the ten Habitat III policy units, and explain how it finds expression in the Zero Draft / New Urban Agenda. The session also sought to engage and agree on what the South African Position on the various Thematic Areas should be. This session on Day 1 focused on the following presentations:

- a) Urban Governance, capacity and Institutional Development by Pascal Moloi, Housing Development Agency
- b) Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems by Simphiwe Dzengwa, South African Local Government Authority (SALGA)
- c) National Urban Policy and Housing Policies by Namso Baliso, DHS
- d) Urban Spatial Strategies: Land market and segregation by Christine Platt, Ministerial Advisory Panel
- e) Urban Economic Development Strategies by Luanne Werner, DHS
- f) Right to the City and Cities for All by Thomas Coggin, Wits University
- g) Socio-Cultural Urban Frameworks by Stephen Berrisford, African Centre for Cities
- h) Respondent: Ashraf Adam, SALGA

Daily Wrap up: Day 1

The daily wrap up was facilitated by Diet von Broembsen: Ministerial Advisory Panel, with Catherine Cross: HSRC, Adi Kumar: DAG, and Rose Molokoane: FEDUP, Marie Huchzermeyer: Wits, and Flora Mokgohloa: City of Johannesburg. They reviewed the sessions as follows:

- a) Need to look at the New Urban Agenda concept deeply.
- b) Informality should be included in the New Urban Agenda
- c) When does the document becomes implementable
- d) How is the New Urban Agenda going to reach the ordinary people
- e) Encourage the inclusion of the Pretoria Declaration in the New Urban Agenda
- f) New Urban Agenda doesn't go into detail on what the role of the city when implementing it.
- g) Is the New Urban Agenda going to anticipate youth dividend
- h) We get bits and ends of priorities, not logical sequence. Lowest common denominator on everything. We may be embedding functions we may need to hold over.
- i) We are risking setting some concepts in stone which are likely to evolve in next 10 years.

- j) Assumptions that cities should be compact, but also things are peripheral development. Not sufficiently examined. Need to look at it more deeply. It should not say to go for compaction because its lowest common denominator.
- k) Models of econ dev. NUA seems to aim to eradicate informality but it is out there and we can't eradicate it.
- l) Must look at how people in informal settlements will stop being poor. Poor have agency and can engage. We need item on promoting self-investment of the poor into their houses. When people have some kind of tenure security, they start investing in their houses. They use a housing ladder in the informal sector. There is no scope in doc for poor to do things on their own behalf. Need more space in doc for what poor can do.
- m) Focus of doc is on cities but reality is metros and secondary cities are only a handful compared to many other small towns. Need more emphasis on small towns.
- n) The point of NUA is not to see how it aligns with IUDF. We should interrogate the indicators and actions govt is taking to achieve these things. Compliance isn't in alignment of our policy but in our actions.
- o) Informality does not necessarily lead to informal settlements. Could be backyards, for example.
- p) Language doesn't focus on operationalising. Instead it is aspirational, and our ambitions.
- q) Money is not the core problem, it's how the money is spent. For example, inefficiencies of SCM process.
- r) Govt can't be player and referee in this game. Need qualitative indicators to look at impacts of government actions and how it results in changes to household lives.
- s) How will this information from our discussion today and Habitat process reach the people who are not part of this process? How will regular people and communities understand and be aware of NUA?
- t) Governance is mentioned in NUA: but issue is alignment between 3 spheres of govt.
- u) Partnerships mentioned, but what kind of partnerships are we talking about? Must be substantive partnerships to implement NUA. Equal partnerships needed, not only engagement with community groups. Must recognise the constraints on participation faced by grassroots orgs. Need to create enabling environment for partnerships. Cost of partnership must be recognized, and the terms made fair and equitable for grassroots groups to ensure sustainability.
- v) At the end of the day, NUA will be implemented between LG and communities.
- w) M&E of NUA is not coming out strongly enough. Can only be implemented if partnership is taken seriously.
- x) Issue of implementation. It's about implementing IUDF and NDP, as means to implement NUA. It's a political moment of adoption of these. Linked to issue of leadership. NUA shies away from mentioning importance of politics. We must move urban issues into political foreground. These debates need to go out to communities and to politicians.
- y) Heavy reliance in NUA on economic growth. SALGA mentioned concern with SA economy. If urban spatial form is to underpin econ growth, then we will see more segregation because that makes profits. Econ issues right now are driving our spatial form. Projects must be bankable.

- z) We need more mention of informal settlements. Right now its limited to certain sections.
- aa) SDG 11 talks of making cities safe and sustainable. But shared vision of NUA, it talks of anchoring cities but doesn't go deep enough on role of cities in implementation of NUA. Local Authorities in UN System are being recognized now. We are now advocating for seat at global table because cities central to implementation of NUA and 2030 Agenda (SDGs). Each SDG has a local dimension. They have implications for role of cities and local government.
- bb) What makes great cities? We are not yet able to reflect deeply on this.
- cc) Youth dividend is big issue for Africa. What do youth want? They want connectivity, energy. They don't want cars. Is NUA in current form able to anticipate that?
- dd) We must call for harmonization of global agenda in its entirety, which means recognizing role of cities.
- ee) In SA, we have a problem of access to land, not a problem of housing.

Day 2 (21 July 2016)

The session continued on July 2016, chaired by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Ms N Mafu.

Session 2 continued:

In addition to the objectives of the session outlined on Day 1, this session sought to also:

- give guidance on how to navigate the international political landscape
- obtain sector specific guidance from lead departments on what the South African Position on the New Urban Agenda should be.

The following presentations were made:

- Common African Position on Habitat 3 by Monika Glinzler, DHS
- Urban Ecology and Resilience by Intelligent Chauke, SALGA
- Negotiating the New Urban Agenda- Presenting the International Negotiating Landscape on the New Urban Agenda by Pitso Montwedi, DIRCO
- Sector Specific input by Sabelo Duma, Department of Transport,
- Sector Specific input by Mpho Ndebele- Department of Energy,
- A City perspective by Stacey-Leigh Joseph – SACN

Wrap up: Day 2

The wrap up was facilitated by Diet von Broembsen- Ministerial Advisory Panel, with Mirjam van Donk, Isandla Institute, Mark Napier, CSIR and Ariana McPherson, SDI. They reviewed the sessions as follows:

- a) Urban participation is crucial with the growing of informality
- b) Partnership between organized communities and government is critical
- c) Inclusive cities that embrace informality should be encouraged
- d) Language on informality should be taken into consideration in the New Urban Agenda

- e) Need reviews of the policies
- f) Food/nutrition should be strengthened in the NUA
- g) Notion of decentralization should be strengthened in the NUA
- h) Responsibility of the middle class not mentioned in the CAPH3
- i) Emphasized alignment of the Integrated Urban Development process in the NUA

Comments on the New Urban Agenda

Inputs to the South African position for Habitat III from stakeholders over the two days of the workshop included the following:

- a) Require a radical SA input to the New Urban Agenda
- b) Imperative to include the youth in the New Urban Agenda process
- c) Role of civil society to assist society to mobilize so that they develop their own community action plans. NGOs have a role to play in the capacity building of the communities.
- d) Need the inclusion of environmental mechanisms in the New Urban Agenda
- e) The New Urban Agenda is not strong on the recognition of the informal settlements.
- f) Government should create space for community initiatives.
- g) No strong link between economic growth and the New Urban Agenda
- h) There is no clear NUA agenda, just a long wordy messy document. Very little new direction, or statements on what we will do differently. The Africa Position does a better job of clarity, with its eight pillars.
- i) Local government is the coalface of delivery but also feel there must be strong emphasis on rule of law and constitutional framework, especially the Bill of Rights.
- j) Issue of rural and urban linkages. An African perspective would be clear on issue of rural and urban linkages. Urbanization varies by region; no one size fits all approach to urbanization. Urbanization is not one-way (into cities); our understanding must be nuanced and qualified.
- k) Need to identify the legal instrument can drive integration and coordination (thus enabling enforcement)?
- l) Require local and national governments acknowledgement and support of the informal economy. We must recognize what is currently there, and the contribution of the urban working poor.
- m) No strong position of research on agenda, other than monitoring. We don't have tools and data today to solve the problems of tomorrow.
- n) We must question extent to which financing model enables local government to drive urban agenda that is being called for.
- o) We must emphasize the importance of IDP and spatial planning and the role it will play. Often our spatial plans are contradicted by our financing model or the way municipalities derive revenue.
- p) We provide solutions which financially don't make sense. Example: we tell municipalities to resource efficient, but then they rely on user charges for income. Also property tax has

been shown to encourage urban sprawl. Spatial planning framework and financial framework must be brought in alignment.

- q) Lack of how and when the implementation will roll out. Without that, it's a mere wish list.
- r) Document is quite repetitive, which is why it's long. Editing is required. We are in danger of selective implementation by countries.
- s) With regard to references to systems and frameworks of finances to Local government: How good will these be in order to avoid corruption? Document is silent on corruption. If local government is not empowered to run their own processes and capacitated with enough finances, then this will not be implemented.
- t) Role clarification required, especially on role of grassroots groups, being involved in implementation and not just planning.
- u) Absence of any reference to the issue of leadership in the draft document. The need for leadership development to drive the NUA
- v) Lots of language on land value capture and land based financing and continuum of land rights (tenure) but what is missing is a more radical treatment of the causes of inequality. It doesn't address issue of control of resources by elite few.
- w) The issue is the tension between decentralization and the lack of capacity of local government.
- x) Document is thin on gender equality and women's empowerment, we must enrich that part.

Input towards a South African Position on the New Urban Agenda

Mr Ahmed Vawda from Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation presented the synthesis of the workshop discussion as SA's input on the New Urban Agenda highlighting the African Common position, active involvement of stakeholders in the National Report for Habitat 3, elements of the Quito Declaration, the Quito implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda. He further provided the inclusion of the following in the New Urban Agenda (NUA):

- The mechanics for engagement over an elongated period
- Need to define urban paradigm shift 7 what an urban agenda
- Point at which institutional transition occurs regarding New Urban Agenda- what business models that adjust to these opportunities
- Extending richness of process and products regarding New Urban Agenda for local government, NGOs and citizens; set out the inter-spherical conditions and systems to provide capable effective state citizen relations
- Political moments in SA notwithstanding that the NUA fails leadership considerations; NUA posits government solution and that the problem is the poor themselves yet the agency of people that needs government systems to better respond
- NUA does not tackle the causes of the state of the current global economy and its spatial manifestations and inability of socio spatial construct to overcome inheritance without reframing economic structure and investment frameworks.
- NUA highlights concepts that need for research about urban dynamics; what are the meanings (to be negotiated) like compact cities in Africa and South Africa

- Managing network/interference of formal and informal at local and implications for governance.
- Right to city should be centered as a strategic approach in the documentation re-combating exclusion insufficient reflections on Bill of Rights.

Closure

In her closing, Ms Mafu congratulated participants on enriching views and urged all stakeholders to keep the momentum going, highlighting that the road to Quito is now very short. She noted that the private sector role is very minimal in the preparatory process. She emphasized that there should be a stakeholder forum to deliberate on post Quito.

Way forward

In addition to the discussions captured in this report, written comments were received from the following organizations:

- a) Development Action Group
- b) University of Witwatersrand
- c) Human Sciences Research Council
- d) Slum Dwellers International
- e) Isandla Institute
- f) Housing Development Agency
- g) South African Institute for International Affairs Youth Policy Committee
- h) Habitat for Humanity
- i) South African Local Government Association
- j) South African Human Rights Commission
- h) African Union for Housing Finance
- i) Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

All inputs were synthesized into a consolidated document, attached as **Annexure C**, which guided the team in their deliberations at the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III.

All presentations have been uploaded to the Department of Human Settlements website for reference by workshop participants.

A further “Team South Africa” consultation will be held in early October for all the South African participants at Habitat III to share information on our participation in the programme and provide a final discussion on South Africa’s key messages for Habitat III.

The National Forum on Human Settlements and Urban Development would also reconvene after Habitat III to develop an implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda for South Africa.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Workshop Programme

Attachment B: Workshop Concept Note

Attachment C: Consolidated General Comments on the New Urban Agenda

Attachment D: List of Participants