



Dialogue title:	Stakeholder RT: Research and Academia
Date:	10 Feb 2018
Time:	9.00-11.00
Venue:	Banquet Hall
Approximate number of participants:	Approximately 200
Number of female participants:	60
Number of male participants:	140

1. Summary of the discussion. [max: 400 words]

The roundtable opened with an emphasis on the role of academia, in the time of increasing inequality, in contributing to sustainable development options and achieving impacts on the ground. It has three (03) main parts.

Part 1 provides a forum for presenting and sharing about existing networks of universities and education bodies who facilitates knowledge-sharing on localizing the implementation of sustainable development goals as well as urban development. This panel presented and discussed initiatives carried out by universities worldwide in linking their education programs with external activities in technical cooperation and capacity building of cities, local governments, and/or communities. Through sharing experience and information, these networks support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal 11.

Part 2 provided some examples of important issues and experience from on-going projects by Melbourne University, London School of Architecture and GIZ. The discussion focused on presenting on-going and successful projects that connect science and future cities' leader. A common character of these projects/initiatives is their strong link to SDGs and their effort to equip cities' leaders with knowledge on sustainable urban development and addressing the gap of knowledge and skills in a hands-on and most practical way. These initiatives also recognize the gap between science and policy-making process as well as translating scientific/technical language in an easy-to-understand form for policy-makers.





The last panel was a dialogue between three (03) urban development practitioners from international agencies and grassroots-based organizations. They highlighted the key challenges of implementation of NUA and SDGs as global agenda at city level among which having a sound mechanism in place for feedback and voices of cities and local level groups are heard and fed into the global level policies should be established and strengthened. The panel also emphasised on the need for creating an enabling environment, having good coordination among different stakeholders and actors.

2. Please list key recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda resulting from the discussions

There were very strong interest and interaction from the audience. Many questions were raised with interesting and important aspects. The discussions resulted to the following key recommendations:

- a) Monitoring:
 - ✓ There is a need to do a mapping exercise that clearly show the existing university and academia network globally, together with their basic information such as key areas, website information, how to be member;
 - ✓ Monitoring for result and impact is important. This includes involvement of students, alumni in order to measure the result/impacts that were created through the network of policy-makers and practitioners that were trained;
 - ✓ Best practices should be captures and be ready for sharing to support practitioners at local levels as well as high-level policy-making processes.
- b) Capacity development: there should be curriculum changes among high-education institution to incorporate fully the updates of the international policies and reflect the NUA and SDGs; capacity development for grassroots level people as well as for local level policy-makers on the integrated approach of SDGs and NUA in city planning and design which accommodate needs of inclusive groups as well as reducing city's resource consumption and improving living environment; the role of faith communities in advocacy for sustainable development should not be overlooked ; the work of academia should be better channelled into the policy-making process (science-policy interface).
- c) Mobilization / Partnerships: there is a clear need for stronger coordination among relevant partners through a platform of peer-to-peer learning in the areas of city/urban development and SDGs/NUA

3. Key Commitments (if any) for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

- One organization announced a new initiatives that connects partners and institutions who work on promoting local leadership and inclusion in urban planning and design;

4. Way forward and next steps on monitoring the outcomes and the commitments from the Dialogue.





A Steering Committee Meeting was held on Monday, 12 February, 15:00-17:00 to discuss concrete steps and actions for implementation of the above recommendations. All members of the Steering Committee attended the meeting (11 people) with one person (Sahar Attia) attended via Skype connection. The board members provided an update about their recent and coming-up activities as well as relevant events related to the thematic areas of UNI.

The Steering Committee also discussed the next steps, future direction and potential collaboration projects as following. Some further actions and proposed projects are mentioned in relevant section below.

- A project where UNI Steering Committee board members can present on behalf of universities and UN-Habitat and do fundraising. The key objectives of this project could be to increase the number of activities and keep managing the portal;
- UNI SC members will be open to new ways of engaging with the thematic areas that have a close link/relevance to UNI partners' faculty or research groups;
- How can we structure something that as Habitat UNI can establish cooperation to make use of the 200 cities sample? UN-Habitat would like to involve UNI partners to contribute and collaborate to deliver their flagship assessment reports such as World cities report;
- UNI SC members will organize a mapping exercise to list all the different networks that exist to have a better understanding of their scope, aims and work;
- UNI partners are encourage to collaborate in curricular development/updating as well as sharing academic materials/syllabus related to sustainable urban development.

5. Proposed partnerships, network and synergies with other Stakeholders for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

There is strong interest from private sector and grassroots level organization to work with academia and benefit from their generated knowledge.

6. Outreach and communication strategy to take forward recommendations and commitments for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UNI partners are encouraged to share and post projects that are related to the NUA and its implementation. It is proposed that UNI SC member will make this a small paper. The paper will be done and written by professors of universities, and UN-Habitat will publish and announce them on the UNI portal;

The SC members also came up with an initiative to organise a global meeting in which all UNI members and relevant partners can attend to exchange experience and knowledge on the sustainable urban development; The global meeting should be constructed to connect universities with the other units in UN-Habitat and other agencies and with potential sponsors;





UNI portal could create a more attractive platform and offer Urban Planners in the climate action group to put their information on our portal, could be an easy project to attract people to the portal;

7. Any other relevant highlight or outcome from the session not covered above.

The event was attended with increasing number of attendants, many of whom are women and youth. The majority of attendants were representatives from research and academia institutions but also there were a number of people from other stakeholders such as private sectors, government bodies, local/city authorities and youth/students;

8. Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA

