



Habitat III Publication Launch ***“Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy***

- Policy Guide for Low-Emission and Climate-Resilient Urban Development -”

12 October 2016

Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2016, 09:00 – 09:45
Venue: Habitat III Venue, Casa de la Cultura, Urban Library
Quito, Ecuador

Contact: UN-Habitat: Faderr Johm, faderr.johm@unhabitat.org
UN-Habitat: Jane Reid, jane.reid@unhabitat.org

BACKGROUND

While urbanization has brought opportunities it has also brought challenges. One of the largest challenges of twenty-first century urbanization is climate change. Cities truly are on the front line of any concerted attempt to combat climate change. However, in order to achieve sustainable urban development, it is essential that governments have access to tools that empower them, and other stakeholders, to mitigate these challenges.

National Urban Policy has been recognized as an essential instrument for governments and other stakeholders that can be used to contend with the challenges of urbanization as well as capitalizing on the opportunities. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21 in 2015 and the soon to be adopted New Urban Agenda, it is particularly timely to bring to the fore the importance of the inclusion of climate change in national level urban policies and to guide policy makers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

This session will launch the UN-Habitat Guide, “Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policies”. This Guide, based on a thorough review of existing urban policies in more than 30 countries, has been developed to assist all National Urban Policy stakeholders to better understand the intersection between National Urban Policy and climate change. This Guide is addressed primarily to decision-makers and stakeholders engaged in the formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of National Urban Policy (NUP). The session aims to:

- ✓ Present the publication, highlighting findings.
- ✓ Convey how national policy for urbanization should address climate change and empower local authorities as key actors in that effort.



FORMAT OF THE SESSION

17 October 0900-09:45		
Time	Topic	Speaker
Opening: The session will begin with opening remarks and a brief outline of the overall framework and objectives of the session.		
9:00-9:02	Opening of session by Moderator	Remy Sietchiping, (UN Habitat)
Overview of publication: With reference to the (draft) New Urban Agenda, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, discuss the role that appropriately addressing climate change in NUP has in the implementation of all three. Highlight top recommendations.		
09:02-09:11	Overview of publication	Robert Kehew, (UN Habitat)
Panel Discussion: The panel discussion will consist of three (3) panellists from different backgrounds, discussing the role of local-level climate change and the vertical integration of climate action.		
09:11-09:19	How can national government support local government engagement in climate action, including through their policies? How can local-level climate action support national-level objectives?	Sipliant Takougang, (Coordonnateur du Programme de Gouvernance Urbaine, Cameroon)
09:19-09:27	What is the role of local government in addressing climate change? How can national government empower local governments to take climate action, including through their policies?	Sally Lee, (Mayor, Sorsogon, Philippines)
09:27-09:35	How can the present publication contribute to strengthen inclusion of climate change considerations in National Urban Policy? How can this contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement?	Tadashi Matsumoto, (Organization for Economic Co- operation and Development)
Q&A: During this session, the moderator and panellists will actively engage the audience in a question-and-answer session to offer participants a chance to further explore key topics raised on sustainable urbanization.		
09:35-09:43	Questions & Discussion	
09:43-09:45	Closing Remarks by Moderator	Remy Sietchiping, (UN Habitat)