

Introduction to National Urban Policy: Implementing the New Urban Agenda

As of 4 October 2016

Date: Sunday, 16 October, 14:00-15:00
Venue: Nextcity World Stage
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BACKGROUND

Throughout the Habitat III preparatory process, National Urban Policy (NUP) has been recognized as an essential tool for government and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable urbanization. By working to facilitate vertical and horizontal institutional linkages, NUP can help to create an enabling institutional environment, assist with the mobilization of stakeholders, assess and build capacities (institutional, financial, human, etc), and define an urban vision and plan for a country. What does a National Urban Policy do?

- A National Urban Policy is intended to **achieve better urban results** by, firstly, helping to align sectorial policies that affect urban areas, and secondly, by developing an enabling institutional environment.
- A National Urban Policy sets out the **principles** from which urban policy interventions are formulated and implementation is conceived. Results rest on a clear strategy and effective coordination between policies that affect national territorial concerns across the urban-rural continuum, metropolitan, regional and supranational scales.
- A National Urban Policy **complements** and **reinforces** rather than replicates local urban policies. It also helps align national activities with global priorities.
- A National Urban Policy represents both a **technical** and a **political** process, and that combining technical strength with political commitment and support from stakeholders is necessary to make it transformative.
- For successful implementation, a National Urban Policy needs to be **legitimate**, based on a legal foundation, integrated and actionable, monitored effectively, and supported by mechanisms that ensure continuity while allowing for necessary adjustment. ¹

¹ Excerpts from the Policy Paper from Policy Unit 3, National Urban Policies

In the lead up to Quito, National Urban Policy was selected as one of ten thematic Policy Units. Policy Unit 3, National Urban Policies, co-led by UN Habitat and OECD, consists of 20 experts. Over the period of one year, three meetings were held and online consultations undertaken in order to develop the Policy Paper on National Urban Policies.

Despite the importance and the potential contribution to the New Urban Agenda, the concept of NUP is relatively new and may not be widely recognised. Thus this event aims to introduce the concept of NUP to a wide audience and discuss how NUP can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

SPEAKERS

- Rolf Alter, Director for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD
- Raf Tuts, Director, Programme Division, UN Habitat
- Ana Marie Argilagos, Ford Foundation (Moderator)

OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION

Strong partnerships are one of the most vital components for the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Through the preparatory process of Habitat III, OECD and UN Habitat have worked closely to develop and promote National Urban Policies for the New Urban Agenda.

At this event, Mr. Rolf Alter, Director for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD and Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Programme Division, UN Habitat will reflect further on the partnership between the two organizations during the preparatory processes towards Habitat III and present the proposed joint actions to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through National Urban Policies after Quito.

In this regard, this event aims to

- Introduce the concept of NUP to a wide audience
- Discuss how NUP can contribute to the implementation of the new urban agenda
- Present OECD's and UNH's activities on NUP in Quito during the Conference

FORMAT OF THE SESSION

Introduction

This session starts with the introduction of the speakers and the explanation of objective of the session by Moderator.

Panel discussion

This session starts with the 8 minutes remarks from two (2) speakers. Then it moves onto the moderated discussion guided by moderator.

Draft Programme (subject to change)

16 October 14:00-15:00	
14:00-14:05	Introduction of the speakers and the objective of the session by Moderator
Panel discussion (10 minutes per speaker, followed by moderated discussion)	
14:05-14:13	Rolf Alter, Director for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD
14:13-14:21	Raf Tuts, Director, Programme Division, UN Habitat
14:21-14:45	Moderated discussion guided by Ana Marie Argilagos, Ford Foundation (Moderator)
14:45-14:55	Questions and comments (10)