

REPORT OF THE 13TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2015

THE MUNICIPAL ARTS SOCIETY OF NEW YORK (MAS NY)
NEW YORK CITY/USA

Executive Summary

On 3 October 2015, the Steering Committee of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) convened for its 13th meeting in New York City, USA. Participants met a day after the 2nd Meeting of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) Executive Committee Meeting and the main GAP meeting. The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which saw the adoption of 17 new Sustainable Development Goals, took place one week prior to this meeting.

Following a briefing by the Habitat III Secretariat Coordinator on the preparations of the Conference, the attendees focused on the updates from the World Urban Campaign, in particular its communication and outreach efforts (i.e. a new World Urban Campaign website). They discussed three WUC activities and special initiatives: the Urban Thinkers Campuses (UTCs), National Urban Campaigns (NUCs), and the General Assembly of Partners (GAP). The attendees also reconstituted the Steering Committee's Working Groups.

The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- The Steering Committee reiterated the importance of the WUC as the main partners' platform – towards Habitat III and beyond.
- The Steering Committee reconstituted its Working Groups into the following committees:
 - 1) The City We Need Drafting Committee
 - 2) Monitoring and Indicators Committee
 - 3) Communication, Outreach and Events Committee
 - 4) Long-term Planning Committee
- The Steering Committee discussed how to improve WUC communication and contributions to Habitat III, including how to capitalize on the UTCs, drawing on the momentum generated through these events beyond Habitat III.
- The Steering Committee encouraged the WUC-Secretariat to request already approved UTCs to cover principles and themes from *The City We Need* that have not yet been addressed.
- The Steering Committee agreed that WUC's contribution to the implementation of the recently adopted Framework for Post 2015 Development (SDGs), in particular SDG11, is a crucial commitment to action for the coming 15 years, and that *The City We Need 2.0* should include recommendations to the implementation of the SDGs.

This report follows the order of topics discussed during the 13th WUC Steering Committee Meeting:

- A. Meeting objectives
- B. Introduction
 - 1. Welcome by Eugenie Birch, Chair, WUC Steering Committee
 - 2. Introduction of New WUC Partners
- C. Habitat III updates
 - 1. Briefing by the Coordinator, Habitat III Secretariat
- D. Progress reports
 - 1. World Urban Campaign Secretariat
 - 2. World Urban Campaign Partners
 - 3. General Assembly of Partners
- E. Reconstitution of WUC Working Groups
- F. WUC special initiatives and activities/A.O.B.
- G. Conclusion

Annex A: SCM13 List of Participants

Annex B: SCM13 Draft Agenda

Annex C: WUC Secretariat Progress Report

Annex D: WUC Secretariat Presentation

Annex E: Roadmap WUC GAP UTC 15.10.2015

Annex F: WUC Partners Reports

Annex G: WUC Working Groups

A. MEETING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 13th Steering Committee meeting were:

1. To discuss *The City We Need 2.0 drafting* process and roadmap: progress to date.
2. To exchange information on WUC partners' contributions to the above and propose ways to coordinate actions.
3. To review progress of the existing Working Groups:
 - a. Goals, Principles and Targets
 - b. Monitoring and Indicators
 - c. Solutions for a New Urban Paradigm
 - d. Communication
 - e. Habitat III
4. To discuss the preparations for upcoming events and activities related to the Habitat III Conference.

B. INTRODUCTION

Dr. Eugenie Birch, Chair, World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, opened the meeting, and welcomed all participants, inviting them all to introduce themselves.¹ She noted the increase in WUC partners since the 12th Steering Committee Meeting held in April, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. She announced that, in the absence of any objection, the meeting would be audio recorded. The Steering Committee then voted to adopt the draft meeting agenda.²

C. HABITAT III UPDATES

1. Update by Habitat III Secretariat Coordinator

Ms. Ana Moreno, Coordinator, Habitat III Secretariat, offered an update on the Habitat III preparations. She began by thanking attendees who were not only founders of the World Urban Campaign (WUC), but also part of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) for their commitment. She observed that Habitat III will be the first UN conference to take place after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the anticipated agreements emanating from the Paris COP21.³ She noted their importance as a framework for the formulation and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Ms. Moreno stated that the aim of the Habitat III Secretariat is to have a strong member-state-approved outcome document that will not only outline a paradigm change, but also serve as a legacy for stakeholders to implement, especially at the city and local levels. She noted that WUC has been instrumental, through its special initiatives – Urban Thinkers Campuses and the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) — in developing a stakeholder consensus to contribute to the New Urban Agenda before the Habitat III Conference.

Ms. Moreno then outlined the four strategic areas of the preparations for the Habitat III Conference: **Knowledge, Policy, Engagements and Operations.**

¹ Annex A: SCM13 List of Participants

² Annex B: SCM13 Agenda

³ [Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP21/CMP11\)](#)

The **Knowledge** component encompasses several initiatives that build an evidence-based strategy in support of the Habitat III conference. The first initiative is the submission of National Reports that reflect on individual member states' successes and failures in implementing the Habitat Agenda, the outcome document from Habitat II. The second initiative is the production of five Regional Reports being prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission and the UN-Habitat Regional Offices that outline regional challenges and opportunities. The third initiative is UN-Habitat's Global Report, a discussion of relevant topics by selected experts to be published in June, 2016. The fourth initiative is the set of Habitat III issue papers prepared by the United Nations Task Team for Habitat III that cover topics likely to be considered for the New Urban Agenda.

The **Policy** component includes three types of activities to develop policy recommendations. The first are the seven Thematic Meetings to be held around the world covering such topics as metropolitan area governance, informal settlements and financing. The second are four Regional Meetings in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa studying regional issues. The third are the Habitat III Policy Units, which consist of 10 units with 20 members each (200 Experts in total selected out of 700 experts based on regional, gender, expertise balance etc.) that will develop actionable recommendations based on the Habitat III Issue Papers, concluding their work by April 2016.

The **Engagement** component aims to build awareness about implementation strategies for sustainable urban development. Included here are the Urban October celebrations, Urban Journalism Academies and the General Assembly of Partners. A question was raised about other forms of engagement for stakeholders to which Ms. Moreno replied that all stakeholders are included in the other components. Stakeholders commented on the Issue Papers and will be invited to do the same for the Policy Unit products. Further, some GAP members are also members of the Policy Units. She announced that in 2016, the GAP members will be invited to serve as the advisory board for the regional and thematic meetings. Ms. Moreno added that the challenge is to reach out to those, who are not long standing partners of UN-Habitat, and that the stakeholders' engagement in such outreach efforts is important.

The **Operations** component is mainly focusing on the Habitat III conference and side events. One feature will be showcasing innovative practices in a 'live' setting, a Habitat Village in Quito. The Habitat III Secretariat will invite private sector representatives, civil society stakeholders, development agencies and governmental bodies to demonstrate their work in the village that will include physical installations, (e.g. buildings), digital or mobile applications, and community or capacity building activities. Finally, the Secretariat will organize a Stakeholders Forum in Quito, which will follow the same structure as the World Urban Forum (WUF), in which the WUC will play a key part.

In summarizing the preparations, Ms. Moreno pointed out that all the information is available on the Habitat III website (www.habitat3.org).

Additionally Ms. Moreno commended the efforts of the WUC, especially with regard to the UTCs. The outcomes of these UTCs are key for the GAP, and must be meaningful and effective. She underlined that the WUC will continue to be integrated into the overall process; before, during and after Habitat III – and that its role in monitoring and reporting the Habitat III process would be key. She further stated that both the WUC and the WUFs platforms demonstrated great mobilization and inclusiveness towards the New Urban Agenda, and that no reinvention of such platforms is needed. However, an alignment with the New Urban

Agenda, as well as an updated strategy would be necessary. Ms. Moreno announced that the WUF9 will take place in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) in 2018 and is going to be the first monitoring platform of the New Urban Agenda. The topic and theme of WUF9 will be discussed after October 2016. Furthermore, she announced that the call for proposals to host the WUF10 in 2020 will be published at the end of this year.

A question and answer period followed. Mr. Ismael Fernandez (Habitat Professionals Forum) asked if specific documents exist to explain the four key areas of Habitat III. Ms. Moreno directed him to the Habitat III website, where all information is available. Furthermore, Ms. Moreno encouraged the participants to use the “Together Towards Habitat III” logo, as this can be used by everyone involved in the Habitat III process.

Ms. Lucy Stevens (Practical Action) requested more information about the national reports, and what could be done to encourage the formulation and the submission of these reports. Ms. Moreno explained that guidelines were sent to member states in 2013 and 2014, and the initial deadline was in June 2014, which was not followed by all member states. Ms. Moreno also explained that some member states chose to submit sub-regional reports, i.e. Pacific as well as Caribbean members states.

Ms. Sahar Attia (Habitat Uni) expressed her concern about the categorization of the Arab events on the Habitat III websites, as these are stated under Western Asia and not under the region of Arab States. Ms. Moreno explained that the categorization of regions follows the definition of the United Nations Economic Commissions’ structure, and that this could not be changed.

Mr. Ishtiaque Zahir (UIA) asked what will happen to WUC and GAP after the Habitat III conference and stated that the UIA as a lead partner of the WUC would like the WUC to continue, as a unique platform that brings stakeholders together. Ms. Moreno answered that the concept of the WUC and the future will be discussed further in this meeting; and she stated that she would like to see the WUC not just as an exercise of UN-Habitat, but as a campaign for the whole of the United Nations. She encouraged the Steering Committee to strategize on this issue before Habitat III. Regarding the GAP, she explained that it has been created as an ad-hoc tool for Habitat III. It is completely new, and brings together new voices and new constituencies.

Mr. Bert Smolders (Arcadis) stated that the WUC has proved to be an important platform in the past five years, and that its importance is increasing. Its future should be discussed in a wider sense, and look beyond Habitat III. He added that the WUC should be the platform for the process after Habitat III, in particular because it has an existing structure – and well supported by strategic key private sector partners. Mr. Smolders also reminded participants that the GAP is a special initiative of WUC and has a valuable role – however, caution should be exercised when running parallel processes in order to avoid dilution and duplication.

Ms. Moreno added that the WUC and the WUF projects are not isolated projects of UN-Habitat, but are part of the Habitat III strategy and that both of them are coordinated within this strategy. Ms. Moreno announced that Dr. Clos will present the WUC as one of the good practices on how the UN can scale up regarding partners engagement in November 2015, at the Chief Executive Board.

Dr. Eugenie Birch (Penn Institute, WUC Steering Committee Chair) added that the WUC Steering Committee must define its rights and its responsibilities, and further discuss the WUC and UTCs relationship to the GAP.

Ms. Sri Sofjan (Huariou Commission) shared a question with regard to the official recognition of the Grassroots constituent group. In her view, all National Habitat Committees should encourage stakeholders' participation. Ms. Sofjan suggested that Habitat III should send information about the GAP and its Executive Committee to all member states, to support their involvement in the process. She added that the GAP President and Vice-President reported to the Habitat III Bureau in Nairobi during the Prepcom2, and that the Bureau has now requested the GAP to regularly report on its activities.

Mr. Nicholas You (Honorary Chair of the WUC Steering Committee) noted that the Habitat III Bureau has its own mechanisms on how to inform member states about the new constituencies that have been defined in the GAP constitution.

Dr. Birch added that, in her role as GAP president, she and the GAP Vice-President, Ms. Shipra Narang Suri (ISOCARP) are working with the Habitat III Secretariat to increase the GAP's presence, and that there is an existing line of communication with the Bureau to inform them about the GAP, as well as on the WUC activities.

Mr. Eric Huybrechts (IAU-IdF and AdP) asked what exactly will happen to all the policy papers which are being produced in the various processes, and also how the New Urban Agenda will be produced. He emphasized that these processes are not clear to all partners.

Ms. Moreno replied that all official documents have to be submitted to the Bureau before April 2016, and that all these official documents will be taken into consideration. She explained that the official documents are the policy papers, thematic meetings declarations and the regional meeting declarations, as decided in Prepcom2. In regards to the GAP submissions, she made clear that these would be brought to the same level, as these would be delivered to the Secretary-General of the Conference (Dr. Joan Clos), and that he would then submit these to the Bureau for their further consideration and then for discussion amongst member states.

She reiterated that Habitat III is being used as powerful platform to reach a wider audience, and announced that a Citizens Campaign will be launched in January 2016, with the aim to mobilize citizens towards the conference. This Campaign will focus on 100 cities and 100 people, and will happen at the city level by building city forums which will be connected to local governments. Additionally, in close collaboration with urban journalist academies, the Campaign aims to train journalists on the understanding of decision making processes at the local level and that these affect life in and the future of cities. The plan is also to interview 100 people before and after Habitat III, asking them about their realities, dear wishes, and their opinion about what has been approved and what their take is on the action plan. She finally added that this Campaign should be seen as an extension of the *I'm A City Changer* Campaign.

Mr. Fernandez expressed concern that if these 100 people would be identified through local authorities the process would be highly politicized, and that people could be biased. Mr Christopher Dekki (UN Major Group from Children and Youth) said that he finds the idea of the focus groups very interesting, and that the UNMGCY has developed consultation guides, which are already linked to Habitat III, and could be shared for this campaign. Rose Molokoane (SDI) requested more details on the selection criteria for the 100 cities. Ms. Moreno explained that this has not been decided yet, and that she would keep the stakeholders informed.

Ms. Shipra Narang Suri further requested to know how “non-official” events could contribute to Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda. Ms. Moreno explained that all non-official events and inputs are very valuable and that an online database on the Habitat III website is planned, where partners can upload their contributions. However, guarantee that all these contributions will be considered officially cannot be given at this stage.

Ms. Regitze Hess (IFHP) highlighted that her organization just recently joined the WUC, and that all these processes are confusing to them. She suggested webinars as a solution, to also avoid having to travel to many different meetings. Dr. Birch mentioned that a webinar was planned at the end of October, and that she would provide more information. Ms. Moreno further offered the webinar facilities of Habitat III to the partners.

D. PROGRESS REPORTS

1. World Urban Campaign Secretariat Progress Report

Christine Auclair, Project Leader of the World Urban Campaign, joined in welcoming the WUC partners to Nairobi for the 13th World Urban Campaign Steering Committee. She presented the WUC Secretariat Progress Report⁴, covering the period from 1 March 2015 to 11 September 2015. The presentation⁵ included the introduction of new WUC partners and agreements. The WUC now has a total of 135 partners, with an additional three new Lead partners whose applications were approved in the morning by the WUC Standing Committee. The current partners are made up of 5 Sponsors, 42 Lead partners, 63 Associate partners, 20 Members, 5 Media partners.

Ms. Auclair briefed the Steering Committee on communication and outreach activities of the WUC and mentioned the GAP meeting, which took place after the last Steering Committee on the 13 April in Nairobi. The Prepcom2 followed this event on the 16 – 17 April, at which Dr. Clos underlined the importance of the GAP and the WUC and the promoting of the engagement of all stakeholders. She outlined that during the Prepcom2, a side event was held: the Straight Path to Habitat III, which was led by the WUC and a few major partners.

Ms. Auclair also briefed the Steering Committee on the Governing Council 2015 and specifically two resolutions which are of importance to the WUC; 1) the underlining of the WUC, whereby member states requested the Executive Director to work on the engagement of new partners through the WUC, which was stated under paragraph 39 in resolution 6, and 2) in resolution 4, an additional paragraph underlined the importance of regional consultations, mechanisms, the WUC and its initiatives, showing that the WUC was playing a centered role in the discussion, deliberation and the decision making process of member states. Ms. Auclair also briefed on the group on an event held on 27 September 2015 at the Ford Foundation which aimed to capitalize on the SDG process and especially the Urban SDG. Communitas Coalition organized the event together with the WUC.

Ms. Auclair further mentioned that the monthly newsletter now has over 1,500 subscribers. In this regard Ms. Auclair thanked all partners for submitted a large number stories for the newsletter, which shows their deep interest in sharing knowledge on urban issues and communicating these through the WUC platform. Further, Ms. Auclair shared an update on the WUC Social Media activities on Twitter, LinkedIn and Youtube. To date, the WUC has more than 800 Followers on Twitter and reaches an audience of more than 700.000 people online. She outlined that the WUC had started their Social Media activities at the end of June 2015 and that the outcome so far had been very encouraging to continue these efforts. She added that the current WUC website (www.worldurbancampaign.org) has had some technical problems and that the WUC Secretariat took the initiative to develop a new and simplified, more innovative, so called 'scroll down' website which features a more navigable, intuitive and interactive browsing and information finding process. The immediate reaction and feedback of the Steering Committee to the new WUC website was very positive, and the participants gave the WUC Secretariat the "Go Ahead" to continue the development of the website.

⁴ Annex C: WUC Secretariat Progress Report

⁵ Annex D: WUC Secretariat Presentation

Ms. Auclair also gave an update on the status of preparations of the 28 approved Urban Thinkers Campuses⁶, and reported on the 4 which have already taken place. Ms. Auclair reminded participants that the reporting template, which was approved by the Steering Committee in its last meeting in Nairobi, is the approved framework for all UTC hosts. She explained that so far, only one UTC report (from the Future of Places) has been received. Ms. Auclair also presented a matrix⁷ which shows the 9 principles of The City We Need, and which of these are addressed by the UTCs. A similar matrix has also been developed for the Habitat III Policy Units. These matrices display a few thematic “gaps” and Ms Auclair suggested that it would be an advantage for other UTCs to add an extra day and/or session to their campuses to address these thematic gaps, i.e. safer cities, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian crises, and municipal finance. She mentioned that the private sector partners of WUC have already expressed interest in supporting such a UTC expansion.

Ms. Auclair then shared information on the National Urban Campaign (NUC) activities. The launch of the first NUC took place in Senegal in December 2012, followed by an Egyptian launch event themed of ‘My City – My Responsibility’ during the National Urban Forum in July 2015. Additionally, a NUC in Iran was recently launched and more information will be made available soon. New NUCs will be launched in 2015, starting with an Indian Campaign early October. Additionally, there will be a launch in Saudi Arabia through a media event in Riyadh with Saudi Government involvement, which was initiated by the Saudi Delegation who took part in the Egypt Urban Forum. Plans for a NUC in Burkina Faso were postponed due to the Coup d’état. A NUC in Rwanda could possibly be launched end of November 2015, focusing on ‘Women and Youth’. A NUC in Dubai is planned for early 2016 and will be linked to the FIABCI Urban Thinkers Campus. All partners interested in organizing a NUC were invited to contact the WUC Secretariat for more information and refer to the [NUC toolkit](#).

To conclude her presentation, Ms. Auclair then shared a few new WUC initiatives, such as the idea to create “The Urban Thinker”, where known experts in the urban sector can submit so-called “Think Pieces” which discuss new urban solutions and ideas. Additionally, Ms. Auclair highlighted the need for the WUC partners to focus on the recently adopted SDGs, and in particular their implementation. She suggested that partners be invited to share actionable statements and commitments to action towards the Post 2015 goals on the new WUC website. The WUC should be seen as the platform not only to address Goal 11 but all urban related issues across the sustainable development framework.

A round of comments and questions from the participants followed the presentation. Mr. Fernandez agreed and highlighted the importance of focusing on the Post-2015 process and committing to action. Mr. Hirotaka Koike (UNMGCY) added that a reflection on the SDGs and their interconnections would be a very good exercise. Dr. Birch agreed to this and suggested that a stock-taking must be done.

Mr. You made a suggestion in regard to filling the thematic gaps of the UTCs, and suggested to organize a virtual campus, which was complemented by Ms. Narang when she mentioned possible linkages between UTCs and the humanitarian context, referring to the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in May 2016. Mr. Didier Vancutsem (ISOCARP) came back to the UTC gaps, and that the financing topic must not be forgotten or underestimated in its importance for cities and communities. Ms. Joyati Das (World Vision International) added that the resilient city conversation is also missing, and that 100 Resilient Cities could

⁶ Annex E: Roadmap WUC GAP UTC 15.10.2015

⁷ Annex D: WUC Presentation Secretariat Report to SCM13

join the WUC. She highlighted the topics' relevance for the SDG process, and that a discussion forum with i.e. ISDR, 100 Resilient Cities, and others could be organized, supported by World Vision. Ms. Joanna Crispe (MAS NY) conveyed her interest in the topic and said that MAS NY would be very happy to partner in this regard.

Ms. Sofjan requested more details on how campaigns within UN-Habitat are linked to each other, i.e. how the Safer Cities Campaign could be integrated into the WUC activities. Ms. Auclair explained that the Global Network on Safer Cities is already a partner of WUC, and that the partnership could be strengthened.

The last question of this round came for Mr. Jerko Rosin (GPH), who was interested in the activities of the National Habitat Committees, referring to the Habitat III process. Ms. Moreno directed Mr. Rosin to the Habitat III website, where this information is available, together with an overview of which national reports have been received to date.

2. World Urban Campaign Partners' Reports

In the interest of time, Dr. Birch asked partner organizations to avoid making oral presentations of their progress reports. However, as a sponsor of the WUC, Ms. Jin Lan (Global Mayors Forum, China) was invited to give a brief overview of their activities, which she delivered through her interpreter. All written partners progress reports can be found in **Annex F** (those submitted to the WUC Secretariat). Lead Partners who had not submitted their reports before the SCM13 were asked to kindly do so as soon as possible.

3. General Assembly of Partners

Dr. Birch gave a brief overview of the GAP history and structure and then asked all present constituent group chairs and co-chairs to rise and share their group updates. Dr. Birch added that more information would be available on the Habitat III website, and she also reminded participants of Ms. Moreno's comments with regard to the new roles for GAP – serving as advisory boards for the Regional and Thematic Conferences and reporting regularly to the Bureau. Finally, she emphasized that the UTC outcomes – and *The City We Need 2.0* resulting from these UTCs – are a crucial contribution to the GAP process. The process of drafting *The City We Need 2.0* would be discussed in the upcoming reconstitution of the working groups.

E. RECONSTITUTION OF THE WUC WORKING GROUP

Dr. Birch summarized the need to reconstitute the current WUC working groups and led the discussion on which new groups would be most effective. A short discussion took place, and the Steering Committee then agreed on the following four new working groups⁸, which met for two hours during the SCM13 and then shared their conclusions with all participants:

1. Working Group: The City We Need Drafting Committee

Chaired by Mr. Nicholas You (Honorary WUC Steering Committee Chair), this group will consolidate the UTC outcomes that will be the basis of *The City We Need 2.0*. It will review, and if required, revise all UTC outcome reports and may interview UTC hosts for further inputs. They asked the Secretariat to develop a

⁸ For a list of members of these Working Groups, please see Annex G: WUC Working Groups

summary of all UTCs. Ms. Auclair reminded this group that it would have to develop a meeting plan for physical and virtual drafting sessions, and that a final meeting could be held in Nairobi/Kenya in February 2016.

2. Working Group: Indicators & Monitoring

Chaired by Ms. Lucy Stevens (Practical Action), this group reiterated the need to continue the exploration of the SDG indicators that will be finalized in March 2016. In their discussions, they agreed to focus on ways how Habitat III can be measured effectively and in alignment with the SDG monitoring.

3. Working Group: Communication, Outreach & Events

Chaired by Ms. Pilar Balbuena (WIEGO), this group will formulate a new communication vision and its financing that will target groups to include in WUC. Additionally, the group would like to promote the Urban SDG and highlight its importance in the Post-2015 context.

4. Working Group: Long-term Planning

Chaired by Mr. Ismael Fernandez (HPF), the group will initiate a long-term planning process for the WUC. The group noted that WUC is a long-term campaign and the GAP is a WUC special initiative and an interim tool. The group will develop recommendations for WUC and its future activities to be considered by the Steering Committee, considering that the WUC is the foundation and base for the future of partner's engagement after the Habitat III Conference and that it should be the convening body for all stakeholders interested in the Urban SDG, and the sustainable development process in general.

The question was raised if a representative of an organization could be part of more than one working group, and it was decided that he/she could so serve.

F. WUC SPECIAL INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES / A.O.B.

Following the WUC Working Groups session, the participants engaged in a general discussion concerning WUCs special initiatives, activities and any other business.

Referring to earlier remarks made on the contribution of non-official events towards the Habitat III process, Ms. Stevens mentioned an event hosted by UK based NGOs on urban sanitation, and asked how and through which channels such an event could add value to the New Urban Agenda. Ms. Auclair explained that similar questions had reached the WUC, and that a certain framework would have to be developed. She suggested that the UTC reporting template could be amended for other events, and that the Steering Committee should make a decision on this. In this regard, Ms. Auclair reminded the Steering Committee to make a decision on a possible request to existing UTCs to expand their themes to address the said thematic gaps. Dr. Birch suggested to redraft the UTC reporting template, and to make it more uniform for general contributions towards *The City We Need* and the Habitat III process. Ms. Auclair expressed concern that many unofficial event outcomes would be submitted without following a specific format, and that only co-branded events should be considered. In this regard, Ms. Dyan Currie (CAP) suggested that a WUC partner would have to be involved in an event, in order for it to be eligible to contribute to the said processes in a meaningful way. Ms. Auclair noted that this decision should be made by the WUC Standing Committee.

Dr. Birch underlined the importance of Mr. Smolders' comment about the need to consider the continuation of the interest generated by the UTCs. She suggested that events could also be held after February 2016, and then contribute to the larger WUC and SDG implementation process – beyond Habitat III. Mr. Zahir agreed to this suggestion, noting that the energy around the UTCs is an important WUC asset. He flagged the idea of a “Post-UTC” call for future events. Mr. Fernandez highlighted that the UTC brand is very powerful, and that the WUC partners should continue to promote it. He also suggested that all existing UTC hosts should not only focus on recommendations for *The City We Need*, but to also focus on the implementation of their ideas, as these contributions would also be valuable after Habitat III.

It was then said that, in order to further engage the Urban Thinkers Community and to close the current UTC thematic gaps, a call to encourage existing UTC hosts to expand their themes would be organized by the WUC Secretariat as soon as possible.

G. CONCLUSION

Dr. Birch closed the meeting by summarizing what was discussed, and thanking all participants for their attendance, inviting them to actively participate in the reconstituted working groups, and to attend the 14th WUC Steering Committee, which will be held just before the Habitat III Regional Meeting in Europe in March 2016 in Prague/Czech Republic (tentative date: 15 March 2015, venue to be confirmed).