Art and Architecture Research Development and Education (AARDE) Foundation is involved in conservation and promotion of large urban lagoon in Chennai called Pulicat Lagoon measuring 720sq.km. AARDE Foundation is also very actively involved in promotion of architectural and urban planning awareness amongst city dwellers. During 2014-15 AARDE Foundation involved in the following activities:

- Improved awareness on cultural heritage values of Pulicat Lagoon’s natural and built heritage among the inhabitants through maintaining Pulicat-Interpretation-Centre.

- Celebrated 4th Annual PULICAT-DAY on 31-Jan-2015 by organizing various programs for Women and Children. These programs were targeted to sensitise importance of natural heritage, and the ill-effects of pollution and open-defecation.

- Organised 5th Annual LAGOON CLEAN UP DAY on 13-Sept-2014 to increase awareness among school children about Pulicat Lagoon and its importance in improving ground water level of Chennai city. The day is organised to collect unfriendly materials littered around in the lagoon and encouraged inhabitants to keep the environment clean by staging campaigns by the students.

- Organised 3rd Annual ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN FILM FESTIVAL on 17-19 October 2014 at Chennai Trade Centre during the celebration of Indian Institute of Architects organisation’s 50th anniversary. More than thousand visitors who came to the celebration had a chance to see the good collections of Urban Planning related films. This festival also screened films supplied by UN-HABITAT like Dear Mandela and Sustainable Human Settlements.

- 2nd Annual ‘Tracing Origin of Madras’ was organised to create awareness about built heritage and the Lagoon amongst the city dwellers on 23-Aug-2014.
• More than 15 newspaper articles were published in connection with our activities and to increase awareness on Pulicat Lagoon and its importance to Chennai city.

For more information visit www.aarde.in

← Students of an Architecture College visited Pulicat to understand the importance of Natural and Built Heritage to strengthen Sustainable Development.

Catamaram Race was an annual event organised by AARDE to improve importance of natural heritage amongst inhabitants and city dwellers ↓

Many programs were organised, and also revenue generating activities were conducted for self-help-women to improve socio-economic status, indirectly stopping economic immigration to larger cities from Pulicat region.
Shelter Program, partners report March 2015

In 2014 the Shelter program, the partnership of ARCADIS with UN-Habitat, provided support for UN-Habitat in 10 Shelter missions in Asia, Africa and Middle America, organized a 4th Shelter Academy, participated in World Urban Campaign activities and organized 15 workshops on the New Urban Agenda. Herewith a summary of highlights between October 2014 and March 2015.

Early October a mission to Haiti provided support on coastal protection and sanitation. As part of the “Urban October” Shelter workshops on the New Urban Agenda were organized in 15 ARCADIS offices. The New Urban Agenda was also the topic in the Urban Thinkers Academy in which Shelter took part including a presentation by an urban planner of RTKL.

Several more missions were organized to the Philippines in November. A follow-up mission was organized to Tacloban, the city devastated by a typhoon in November 2013. In this mission we provided support on infrastructure. Twice support was provided for UN-Habitat training workshops for the ASUD program (Achieving Sustainable Urban Design). Firstly focusing on urban financing and secondly on urban design.

A special moment during an UN-Habitat event in The Philippines was when an award for the Shelter program was presented to CEO Neil McArthur by representatives of UN-Habitat Philippines and the Philippines government. Also in November Shelter was nominated for the Dutch SponsorRing, the annual award for the best sponsor case. The jury stated: ‘This partnership reflects courage, is extremely solid and is sustainable by the long-standing commitment. The social impact is significant and ARCADIS staff members are strongly involved and committed’.

Finally, in December, missions were organized to the Solomon island in the Pacific providing expertise on slum upgrading and sanitation, and to Haiti on waste management and on coastal protection.

For 2015 we received from UN-Habitat several requests for support, and we anticipate to organize 10 missions. The first mission in 2015 has been to Banjarmasin in Indonesia in early February. A team
of Hyder Philippines, ARCADIS US and Langdon Seah Indonesia provided expertise on drainage and urban planning.

The second mission in 2015 is in The Philippines in March. The Shelter program has been supporting UN-Habitat Philippines in the ASUD program since the start in 2013. A team with urban planning, infrastructure and water experts from ARCADIS Chile, Hyder Australia and Philippines, Langdon Seah Philippines, Calison US and ARCADIS Netherlands will support UN-Habitat in three cities where ASUD support workshops are organized to develop more sustainable city extentions.

In 2014 a series of workshops on the New Urban Agenda was held in ARCADIS offices throughout the world, to provide innovative ideas in support for the New Urban Agenda. The first results will be published in April.

Stay in touch, and follow us on Facebook.

_Bert Smolders, Shelter program manager_

_March 2015_
World Urban Campaign Activities report March 2015

The Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) has had a busy two years and I would like to formally acknowledge former President Christine Platt for her hard work and commitment to CAP and to the WUC.

CAP has been actively working across the Commonwealth in its program of work including activities within mutually the supported Goals and Principles of the WUC.

Regional Activities

A key regional success story of the past two years is from the CAP Americas region where the planners from Barbados, Belize, Canada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have worked tirelessly with colleagues from other Caribbean countries to establish the Caribbean Urban Forum series and the Caribbean Planning Association as a vehicle for developing the profession in this region. The success of this initiative has included the establishment of the Belize Association of Planners – our newest CAP member – and the imminent establishment of professional associations in other countries, including Guyana. The hard work and commitment of the leadership in this region is remarkable and is to be lauded. The Caribbean Urban Forum series has received very high level governmental support from the countries within the Caribbean, with the Prime Minister of Barbados being an opening speaker at the first event. This work will be further advanced through work facilitated by a grant of US $80 000 by UN Habitat.

CAP’s support of this initiative mirrors its support for the establishment of the African Planning Association (APA) which recently held its third Business Meeting and which is now forging ahead very successfully under the leadership of the Nigerian and South African Institutes. CAP was similarly instrumental in facilitating the granting of UN Habitat sourced funding for the APA a few years ago. The CAP Southern Africa region has been very active with the 7th Planning Africa Conference having taken place In October 2014.
The CAP Pacific region has seen great contributions from the New Zealand Planning Institute in leading the preparation of a Planning and Resilience discussion paper and the outstanding work on the case study on Christchurch for the UN Habitat International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning. In addition, this region continues to lead on the Women in Planning work and a work program is currently being investigated regarding assistance with participatory planning and decision making processes.

CAP South – East and South West Asia region was the location for CHOGM in Sri Lanka in 2013 and CAP was able to play a leading role in the Commonwealth People’s Forum in Hikkaduwa. CAP also held its biennial business meeting and International Planning Forum (organised by the Singapore Institute of Planners) in Singapore in November 2014 with the theme of Cities of Tomorrow: Smarter, Better.

CAP has also supported or attended planning workshops or conferences in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Sri Lanka and South Africa

CAP Work Programmes

CAP has over the past few years developed two main work programmes which focus on Capacity Building and State of the Commonwealth Cities.

Capacity building

The CAP Capacity Building programme was presented at the Johannesburg Business meeting in 2008. The first phase of this programme was a research project to examine the State of Commonwealth Planning Education, using a Commonwealth – wide reference group to make critical input. CAP continues to engage with potential funders around taking this programme to the next stage. This includes proposals for bench marking planning education in the Commonwealth, exploring a job exchange programme and distance learning for planners working in remote locations. CAP has in recent weeks prepared a project plan and lodged a funding submission to expand the capacity building program.

The CAP Young Planners’ Network is part of this programme and is currently experiencing a growth phase.

State of the Commonwealth Cities

Work in the State of the Commonwealth Cities field has focussed on preparing planners from around the Commonwealth to participate in preparations for the Post 2015 Agenda debates. This began with the preparation of a submission in 2013 to the Committee of a Whole which sets the agenda for the Heads of Government meeting and which reflected input from planners in Belize, Canada, Barbados, Kenya, Australia, South Africa, Trinidad and the United Kingdom.

CHOGM was held in Sri Lanka in November 2013 where the Civil Society statement called on Heads to give priority to urban growth and the need to manage cities as significant agents of today's global economy and called also for the resumption of the State of the Commonwealth Cities programme as a reporting mechanism on urban issues and a means to build the evidence base for the development of urban policy.

Heads went on to adopt the "Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development". The declaration talks about the rapidly changing global environment and the need to promote sustainable development, to address resilience and the need for new international approaches as
the context within which sustainable development policies must be pursued. CAP then proceeded with the second phase of the Post 2015 preparations to set out solutions and a way forward, using the milestones of WUF 2014, CHOGM 2015 and Habitat III in 2016 to build a solid foundation to deal with the sustainable development and urban issues which a post 2015 agenda needs to address.

After the WUF in April 2014 in Medellin (CAP President in attendance) work focussed on advocacy for an "urban" Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The CAP post 2015 work group was then asked to urgently prepare a short statement on why the Commonwealth needs an SDG addressing urbanisation and human settlements. It makes the point that urbanisation will have a massive impact on the Commonwealth’s ability to develop sustainably. It notes that urbanisation is one of the most significant global trends, and unless this issue is addressed, cities are in danger of becoming unmanageable. It notes that urbanisation is a particular challenge in small island states and records that much of the urbanisation in the Commonwealth is slum-led and undermines sustainable development. This work was fed into the consultation process of the Open Working Group and submitted to UN Habitat as the UN agency leading on this issue. CAP was invited to attend a civil society consultation in New York in May at which we were given the opportunity to engage with representatives of governments around the urban SDG issue.

The UN Open Working Group on the SDGs has completed its work and CAP’s focus has shifted to advocacy supporting the adoption of the SDG’s. Free live webinars were held explaining the importance of the issue in March 2015 and work to support the adoption will continue. Preparations to enable us to facilitate the capacity building needed to deliver on the SDGs by 2030 is commencing noting the importance of CCGHS and CHOGM in 2015 and Habitat III in 2016 as milestone events to advance this very important agenda. CAP is currently in negotiations to again facilitate a session at the Commonwealth People’s Forum in Malta in 2015.

Other key actions include the sharing of work regarding Planning and Resilience, Food Security and developing a proposed project reviewing Planning Law in the Commonwealth.

This extensive work program undertaken by a largely volunteer network continues to reinforce the importance of sustainable urbanisation and inclusive governance. CAP looks forward to continuing to support the work and Goals of WUC.

Dyan Currie
President
March 2015.

CNJUR REPORT TO WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

Dear team from the WUC:

CNJUR as member of the World Urban Campaign, promote at various events like courses, workshops, conferences and congresses the principles of “The City we Need”, with the target of promoting a strong legal framework for Habitat III. Here is a summary of activities:


REPORT CNJUR.

Establishment of the permanent workshop with 15 city mayors of Orizaba in the State of Veracruz.

From October 2014 to February 2015, has established a working group between CNJUR and the mayors of the Metropolitan Area of Orizaba, Veracruz, and the Metropolitan Intermunicipal Institute for Integral Plan for Sustainable Development of the mountains- (IMPLADIS):

The legal permanent working group has the following objectives:

a) Train officials on the international legal framework on fundamental urban rights and the principles of “The City We Need”.

b) To propose the creation of a Metropolitan Code Intermunicipal. Whereas a single inter-regulation in urban, environmental, rural matters, civil protection and cadastre.

c) Analyze and propose strategies to solve problems that arise in the Metropolitan area of Veracruz of the intermunicipal mountains of Veracruz.
d) Create opportunities for reflection between municipal authorities and CNJUR for the dissemination of the international principles of “The City We Need”.

Workshop “Project of General Law of Cities and Territory”. Riviera Maya.
In February 2015, was held in the city of Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo CNJUR Workshop on the Draft “General Law Cities and Territory”, promoted
by the House of Representatives of the General Congress of the Republic, together with the College of Architects of the Municipality of Solidaridad, Quintana Roo. In this event, consciousness was among professionals of architecture and urbanism of the importance of the legal issues in aspects of Sustainable Mobility, Human Rights, Planning and Urban Design, the procedures for reporting violations Programs Urban Development, among others. Addressed the next principles of the “The City We Need” from the legal means:

The city we need is affordable and promotes the right to the city for all. The city we need is well planned, financed and governed at all level, and The city we need has a human scale and is well planned, walkable, and adequate, accessible, and affordable mobility.

Federal Delegations of SEDATU Metropolitan Workshop, Congress of Puebla, Veracruz.

In February the first Metropolitan Workshop Federal Delegations SEDATU, CNJUR and Commissions Metropolitan Area Congresses Puebla and Tlaxcala was performed.

In this workshop we expressed the need to "strengthen the legal framework to address the metropolitan problems", we proposed the need to harmonize the existing regulatory framework among the States of Puebla and Tlaxcala with the support of CNJUR arises, that is the specialized organization in the field.

Among the findings highlighted the need to create spaces of rapprochement between organized society and public sector actors, to reflect and raise awareness about the importance of the Judiciary in the regulation of metropolitan zone of Puebla and Tlaxcala. Also lay the groundwork for the creation of a legal issue agenda to address the metropolitan problems and make proposals for improving the living conditions of human settlements residing in the Metropolitan Area.
Urban Rights Project Teziutlán 2015

CNJUR establish a Training Program about urban rights of the residents of Teziutlán Puebla.

In conjunction with the Civil Association “Unidos por el Barrio del Carmen”, and CASA MIXTLI – Spa Hotel, it’s proposed to legally develop an Integral Urban Program focusing in human rights and a global vision to improve Barrio Histórico del Carmen, considering cultural, touristic, urban, environmental aspects and a wide social participation.

Similarly, have been realized legal defense actions about cultural rights for Barrio Histórico del Carmen, in the city of Teziutlán Puebla, taking place in Judiciary Courts against urban projects brought by the authorities who pretend to modify the design of the historical site Del Carmen Temple and its public spaces.

In PRECOM2 that will be celebrated in Kenya, CNJUR will explain the methodology to realize Urban Development Programs with emphasis in the Fundamental Human Rights, this methodology will transform the way of urban planning, considering as a territorial model the History Site of Barrio del Carmen, Teziutlán.
Project: Vibrant Economy in metropolitan areas of Mexico.

CNJUR Association of Urban Jurisprudence (Colegio Nacional de Jurisprudencia Urbanística A.C.), in coordination with institutions of center area of Mexico, realized an analysis workshop with the principle “The city we need is economically vibrant”, all of this resulting in the event Urban Thinkers Campus in Caserta, Italy in 2013.

An analysis was realized to know how vibrant the economy in Mexican metropolitan areas is, it was performed by a group of annalist researchers of CNJUR, having as a result that population indicators used to define the hierarchy of each one of the 59 Metropolitan Areas are opposed with the economic activities: a wide population is not equivalent to more economy.

Thank you very much for your valuable attention.

Kind Regards
Colegio Nacional de Jurisprudencia Urbanística

*ECGP*
Serious Gaming

In the beginning of February, Cordaid Urban Matters’ Director Wieger Apperloo met with Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in Nairobi to discuss the continued collaboration on the basis of their new cooperation agreement signed in November last year. After discussing Cordaid’s approach on integrated neighborhood development for slums, our Urban Collaboration Game was successfully demonstrated to the Urban Planning and Designing Branch of UN-Habitat. In the first week of April, Cordaid will facilitate two serious gaming workshops for UN Habitat in Kenya. The first workshop is in the framework of the Global Public Space Programme, aimed at the rehabilitation of Jevanjee Gardens in Nairobi. The second workshop will contribute to building the capacity of County officials and civil society representatives in participatory planning and stakeholder engagement in the framework of the Kenya Municipal Programme.

Urban Resilience in the Philippines

The municipality of Guiuan, Philippines, where Haiyan first made landfall, is a densely populated coastal area. The 2013 typhoon demonstrated the areas’ vulnerability to climate change-related hazards: 42% of the houses were beyond repair, 43% were severely damaged and the remaining 15% had minor damages.

The recovery program of Cordaid in Urban Guiuan is an integrated recovery program (livelihoods, housing, infrastructure, disaster preparedness) that accompanies the communities towards resiliency in the urban context. As a strategy towards community engagement, Cordaid developed a resilience framework and participatory risk assessment tools to assess and develop a community-driven recovery program in an urban context. The community is involved in designing and implementing each step in the program from the development of a plan to its implementation. This includes owner driven permanent housing, community contracting for infrastructure, and formulating their own proposals for livelihood projects. Linking communities with other stakeholders at an early stage to work towards joint planning and shared resource mobilization and innovation to support resilience is vital.

With the support of Cordaid, Trocaire and SHO activities achieved as of March 2015 are for example Community risk mapping (4 barangays); Participatory community needs prioritization; Barangay sectorial visioning workshops; repairing of housing and building of new concrete houses. Currently underway are the building of 62 new typhoon-resilient houses with toilets; improvement of streetlights, pathways and water supply; repair of 232 houses and toilets and livelihood training and capacity building for 15 livelihood organizations.

Additional priorities by the communities are set for housing, business development (livelihoods), sanitation and community infrastructure. For this, additional funding of 53,509,310PHP is needed. We invite you to partner with us in Guiuan on developing resilient neighbourhoods together with the community, local government and other stakeholders involved.
City Park El Salvador: Project on reducing violence

According to the latest Environment & Urbanization Brief from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), urban violence and conflict remain intractable concerns, which continue to escalate in cities across the world.

Ten years ago, there was optimism that violence, like poverty, was a problem solvable through development programs. But today, there is a need to recognize that violence is an integral and intractable part of the current development model. Cities are more spatially divided by fear and insecurity, so the IIED. Furthermore, conflict is increasingly transferring from rural to urban areas, accompanied by changes in focus from ‘fragile states’ to ‘fragile cities’.

The creation of a safe and sparkling City Park in slums – that is Cordaid Urban Matters’ aim for San Salvador. The neighborhood of Mejicanos is riddled by gang violence and deeply stigmatized by the insecurity, crime and presence of gangs. It is a precarious neighborhood with the lack of employment opportunities, public recreational spaces and green areas. The Municipality of Mejicanos has asked Cordaid to assist in a project that satisfies the need for a safe and public space to enhance security and to prevent recidivism among the youth.

Our objectives are to:

- improve the social cohesion, living environment and citizen security in the neighborhood of Mejicanos following a public-private strategy
- improve the public space and the living environment in the surrounding areas
- reduce and manage violence and diminish the delinquency in the area

The construction work of the soccer field and tribune, which has started in mid-October 2014, is in full progress. In the beginning of February we have reached 50% of the progress.

Adressing land issues in Port-au-Prince

The land issue in unplanned urban settings like Villa Rosa in Canape Vert, a neighborhood located in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, is a major obstacle to people who claim the right to land and live in the city. On Wednesday, December 17th, Cordaid, the Local City Council and local associations have organized a ceremony, where 44 residents have received
a ‘Certificate of Legitimate Right’, that will allow residents to pursue further legal steps to receive a land title. The certificates are delivered to residents according to specific criteria, such as living on the land for minimum of twenty years and the land not being an object of claim by other parties.

For two years now Cordaid assists the Local City Council through the ‘Kanape Vè Leve Kanpe’ project in helping citizens to have access to land by granting them a ‘Certificate of Legitimate Right’. To date, 156 of such certificates have been delivered and the overall

Cordaid Urban Matters is working in Port-au-Prince since 2011, where the 2010 earthquake had deteriorated housing conditions. In 2014, we focused on making housing interventions more sustainable through capacity building of residents committees, setting up housing cooperatives and developing a financial scheme for the affordable housing project in Carredeux. Our aim is that by 2015, affordable and high quality houses are built and basic infrastructure created in our areas of intervention. We will support housing cooperatives and partnerships with other stakeholders in urbanization.

**Exploring housing solutions in Addis Abeba**

Inner-city slum redevelopment in Addis Ababa is a hot agenda. It is caught between the urge to satisfy the ever increasing housing demand by the growing urban population and the threat of loss of livelihood by low income families living in the inner cities. City government authorities try to justify that the existing housing schemes, which mainly involve the clearing of dilapidated mud and wood houses and replacing them with four and more storey condominium housing units, are the cheapest and fastest way to accommodate the backlog and ever increasing demand of houses in the city. Cordaid explores alternative inner-city re-development approaches and housing solutions that accommodate the holistic needs of the low income slum-dwellers. So far, we have initiated an integrated inner-city re-development plan for a slum neighborhood in Lideta.

Cordaid Urban Matters understands that the current context in Addis Ababa, with regard to urban development policies and practices, justifies an effort to explore and suggest win-win strategies that are friendlier to low income slum dwellers. Cognizant of this, Cordaid Urban Matters initiated an integrated inner-city re-development and housing plan for a slum neighborhood in Woreda 01 of Lideta sub-city in Addis Ababa. The slum neighborhood of Woreda 01 was targeted based on the assessment conducted by experts from the Institute for
Housing Studies in Rotterdam (IHS) in 2011 to avoid an overlap with the current government plan. Furthermore, IHS identified a required community and local government with a positive attitude and readiness for the integrated urban development approach.

Following the targets, a neighborhood mapping with experts from the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) was conducted to understand the priorities of the local community, in which housing emerged as issue followed by environment, sanitation and youth & unemployment. Cordaid then incorporated the expertise of the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC), a key stakeholder, in the study “Integrated Inner-city Redevelopment Plan in Woreda-01 of Lideta Sub-city of Addis Ababa”. The study constitutes neighborhood reading (diachronic and synchronic analysis), case studies (past practices by different parties) and a proposal of a Local Development Plan. This first phase report was presented to urban development professionals and officials from the Federal Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction, the Addis Ababa City Government and NGOs. The second and final phase of the program development will resume following the approval of the first phase by authorities. The second phase constitutes detailed consultations with policy makers and the slum dwellers, refining the land use and developing neighborhood design (preliminary residential housing typologies, decentralized sanitation design options, adoption of sport facility design, cost estimation etc.), refining financing strategies and management, proposal writing, presentation to local and international stakeholders for funding. Cordaid welcomes interested local and international actors to join this initiative of inclusive slum re-development and urban planning initiatives in Addis Ababa and other cities in developing countries.

Road to Habitat III

Cordaid, with Arcadis, is participating in a working group of the Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs, preparing the Netherlands contribution to Habitat III. This is in a very early stage, at the moment Cordaid and Arcadis are working on developing ideas for an interactive presentation / showcase for this conference.
On March 24, 2015, GUD and Unisinos completed the final report of our World Bank-funded project for the Rio Grande do Sul State Government in Brazil: *21st Century Leapfrog Economic Strategy: Rio Grande do Sul Becomes the Most Sustainable and Innovative Place in Latin America by 2030*, written by Dr. Marc Weiss, Nancy Sedmak-Weiss, and Dr. Elaine Yamashita Rodriguez. Here is the link to our report: [http://www.globalurban.org/2015_RS_LEAPFROG_ECONOMIC_STRATEGY.pdf](http://www.globalurban.org/2015_RS_LEAPFROG_ECONOMIC_STRATEGY.pdf). The UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign is mentioned on page 145. We anticipate considerable implementation activity in RS beginning later this year, and we welcome and encourage the involvement of UN-Habitat and all of the WUC partners in helping this path-breaking strategy to succeed over the next 16 years.

Also, the March 2015 issue of *Built Environment*, a British academic journal, includes an article by Marc Weiss and Erica Schoenberger on “Peter Hall and the Western Urban and Regional Collective at the University of California, Berkeley.” Here is the link: [http://www.globalurban.org/Built_Environment_Peter_Hall_article.pdf](http://www.globalurban.org/Built_Environment_Peter_Hall_article.pdf).

Sir Peter Hall co-founded GUD in September 2001, and then served as GUD’s Vice Chair for nearly 13 years, until he passed away in London on July 30, 2014. This article provides details about the evolution of GUD since 2001 and Peter Hall’s vital leadership role. It also describes how the four pillars of GUD’s Metropolitan Economic Strategy, Sustainable Innovation, and Inclusive Prosperity framework – Urban and Regional Development, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and Innovation – grew directly from the public policy and intellectual paradigm shifts that emerged in Berkeley, the San Francisco Bay Area, and California during the 1970s and 1980s.
The following is an update of the work of HFHI from 1 October 2014 to 4 March 2015.

**MOU signed between Habitat for Humanity and UN-Habitat**

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Jonathan Reckford, CEO of HFHI formalized a global partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote housing solutions worldwide through advocacy, engagement and awareness. The MOU was signed in New York City at UN-Habitat’s Offices on September 22, 2014, following the 1st Preparatory Committee meeting toward the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

**Post 2015 SDGs**

HFHI continues to engage in the Post 2015/SDG process through participation in the monthly UN Post-2015 negotiations in New York and the Communitas Coalition, Cities Alliance and other working groups. HFHI has drafted a white paper on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

HFHI continues to closely monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and is pleased that Goal 11, Target 1 remains focused on the need for adequate and affordable housing. In February, HFHI developed a white paper with recommendations on how best to measure this target. HFHI is also tracking targets related to secure land rights and, in coalition with Landesa, Oxfam and other partners, has signed on to several statements reaffirming the important link between secure land rights and poverty reduction, gender equality, and urbanization. Finally, HFHI is participating in the intergovernmental negotiating sessions in New York City and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

Also in coalition with numerous partners, HFHI continues to promote a petition to the UN in support of making housing a global priority in the Post-2015 agenda. Organizations who are interested in joining the coalition in support of the petition should contact advocacy@habitat.org. Everyone wishing to support the inclusion of housing and human settlements in the Post 2015 agenda is encouraged to sign the petition at:  [http://bit.ly/Post2015Petition](http://bit.ly/Post2015Petition).
**Right to the City**

With its partners, HFHI participated and helped sponsor the “International Meeting on the Right to the City,” aimed at fostering global and local debates on tools and strategies in order to implement the right to the city. The three day meeting took place November 12-14 in Sao Paulo, Brazil and developed a platform of stakeholders that will contribute to Habitat III and the new Urban Agenda. The event was divided into four main topics: 1) Human Rights in the Cities; 2) Participatory and Democratic Governance in the Cities; 3) Urbanization and Sustainable Land Use and Social Inclusion; and 4) Social Inclusion and Economic Development in the Cities. Jane Katz presented on a panel “Right to the City and the Sustainable Development Goals – Post 2015 Development Agenda” with Communitas, HIC, the Brazilian Ministry of Cities, and a representative from Grassroots women (Huairou Commission). Organizing entities included SDI, HFH (Latin America and Caribbean), WIEGO, Cities Alliance, Ford Foundation, HIC, Polis Institutos de Estudos, Brazilian Association of Municipalities, among others.

**Global Housing Indicators**

HFHI, with Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat, Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank launched a Global Housing Indicators (GHI) working group at the Seventh World Urban Forum last year in Medellín. With support from entities such as Global Urban Development, the University of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the GHI working group hopes to increase the number of cities where the GHI has been implemented (GlobalHousingIndicators.org); explore the links between the GHI and other indicators work; and deepen the analyses of housing policy issues. Since the launch the IDB has supported the indicators work on affordable housing with a research grant to conduct the GHI and HOFINET in 19 cities in four countries (Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia) in the Latin America region. HFHI also utilizes the Global Housing Indicators website as a communication platform for housing-related research, publications, and blog posts.

**Regional Housing Forums**

HFHI has organized regional housing forums in Asia, Europe, and Latin America:

*Second Latin America and Caribbean Housing Forum*

In May 2015, HFHI Latin America/Caribbean Region (HFHI LAC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), and Cities Alliance, in collaboration with UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, are hosting the 2nd Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Forum: “Housing for Life”; a space for multi-stakeholders participation from the public and private sectors, and civil society.

The context of discussions will be the new Urban Agenda, and preparatory events towards the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as well as global conferences on sustainability and development. The Forum will convene the voices of leaders across multiple sectors, from regional and national government representatives to private sector,
academia, NGOs and vulnerable groups who are the most disproportionately affected by inadequate housing.

Considering major changes in the dynamics - territorial, demographic, climatic, social, economic, technological, and cultural - that have accelerated the urbanization process worldwide, the 2nd regional Housing Forum seeks to promote policies, strategies and projects that can create more sustainable and equitable urban spaces; raise awareness within the general society concerning appropriate housing and settlements; and the realization of the right to adequate housing and the city.

**Third Europe Housing Forum**
The Europe Housing Forum will be held in November 2015 in Berlin. HFHI Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) in partnership with UNDP, UNECE and IFRC and UN-Habitat is organizing the forum with the title “Helping Set Europe’s Housing Agenda.” The Forum brings together leading housing experts and will seek to surface new thinking about how to successfully address Europe’s housing dilemma through three lenses – affordability, sustainability, and livability. Housing for low income and vulnerable groups is a growing concern in Europe, especially since the financial crisis and the focus on environmental sustainability. The housing forum is intended for policy makers, urban planners, private sector players, utilities, donor agencies, international organizations, and NOGs.

The second ECA Housing forum was held between April 22-24, 2013 in Geneva and the theme was “Promoting Sustainable Housing Futures for All.”

**Asia Pacific Housing Forum**
The Asia-Pacific Housing Forum is a biennial conference organized by HFHI. It gathers under one roof all marketplace actors engaged in seeking solutions to low-income housing issues that make business and economic sense. The fifth annual Housing Forum will be held in Hong Kong from 1-4 September 2015. Three satellite events, taking place in India, Nepal and the Philippines, will run at similar times. All events will be coordinated through the Housing Forum theme of ‘Building Impact’.

The Housing Forum brings together social innovators, entrepreneurs, urban planners, policy-makers, architects, academics, housing sector developers, non-governmental organizations, community based groups, advocates, corporations, international organizations and others. Since its inception in 2007, the Housing Forum has brought together more than 2,000 people from 52 countries.

**Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan**
HFHI attended the Third UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, which was organized by UNISDR. In addition to participating in a number of events, HFHI developed policy recommendations and joined with other civil society organizations in issuing a joint statement on the implementation of the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The new DRR framework must recognize the need for inclusivity and the importance of ensuring the participation of the most at-risk sectors of society such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Implementation of the new framework must go further to recognize the lessons learned from the HFA by promoting a people-centered and human rights-based approach, and by empowering at-risk communities as active decision-makers and managers of risk.

Prepared by Jane Katz, Director of International Affairs and Programs
Habitat for Humanity International
World Urban Campaign Partner Update
Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)

The following is an update of the work of HFHI from 1 October 2014 to 4 March 2015.

MOU signed between Habitat for Humanity and UN-Habitat

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and Jonathan Reckford, CEO of HFHI formalized a global partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote housing solutions worldwide through advocacy, engagement and awareness. The MOU was signed in New York City at UN-Habitat’s Offices on September 22, 2014, following the 1st Preparatory Committee meeting toward the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

Post 2015 SDGs

HFHI continues to engage in the Post 2015/SDG process through participation in the monthly UN Post-2015 negotiations in New York and the Communitas Coalition, Cities Alliance and other working groups. HFHI has drafted a white paper on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

HFHI continues to closely monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and is pleased that Goal 11, Target 1 remains focused on the need for adequate and affordable housing. In February, HFHI developed a white paper with recommendations on how best to measure this target. HFHI is also tracking targets related to secure land rights and, in coalition with Landesa, Oxfam and other partners, has signed on to several statements reaffirming the important link between secure land rights and poverty reduction, gender equality, and urbanization. Finally, HFHI is participating in the intergovernmental negotiating sessions in New York City and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

Also in coalition with numerous partners, HFHI continues to promote a petition to the UN in support of making housing a global priority in the Post-2015 agenda. Organizations who are interested in joining the coalition in support of the petition should contact advocacy@habitat.org. Everyone wishing to support the inclusion of housing and human settlements in the Post 2015 agenda is encouraged to sign the petition at: http://bit.ly/Post2015Petition.
Right to the City

With its partners, HFHI participated and helped sponsor the “International Meeting on the Right to the City,” aimed at fostering global and local debates on tools and strategies in order to implement the right to the city. The three day meeting took place November 12-14 in Sao Paulo, Brazil and developed a platform of stakeholders that will contribute to Habitat III and the new Urban Agenda. The event was divided into four main topics: 1) Human Rights in the Cities; 2) Participatory and Democratic Governance in the Cities; 3) Urbanization and Sustainable Land Use and Social Inclusion; and 4) Social Inclusion and Economic Development in the Cities. Jane Katz presented on a panel “Right to the City and the Sustainable Development Goals – Post 2015 Development Agenda” with Communitas, HIC, the Brazilian Ministry of Cities, and a representative from Grassroots women (Huairou Commission). Organizing entities included SDI, HFH (Latin America and Caribbean), WIEGO, Cities Alliance, Ford Foundation, HIC, Polis Institutos de Estudos, Brazilian Association of Municipalities, among others.

Global Housing Indicators

HFHI, with Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat, Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank launched a Global Housing Indicators (GHI) working group at the Seventh World Urban Forum last year in Medellín. With support from entities such as Global Urban Development, the University of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the GHI working group hopes to increase the number of cities where the GHI has been implemented (GlobalHousingIndicators.org); explore the links between the GHI and other indicators work; and deepen the analyses of housing policy issues. Since the launch the IDB has supported the indicators work on affordable housing with a research grant to conduct the GHI and HOFINET in 19 cities in four countries (Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia) in the Latin America region. HFHI also utilizes the Global Housing Indicators website as a communication platform for housing-related research, publications, and blog posts.

Regional Housing Forums

HFHI has organized regional housing forums in Asia, Europe, and Latin America:

Second Latin America and Caribbean Housing Forum
In May 2015, HFHI Latin America/Caribbean Region (HFHI LAC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), and Cities Alliance, in collaboration with UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, are hosting the 2nd Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Forum: “Housing for Life”; a space for multi-stakeholders participation from the public and private sectors, and civil society.

The context of discussions will be the new Urban Agenda, and preparatory events towards the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as well as global conferences on sustainability and development. The Forum will convene the voices of leaders across multiple sectors, from regional and national government representatives to private sector,
academia, NGOs and vulnerable groups who are the most disproportionately affected by inadequate housing.

Considering major changes in the dynamics - territorial, demographic, climatic, social, economic, technological, and cultural - that have accelerated the urbanization process worldwide, the 2nd regional Housing Forum seeks to promote policies, strategies and projects that can create more sustainable and equitable urban spaces; raise awareness within the general society concerning appropriate housing and settlements; and the realization of the right to adequate housing and the city.

**Third Europe Housing Forum**
The [Europe Housing Forum](https://www.habitat.org) will be held in November 2015 in Berlin. HFHI Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) in partnership with UNDP, UNECE and IFRC and UN-Habitat is organizing the forum with the title “Helping Set Europe’s Housing Agenda.” The Forum brings together leading housing experts and will seek to surface new thinking about how to successfully address Europe’s housing dilemma through three lenses – affordability, sustainability, and livability. Housing for low income and vulnerable groups is a growing concern in Europe, especially since the financial crisis and the focus on environmental sustainability. The housing forum is intended for policy makers, urban planners, private sector players, utilities, donor agencies, international organizations, and NOGs.

The second ECA Housing forum was held between April 22-24, 2013 in Geneva and the theme was “Promoting Sustainable Housing Futures for All.”

**Asia Pacific Housing Forum 4**
The Asia-Pacific Housing Forum is a biennial conference organized by HFHI. It gathers under one roof all marketplace actors engaged in seeking solutions to low-income housing issues that make business and economic sense. The fifth annual Housing Forum will be held in Hong Kong from 1-4 September 2015. Three satellite events, taking place in India, Nepal and the Philippines, will run at similar times. All events will be coordinated through the Housing Forum theme of ‘Building Impact’.

The Housing Forum brings together social innovators, entrepreneurs, urban planners, policy-makers, architects, academics, housing sector developers, non-governmental organizations, community based groups, advocates, corporations, international organizations and others. Since its inception in 2007, the Housing Forum has brought together more than 2,000 people from 52 countries.

**Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan**
HFHI attended the Third UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, which was organized by UNISDR. In addition to participating in a number of events, HFHI developed policy recommendations and joined with other civil society organizations in issuing a joint statement on the implementation of the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The new DRR framework must recognize the need for inclusivity and the importance of ensuring the participation of the most at-risk sectors of society such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Implementation of the new framework must go further to recognize the lessons learned from the HFA by promoting a people-centered and human rights-based approach, and by empowering at-risk communities as active decision-makers and managers of risk.

Prepared by Jane Katz, Director of International Affairs and Programs
Habitat for Humanity International
This report provides a brief overview of Huairou Commission and its Network activities in the period of October 2014-April 2015 related to sustainable cities and human settlements.

The year 2015 marks 20th anniversary of the “Grassroots Tent,” the first physical space controlled by grassroots women during a UN conference, and which served as the inspiration for the founding of the Huairou Commission. Entrusted with monitoring the Habitat II process from a woman’s perspective, the Huairou Commission represented the first organized group of women with a central role to play in the human settlements arena.

HC has since evolved into a global movement for grassroots women’s empowerment in development cutting across diverse themes, sectors, and actors. In particular, we seek to bridge the gap between sustainable local development and the traditional women’s movement. Having advocated and been recognized for its championing of grassroots women’s claiming of strategic spaces within planning and decision making platforms at the local, national, regional and global levels, the Huairou Commission is now working toward building its capacity to take the next step in championing mechanisms which allow grassroots women to act strategically toward the implementation of their upcoming role in the post-2015 development era.

**ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Urban Thinkers Campus, October 15-182, 2014 (Caserta, Italy)**

Huairou Commission and grassroots leaders from GROOTS International participated in the Urban Thinkers Campus in Caserta Italy to facilitate multi-stakeholder exchanges on urban issues, and collectively draft inputs to an updated version of the City We Need. As leaders in the constituency groups of Grassroots Organizations and Women’s organizations, and as the Women’s Representative on the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, Huairou Commission’s delegation advocated for grassroots women’s priorities and formalized roles in urban development in the next iteration of the City We Need. In the next phase of preparing for Habitat III, Huairou Commission will partner with other members of the Habitat III Civil Society Working Group (Municipal Art Society New York, The New School, Sherwood Institute, UPENN, Ford Foundation, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the IAP, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Nature of Cities, J Max Bond Center on Design for Just City, Citiscope) on the Urban Thinkers Campus: NYC Convening on the City We Need (Saturday October 24, 2015).

**Advisory Committee on “Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda” (October 2014)**

As conversations on the global stage shift to debating Means of Implementation, the coalition UNDP, UN-Habitat and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 has convened a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee that will provide recommendations on how local actors should be involved. The Advisory Committee to the “Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda” builds on lessons learned from the MDGs and brings the voices and expertise of local governance stakeholders—including both locally elected officials as well as their communities—to the table as key partners in designing and implementing the sustainable development goals. To achieve truly inclusive, sustainable and gender-responsive development, the international community has recognized that they need the support and meaningful participation of local actors. Given the Huairou’s Commission organized constituencies of grassroots women and their partners, with years of expertise on sustaining local developing initiatives, and the Secretariat’s key contributions to the Open Working Groups through the post-2015 Women’s Coalition, the Women’s Major Group, and Communitas Coalition, Chair Jan Peterson was selected to work closely with other members of the Advisory Board to ensure that grassroots women
are recognized and prioritized as key stakeholders in the sustainable development goals. Ms. Peterson participated in the High Level Dialogue on Localizing the Post-2015 Agenda (October 14-15, 2014) Turin, Italy

**Facilitation of the Habitat III Civil Society Working Group (May 2014-present)**

Evolving from its role in shaping civil society’s meaningful participation in Habitat II, the Huairou Commission is building on these partnership models and organizing strategies to bring together civil society partners from across the world towards Habitat III. This Habitat III Civil Society Working Group, facilitated by Huairou Commission, is a multi-stakeholder planning group that has been meeting on a regular basis since May 2014. Members include urban planners, architects, and professionals, NGOs, academics, urban advocates, community organizers, among others. Between October 2014-April 2015, the Working Group has held bi-monthly meetings and currently includes over 30 active institutions.

**Campaign Launch: Rural Women’s Contributions to Sustainable Development (in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development) (March 11, 2015)**

Over the next year, the Huairou Commission, in collaboration with IFAD, will lead a global campaign bringing together rural women to frame their development priorities in relation to the Post 2015 Development agenda, and highlight particular thematic policy areas, including the rural-urban nexus, food security, and planning and infrastructure. These rural women’s organizations seek to influence those processes accordingly – thereby enhancing ownership and improving outcomes once the agenda is in place. Additionally, it will position rural grassroots women as a constituency with strategic institutions, governments, and influential sectoral stakeholders and increase the documentation and media coverage of rural women’s stories and voices demonstrating their knowledge, skills, and vast constituencies. Rural women will be supported to engage in national workshops with key ministries and other government stakeholders on community priories and targets for securing transformative rural development and press for rural priorities in strategic regional and global Post 2015 Policy and advocacy arenas.

**Events**


Speaking alongside UN and government representatives, the final panelist was Ms. Ana Falu, Women and Habitat Network, chosen as the only Civil Society representative to speak. From Argentina and member of the Huairou Commission, she gave an empowered statement on concerns from the women’s network in Latin America and the feminist political agenda. She focused on women’s issues and social issues that are not sufficiently addressed in the Post-2015 agenda. She stated that we need to know where women are within this urban productivity scenario and emphasized that the new agenda cannot be resolved by elites. We must look at the diversity of local authorities, parliaments and civil society, and all voices must be included in the dialog. Finally, the following priorities were recommended: greater resources for disaggregated data—by gender etc., decentralizing resources by local authorities, the public aspect must prevail over the private, strengthen the voice of civil society, especially for women, who have a decisive role to play.

**Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing +20, March 9-20, 2015 (New York, NY)**

Women Leading the Design and Monitoring of Sustainable Infrastructure (with NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, Sherwood Institute, Women and Habitat Network) DPI NGO-Led Briefing

The roundtable documented the efforts of women’s groups towards inclusive rural and urban development and infrastructure, with specific cases from Chile, Guatemala, and Kenya, with commentary on women as architects and the way forward from UN-Habitat. Speakers discussed (1) the role of women as critical designers, implementers, and monitors of sustainable urban development; (2) the importance of bringing constituencies of grassroots women from rural, peri-urban, and urban areas with proven partnership and organizing methodologies to development planning; and (3) partnerships between networks of women’s organizations and local government and elected officials in support of policies that ensure decentralized decision-making and budgeting are responsive and accountable to communities.
“Habitat III and the City We Need” Side Event (with UN-Habitat, UN Women, Jagori)
This side event highlighted how cities are planned, implemented and used in order to identify the potential inherent in this space for more inclusive and prosperous cities, especially considering urban women and girls, with a view to generate a ‘New Urban Agenda’ for the 21st century. Speakers from Huairou Commission, UN Women, Jagori, and UN-Habitat discussed how cities offer great opportunities for women’s’ empowerment and gender equality. The urban context empowers women to contribute to better, more inclusive cities. Urban planning can help achieve sustainable growth, not only for women and girls, but for societies as a whole. Women have fought for and gained a bigger role in planning, designing, and implementing public spaces, neighborhoods and cities. While women may be voted into positions of leadership, there is still the complexity of developing sustainable cities and the diversity of challenges that come with partnership and accountability.

“Best Practices and Lessons Learned on Implementing and Monitoring Safer Cities for Women and Girls” Side Event (with UN-Habitat, UN Women, Jagori, Plan International, ActionAid, Women and Habitat, WICI)
- Identified factors that contribute positively to advancing gender equality and women's political, social and economic empowerment, mainstreaming women’s and girls’ social, political, cultural and economic human rights in urban planning and policymaking, and to building a safe and inclusive city for all;
- Built consensus around gendered multidimensional tools and approaches to sources of urban vulnerability including economic instability, crime and violence, and susceptibility to natural disasters in the context of climate change; and
- Explored linkages between the review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the New Urban Agenda, Habitat III and the Sustainable Development Goals can be taken forward to develop public spaces for women’s empowerment in the urban development framework.

Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, March 14-18, 2015 (Sendai, Japan)
26 women leaders from Asia, Africa, and Latin America actively participated in WCDRR activities to ensure that grassroots groups organizing for community resilience- such as informal settlement dwellers, subsistence and small farmers, and women-led self-help groups- are positioned as stakeholders and partners in finalizing the HFA 2 policy framework and its means of implementation. Through consistent advocacy in DRR policy framing at the global level, the delegation focused on integrating the sustained role of women and local stakeholders and engaging them fully into planning, designing, implementing and monitoring HFA2. Their advocacy is directly linked to their strong, on-the-ground practices and large constituencies who have been involved in the CPP since it was established in 2009, and involved in the HFA2 process for the past two years of design and negotiation. Members of the CPP have been consistent actors through involvement in the Global Platform and preparatory meetings and negotiations in Geneva, Regional Platforms in Abuja, Nigeria, Bangkok, Thailand and Guayaquil, Ecuador leading up to this World Conference on DRR, and sustained participation in their communities, nations and regions.

RECENTLY DEVELOPED RESOURCES


Websites and further information:
www.huairou.org
@HuairouConnect
THE HUAIROU COMMISSION SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE 12TH WUC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 11-12, 2015
NAIROBI, KENYA

This report provides a brief overview of Huairou Commission and its Network activities in the period of October 2014-April 2015 related to sustainable cities and human settlements.

The year 2015 marks 20th anniversary of the “Grassroots Tent,” the first physical space controlled by grassroots women during a UN conference, and which served as the inspiration for the founding of the Huairou Commission. Entrusted with monitoring the Habitat II process from a woman’s perspective, the Huairou Commission represented the first organized group of women with a central role to play in the human settlements arena.

HC has since evolved into a global movement for grassroots women’s empowerment in development cutting across diverse themes, sectors, and actors. In particular, we seek to bridge the gap between sustainable local development and the traditional women’s movement. Having advocated and been recognized for its championing of grassroots women’s claiming of strategic spaces within planning and decision making platforms at the local, national, regional and global levels, the Huairou Commission is now working toward building its capacity to take the next step in championing mechanisms which allow grassroots women to act strategically toward the implementation of their upcoming role in the post-2015 development era.

ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Urban Thinkers Campus, October 15-182, 2014 (Caserta, Italy)
Huairou Commission and grassroots leaders from GROOTS International participated in the Urban Thinkers Campus in Caserta Italy to facilitate multi-stakeholder exchanges on urban issues, and collectively draft inputs to an updated version of the City We Need. As leaders in the constituency groups of Grassroots Organizations and Women’s organizations, and as the Women’s Representative on the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, Huairou Commission’s delegation advocated for grassroots women’s priorities and formalized roles in urban development in the next iteration of the City We Need. In the next phase of preparing for Habitat III, Huairou Commission will partner with other members of the Habitat III Civil Society Working Group (Municipal Art Society New York, The New School, Sherwood Institute, UPENN, Ford Foundation, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the IAP, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Nature of Cities, J Max Bond Center on Design for Just City, Citiscope) on the Urban Thinkers Campus: NYC Convening on the City We Need (Saturday October 24, 2015).

Advisory Committee on “Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda” (October 2014)
As conversations on the global stage shift to debating Means of Implementation, the coalition UNDP, UN-Habitat and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 has convened a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee that will provide recommendations on how local actors should be involved. The Advisory Committee to the “Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda” builds on lessons learned from the MDGs and brings the voices and expertise of local governance stakeholders—including both locally elected officials as well as their communities—to the table as key partners in designing and implementing the sustainable development goals. To achieve truly inclusive, sustainable and gender-responsive development, the international community has recognized that they need the support and meaningful participation of local actors. Given the Huairou’s Commission organized constituencies of grassroots women and their partners, with years of expertise on sustaining local developing initiatives, and the Secretariat’s key contributions to the Open Working Groups through the post-2015 Women’s Coalition, the Women’s Major Group, and Communitas Coalition, Chair Jan Peterson was selected to work closely with other members of the Advisory Board to ensure that grassroots women
are recognized and prioritized as key stakeholders in the sustainable development goals. Ms. Peterson participated in the High Level Dialogue on Localizing the Post-2015 Agenda (October 14-15, 2014) Turin, Italy

Facilitation of the Habitat III Civil Society Working Group (May 2014-present)
Evolving from its role in shaping civil society’s meaningful participation in Habitat II, the Huairou Commission is building on these partnership models and organizing strategies to bring together civil society partners from across the world towards Habitat III. This Habitat III Civil Society Working Group, facilitated by Huairou Commission, is a multi-stakeholder planning group that has been meeting on a regular basis since May 2014. Members include urban planners, architects, and professionals, NGOs, academics, urban advocates, community organizers, among others. Between October 2014-April 2015, the Working Group has held bi-monthly meetings and currently includes over 30 active institutions.

Campaign Launch: Rural Women’s Contributions to Sustainable Development (in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development) (March 11, 2015)
Over the next year, the Huairou Commission, in collaboration with IFAD, will lead a global campaign bringing together rural women to frame their development priorities in relation to the Post 2015 Development agenda, and highlight particular thematic policy areas, including the rural-urban nexus, food security, and planning and infrastructure. These rural women’s organizations seek to influence those processes accordingly – thereby enhancing ownership and improving outcomes once the agenda is in place. Additionally, it will position rural grassroots women as a constituency with strategic institutions, governments, and influential sectoral stakeholders and increase the documentation and media coverage of rural women’s stories and voices demonstrating their knowledge, skills, and vast constituencies. Rural women will be supported to engage in national workshops with key ministries and other government stakeholders on community priorities and targets for securing transformative rural development and press for rural priorities in strategic regional and global Post 2015 Policy and advocacy arenas.

Events

President of the General Assembly’s High-level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, February 10, 2015 (New York, NY)
Speaking alongside UN and government representatives, the final panelist was Ms. Ana Falu, Women and Habitat Network, chosen as the only Civil Society representative to speak. From Argentina and member of the Huairou Commission, she gave an empowered statement on concerns from the women’s network in Latin America and the feminist political agenda. She focused on women’s issues and social issues that are not sufficiently addressed in the Post-2015 agenda. She stated that we need to know where women are within this urban productivity scenario and emphasized that the new agenda cannot be resolved by elites. We must look at the diversity of local authorities, parliaments and civil society, and all voices must be included in the dialog. Finally, the following priorities were recommended: greater resources for disaggregated data- by gender etc., decentralizing resources by local authorities, the public aspect must prevail over the private, strengthen the voice of civil society, especially for women, who have a decisive role to play.

Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing +20, March 9-20, 2015 (New York, NY)
Women Leading the Design and Monitoring of Sustainable Infrastructure (with NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, Sherwood Institute, Women and Habitat Network) DPI NGO-Led Briefing
The roundtable documented the efforts of women’s groups towards inclusive rural and urban development and infrastructure, with specific cases from Chile, Guatemala, and Kenya, with commentary on women as architects and the way forward from UN-Habitat. Speakers discussed (1) the role of women as critical designers, implementers, and monitors of sustainable urban development; (2) the importance of bringing constituencies of grassroots women from rural, peri-urban, and urban areas with proven partnership and organizing methodologies to development planning; and (3) partnerships between networks of women’s organizations and local government and elected officials in support of policies that ensure decentralized decision-making and budgeting are responsive and accountable to communities.
“Habitat III and the City We Need” Side Event (with UN-Habitat, UN Women, Jagori)

This side event highlighted how cities are planned, implemented and used in order to identify the potential inherent in this space for more inclusive and prosperous cities, especially considering urban women and girls, with a view to generate a ‘New Urban Agenda’ for the 21st century. Speakers from Huairou Commission, UN Women, Jagori, and UN-Habitat discussed how cities offer great opportunities for women’s’ empowerment and gender equality. The urban context empowers women to contribute to better, more inclusive cities. Urban planning can help achieve sustainable growth, not only for women and girls, but for societies as a whole. Women have fought for and gained a bigger role in planning, designing, and implementing public spaces, neighborhoods and cities. While women may be voted into positions of leadership, there is still the complexity of developing sustainable cities and the diversity of challenges that come with partnership and accountability.

“Best Practices and Lessons Learned on Implementing and Monitoring Safer Cities for Women and Girls” Side Event (with UN-Habitat, UN Women, Jagori, Plan International, ActionAid, Women and Habitat, WiCI)

- Identified factors that contribute positively to advancing gender equality and women's political, social and economic empowerment, mainstreaming women’s and girls’ social, political, cultural and economic human rights in urban planning and policymaking, and to building a safe and inclusive city for all;
- Built consensus around gendered multidimensional tools and approaches to sources of urban vulnerability including economic instability, crime and violence, and susceptibility to natural disasters in the context of climate change; and
- Explored linkages between the review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the New Urban Agenda, Habitat III and the Sustainable Development Goals can be taken forward to develop public spaces for women’s empowerment in the urban development framework.

Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, March 14-18, 2015 (Sendai, Japan)

26 women leaders from Asia, Africa, and Latin America actively participated in WCDRR activities to ensure that grassroots groups organizing for community resilience- such as informal settlement dwellers, subsistence and small farmers, and women-led self-help groups- are positioned as stakeholders and partners in finalizing the HFA 2 policy framework and its means of implementation. Through consistent advocacy in DRR policy framing at the global level, the delegation focused on integrating the sustained role of women and local stakeholders and engaging them fully into planning, designing, implementing and monitoring HFA2. Their advocacy is directly linked to their strong, on-the-ground practices and large constituencies who have been involved in the CPP since it was established in 2009, and involved in the HFA2 process for the past two years of design and negotiation. Members of the CPP have been consistent actors through involvement in the Global Platform and preparatory meetings and negotiations in Geneva, Regional Platforms in Abuja, Nigeria, Bangkok, Thailand and Guayaquil, Ecuador leading up to this World Conference on DRR, and sustained participation in their communities, nations and regions.

RECENTLY DEVELOPED RESOURCES


Websites and further information:
www.huairou.org
@HuairouConnect
Since Penn IUR’s last report to the WUC Steering Committee, we have been engaged in the following activities that promote the World Urban Campaign. Below is a summary of selected and representative activities. To see a complete record please refer to the Penn IUR website: [http://penniur.upenn.edu/](http://penniur.upenn.edu/)

**Launch of two websites:**
**Global Urban Commons:**
Launched in October 2014 (and to be amplified in April 2015), the Global Urban Commons is a knowledge-sharing platform with more than 200 members, urban-focused research centers, that aims to connect research streams, increase the opportunities for collaboration and offer a broad stream of information. The concept evolved over time through three convenings. The ideas for such a website emerged at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Global Urban Summit in July 2007. It was further developed at a seminar hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Economist Intelligence Unit and Penn IUR at a second seminar held in 2013 as part of the Visionaries Unbound Series. The third meeting, held in 2014, entitled Sustainable Urbanization, Place Matters Summit attended by 50 international urban-focused scholars confirmed the need for the platform.
[http://globalurbancommons.org/](http://globalurbancommons.org/)

**Sustainable Communities Indicator Catalog (SCIC):**
Launched in October 2014, the SCIC is a product of the partnership between Penn IUR and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) (US Department of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation and the US Environmental Protection Agency) funded by the Ford Foundation. This catalog assists communities adhering to the PSC Livability Principles, to benchmark and monitor progress. It is a web-based interactive tool with background and instructions on 30+ indicators to be selected by communities.

**Conference: Urban Women’s Health in the United Nation’s Post 2015 Agenda**
See the video at [http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/urban-womens-health-in-the-united-nations-post-2015-agenda](http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/urban-womens-health-in-the-united-nations-post-2015-agenda)

On December 3, Penn IUR collaborated with the Center for Global Women’s Health at Penn Nursing to host a conference that examined proposed targets for global women’s health. In particular, the conference included an expert roundtable and panel discussion to examine the
proposed targets and indicators for urban women’s health and well-being to be put forward in upcoming Framework for the United Nations’ Post-2015 Agenda, known also as the Sustainable Development Goals. These speakers addressed a broad array of women’s health issues of growing concern, including health care opportunities in developing countries; the shift in gender norm’s and their impacts on women’s health; urban versus rural sexual and reproductive health; including social issues like sexual debut; and the importance of analytical data to inform the policy conversations about women’s health.

This event showcased the following speakers. Vivian Pinn, Former Director, Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH), National Institutes of Health (NIH) addressed the importance of gender equity and collaboration and shared her vast knowledge of the history of women in the medical profession. Shamim Hayder Talukder, CEO, Eminence – Associates for Social Development and President Elect, International Society for Urban Health, spoke to the emerging place for women in the growth and economic development of Bangladesh. Nisha D. Botchwey, Associate Professor, School of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Architecture, emphasized the need for built environment data next to health data for better decision-making and highlighted the demographic and gender differences in medical data. Nithya Raman, Project Director, Transparent Chennai, Centre for Development Finance (Chennai, India), explained many critical sanitation-related problems in India as it rapidly develops and stressed the importance of supporting advocacy, practice, and change. Bridgette Brawner, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Penn School of Nursing, discussed the emerging concept of “geo behavioral vulnerability” and showed how geographic proximity to various urban elements, such as brownfields or major transportation hubs, can dramatically impact health vulnerabilities. Yvette Lanier, Assistant Professor, New York University, College of Nursing, Center for Global Women’s Health, discussed the disparities among women based on demographics and their sexual and reproductive health, defining the idea of a sexual debut and how such events influence future reproductive health outcomes for urban women. Catherine McDonald, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Penn School of Nursing spoke about the different vulnerabilities women face in middle income countries related to traffic deaths and how health impacts vary based on urban indicators, demographics, and country characteristics.

Eugenie Birch, Lawrence C. Nussdorff Professor of Urban Research and Education; Chair of the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning; Co-Director, Penn IUR; and Marilyn Sommers, Director, Center for Global Women’s Health and the Lillian S. Brunner Professor of Medical-Surgical Nursing, Penn Nursing, both moderated the panels. Each guided their panel’s to negotiate important questions in the built environment and in the medical sector. The event also welcomed opening remarks from Antonia Villarruel, Dean, Penn Nursing, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, and Afaf Meleis, Professor of Nursing and Sociology, Dean Emerita, Penn Nursing, who each discussed important changing elements in women’s health, such as the correlation of women’s changing social role and health-related impacts and where the future of women’s health research must explore.

Publications: Urban Link, Penn IUR’s monthly publication featured the following:
January 31, 2015 Will the Battle for Sustainability Be Won or Lost in Cities
A discussion of the SDGs by international experts
http://penniur.upenn.edu/publications/will-the-battle-for-sustainability-be-won-or-lost-in-cities
February 10 The World’s Largest Demolition
A discussion of housing construction in Shenzhen Economic Zone in China
http://penniur.upenn.edu/publications/the-worlds-largest-urban-demolition

March 19 Feeding Urban Communities: A Look at Disparities in Food Access and Nutritional Consumption
A discussion of food security in low income communities.
http://penniur.upenn.edu/publications/feeding-urban-communities-disparities

Leadership Activities

Penn IUR co-Director Eugenie L. Birch has been active in support of various activities related to the campaign for Goal 11 (Make Cities and human settlements safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable). She has spoken at numerous side events associated with the Framework deliberations at the UN, in Washington DC, on webinars, and in writing. The U.S. Department of State invited her to be a member of the US National Committee for Habitat III.
The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development (PFVT) is the platform for exchange and promotion of French expertise in urban development at the international level.

Launched in June 2011 at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI), along with the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE) and the Ministry of Housing and Territorial Equality and Rurality (MLETR) and Yves Dauge, a former senator. It is a federation of some one hundred organizations representing the diversity of French urban expertise. It includes representatives of the State, public institutions, local authorities, professionals, businesses, academic partners and non-governmental organizations.

The PFVT coordinates the development of strategies and the participation of French actors in the international debate, and also promotes French urban expertise in response to the requests of partner cities and States in developing and emerging countries.

THE PFVT’S ACTIVITIES

• BUILDING A SHARED FRENCH VISION

On the basis of shared experiences within working groups, the PFVT develops French positions as well as recommendations for improving practices in the area of sustainable urban development. After "strategic urban planning," "access to service for all and support for decentralization process" and "local public project contracting," in 2014, the PFVT working groups focus on : Revitalizing Heritage Cities and Cities and Climate Change.

Based on a workshop Culture in the city: architectures, heritages and identities, French positions will be published in close liaison with the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The PFVT Cities and Climate Change working group is part of international agenda on sustainable city. The capitalisation and dissemination of effective and acknowledged French expertise in the fight against climate change (mitigation and adaptation), is a key catalyst for action.

• PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH ACTORS IN NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The PFVT federates the activities of the French delegation to international events in order to enhance the integration of urban and territorial issues in the world agenda. Among international event held in 2014, the PFVT has participated at the 7th World Urban Forum.

The 7th World Urban Forum session was held in 2014 in Colombia on Urban Equity in Development - Cities for life. Coordinated by the PFVT, the French delegation was particularly active in the parallel sessions (13 networking events, 1 side event and 3 training events). In the France Pavilion, players presented their experiences of sustainable urban development, through exhibitions, workshops, films and documents.
UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Organisation of the stakeholder consultation: The PFVT was mandated by its co-chairs to organise the consultation of French urban stakeholders around the France-Habitat III report. A national consultation meeting made it possible to garner the comments of French players in the urban field and supplement the France report. Other actions are continuing in 2015 to mobilise French players in the urban field in preparation of Habitat III. Follow us: www.pfvt.fr

- PROMOTING FRENCH URBAN EXPERTISE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The PFVT’s mission is to promote French urban expertise at the international level (capacity reinforcement, project management, support for the governance process, urban planning) while emphasizing enhancement of the skills of PFVT members in conjunction with action undertaken in the framework of economic diplomacy. In this framework, the technical secretariat:
- organizes meetings with foreign delegations in liaison with embassies and economic services;
- promotes French expertise in response to requests from partners.

Follow up the workshop organised by the Ateliers de Cergy in 2013, a delegation from the Local Urban Planning Institute (IMPLAN) of León (Mexico) came in France in 2014. On this occasion, the PFVT presented the French expertise in response to requests from the Institute of Leon. Since these meeting, many contacts were pursued.

PFVT monitoring is performed by the Nature Housing and Development Documentary Resource Centre (CRDALN) of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and the Ministry of Housing and Equal Territories. Distributed once or twice monthly, it is mainly focused on the countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It covers the following topics: Urban Planning, Environment and Climate, Water, Waste, Land, Housing, Heritage, Human Development, Economics, Transportation.

Follow us on www.pfvt.fr
During this year, Practical Action has continued to move forward with our new strategic focus in which urban services (WASH and waste management) are a major thematic area. This combines with our existing strengths in terms of participatory approaches to planning, budgeting and social audits. We have grown the total amount and proportion of our project budgets focused on this area to now account for 15% of the total, with a target of 20% by 2017.

Operationally, we are increasingly being recognised for our work around urban sanitation and in particular for our focus on faecal sludge management. This has attracted support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in both Bangladesh and India. In Bangladesh, we are working in the town of Faridpur, using value chains to support the involvement of the existing informal sector in improving the FSM situation. We have also been asked to lead the development of a national FSM regulatory framework.

Secondly, we continue to develop our expertise in the area of urban CLTS, and in particular in terms of what it requires to achieve ODF status in urban slum communities. We have just completed a 3-year project in Nakuru, Kenya, using CLTS approaches to generate a huge transformation of the sanitation situation for 190,000 people. The only thing holding back the formal verification and declaration of ODF in much of this area is the requirement for hand-washing at the point of the toilet rather than in the home, which is problematic for urban areas. Similarly in Nepal we are using CLTS in the municipality of Gulariya, supporting the whole municipality towards its goal of becoming ODF by the end of 2015.

Thirdly an important segment of our project work is focusing on making space for the informal sector as key players in urban service delivery. This relates to our work with waste pickers in Nepal and Kenya. For example, capacity building of waste pickers in the city of Kisumu enabled them to resist the undermining of their business and markets by opposing the issuing of an exclusive license to a major international company.

Finally, we continue to work on participatory planning and budgeting. We are working at the city-wide level to ensure the voices of poor slum dwellers are heard and budgets allocated to meet their needs. This spans 6 towns in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and is being rolled out in another 3-4 towns in Bangladesh. At the national level in Bangladesh, we are working to influence the ways in which national budgets for municipalities are allocated to make
them more responsive, and to reward municipalities who perform best in terms of serving poor communities. In Kisumu, Kenya, we continue to support neighbourhood planning associations who are dealing with the new institutional framework of county governments. Our continuing association with University College London’s Development Planning Unit has supported this, through a field visit and excellent subsequent report.

We are committed to engaging nationally and globally with both the urban sector, and with the WASH community. We successfully engaged in the SacoSan V conference in Nepal, lobbying for greater inclusion of the needs of the urban poor in the final declaration. Our presentations were on issues including our approach to ODF+, city-wide upgrading, and FSM. In Bangladesh, we are active members of the Bangladesh Urban Forum – which tries to replicate the World Urban Forum and its discussions at the national level. We are key members of three clusters, one of which has been charged with completing the National Status Report for the Habitat III conference.

In Nepal we are part of the national campaign to ensure the human right to sanitation is included as part of the new national constitution. Similarly in Kenya we are members of a number of national technical committees on WASH and urban planning.

Dr Lucy Stevens
Senior Policy and Practice Adviser
Urban Services and Energy
A. Steering Committee & its sub-committees and working groups
   a. Participation in previous Steering Committee meeting.
   b. SDI has, in partnership with WIEGO & Huairou Commission, submitted inputs to drafts of The City We Need.
   c. SDI has made application for chair / co-chair of WUC GAP grassroots group in partnership with WIEGO.

B. World Urban Campaign events
   a. Rose Molokoane, deputy president of SDI, participated as a panelist at the World Urban Campaign event at WUF 7.
   b. SDI participated in the first Urban Thinkers Campus in Caserta, Italy and will be co-hosting two of the upcoming UTC events in 2015.
   c. SDI hosted and participated in a number of side events at World Urban Forum 7 that served as inclusive platforms for critical engagement between organizations of the urban poor. We will do so again at the upcoming Habitat III PrepCom2 where SDI is hosting and participating in side events as well as an outside event on public spaces and the urban poor, and a grassroots leadership exchange, all in partnership with other organizations of the urban poor.

C. Knowledge sharing
   a. SDI actively shares its work on the SDI blog, Facebook page, and Twitter account.
   b. SDI is currently engaged in a re-design of our web presence in order to streamline our messaging.
   c. SDI's development of the Know Your City brand ahead of WUF 7 has been a very powerful messaging tool, allowing us to clearly communicate the key role of community-collected data in the creation of active partnerships between organized communities of the urban poor and local governments that produce inclusive urban development.
   d. In the past year, SDI has produced a few key pieces of documentation, including:
      i. 2013 – 2014 SDI Annual Report
      ii. Know Your City Kampala Slum Profiling Report
      iii. Academic articles on SDI’s work
      iv. Know Your City website (still in beta form)
      v. Know Your City documentation for World Urban Forum
      vi. 2014 – 2015 SDI Annual Report

D. Collaboration with UN Habitat programmes
   a. Slum upgrading program: SDI continues to be engaged in incremental slum upgrading programs in cities across Africa and Asia.
   b. Global Land Tools Network: SDI is the chair of the Urban CSO partners of GLTN. In this capacity it is currently implementing the GLTN urban cluster work plan on land tenure in collaboration with other urban CSO partners that include Habitat for Humanity, African Association of Planning Schools and the Asian Coalition on Housing Rights. In addition, SDI sits in the International Advisory Board of GLTN board as well as the Advisory Committee of the Social Tenure Domain Model.
ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE LABORATORY ON CREATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CITY

(Luigi Fusco Girardi - Director)

The Laboratory on Creative and Sustainable City/ Centro di Ricerca in Urbanistica Calza Bini - Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II is a Lead Partner of the UN - World Urban Campaign.

It has contributed to the WUC activities during the period 1th October 2014- 4th March 2015 through these specific initiatives:

A) Urban Thinker Campus participation - Caserta 15-18 October 2014:

A.1) Welcome Session : Academia and research towards a new urban paradigm (See the Report of the First Urban Thinkers Campus, The City We Need- zero draft)

A.2) Research and Academia Session: Co-chair of the Session, with Eugenie Birch (Chair) (See the Report)

A.3) The City We Need Debate : Laboratory on Hybrid Landscape as Engine of Local Economic Development(See the Report)

B) Towards a Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable City: Approaches and Tools, BDC Journal Special Issue, n 14,vol 2,2014 on the 11th (with papers about tools for implementing the 11th SDG’s, see attachment)

C) International Workshop "Towards Operationalizing UNESCO Recommentations on Historic Urban Landscape, 2-3 th March 2015, Naples (See Attachment- programme), with the official Award Ceremony of the International Prize for PHD Dissertation on "Innovative Methods and Tools for Making Resilient, Creative and Sustainable Cities" ( with UN Habitat)
Since the last World Urban Campaign Steering Committee meeting, the World Future Council (WFC) has contributed to the dissemination of best policies and practices for regenerative urban development by engaging directly with policy makers as well as by providing a platform for knowledge exchange and dialogue between multiple stakeholder groups.

After a delegation from the City of Kampala, Uganda participated in the Future of Cities Forum in Hamburg, the WFC established a partnership with the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). Under the banner of ‘Making the case for regenerative urban development in East Africa, the KCCA organized and hosted a Future of Cities Forum in Kampala in October 2014. Over 200 mayors, ministers, governors and experts came together to discuss how to ensure that a rapidly urbanising East Africa is developing in a regenerative way. The Forum was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Uganda. The WFC continues to collaborate with the KCCA on policy recommendations for the implementation of local strategies.

The WFC is committed to bringing together policy makers and various stakeholders from around the world to meet and exchange knowledge on best tools and practices to achieve a regenerative vision. From Casablanca to Milton Keynes and from Beijing to Calgary, mayors, town councillors, local administrators, researchers, practitioners, communicators and urban planners from around the world put their heads together at the two-day Future of Cities Forum in Munich, Germany in October 2014 to debate what leadership and participation really look like in cities, share their experiences of building bridges with other urban stakeholders, and explore the factors that create long-term visions for regenerative cities.

In addition, a new report titled ‘Imagine a Regenerative City’ was published jointly by the WFC and Energy Cities in 2015, which explores in detail the essential building blocks to enabling the local regenerative transition. The report identifies six key recommendations that are essential to ensuring a just and effective transition towards regenerative urban development.

Lastly, together with the Global 100% Renewable Energy campaign partners, the WFC is developing common criteria, indicators and a definition of 100% renewable energy in local governments to measure performance and progress which will be tested by local. Based on this, it will establish a global network of local governments that are committed to 100% renewable energy.