



Know Your City: building the future of the cities we want

A joined side event at the

ECOSOC Integration Segment 'Sustainable Urbanization' (27-29 May, 2014)

Hosted by United Cities and Local Government Africa (UCLG-A), Shack/Slum Dwellers International and the Cities Alliance

27 May, 13:15-14:30

Room C - Conference Building UN Headquarters, New York

Urbanization can be a powerful tool for the transformation of entire countries and societies. Finding inclusive solutions to rapid urbanization and urban growth offers governments and communities a unique opportunity to lay the foundations for a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Realizing this transformation requires however a smart, concerted and partnership oriented approach between all development partners, such as between national and local governments, communities, formal and informal private sector, academia and media.

Building these partnerships in rapidly changing environments, especially in cities in Sub Saharan Africa, is an extra-ordinary challenge. The majority of citizens in these cities live in poor and unplanned neighbourhoods with difficulties to access basic services, fortifying socio-economic divisions with the city. Incomplete or out-dated information about the living conditions, service needs and interest representations in informal settlements is significantly undermining the capacity to plan ahead. Consequently, local policies and planning regimes often ignore or unsatisfactorily address the social and economic deficits that residents in slums experience leading to increased mistrust between communities and local authorities.

This side event will shed light on a successful approach on how to create partnerships between local governments and communities to better understand the needs of growing cities and their citizens. The Know Your City Programme, jointly implemented by United Cities and Local Governments Africa and Shack/ Slum Dweller International and supported by the Cities Alliance, addresses the urgent need to recognize that informal settlements are a part of the city and that the urban poor communities must be included in the planning and the provision of public services. Practical examples will be shared by representatives and experts how partnerships for community-collected data at the citywide and global scale are being built and how data collected by the poor, about the poor and for the poor can become standard benchmarking data used by urban policy makers and planners.

Panel

Facilitator: Josep Roig, UCLG Secretary General

Panellists:

Ms. Skye Dobson, Programme Officer, Shack/ Slum Dwellers International

Mr. Amiri Nondo, Mayor of Morogoro, Tanzania

Ms. Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, President of the association of districts of Victoria and UCLG Co-President

Mr. Rene Peter Hohmann, Senior Urban specialist, Cities Alliance Secretariat

Ms Carolina Cavalcanti, Brazilian Ministry of Cities, National Secretary for Urban Programme

Facilitator

Josep Roig is the Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments since September 2011. He is a founding member of Metropolis, the metropolitan section of UCLG, in 1985, becoming Secretary General of the organization in 1999.

Josep Roig has held the posts of lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Economics of the University of Barcelona (1977-1985) and Director General of the University of Barcelona (1990-1994). Graduated in economics by the University of Barcelona (1967-1972) and Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Southern California (1974-1977)



Panellists

Skye Dobson is Program Officer at Slum Dwellers International involved in the work of the National Slum Dwellers Federations of Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Botswana, and Swaziland. These federations are but five of the 34 national federations that make up the SDI network. Skye Dobson holds a Bachelor's degree in African Studies and speaks Kiswahili.



Amiri Nondo is the Mayor of Morogoro, Tanzania. Besides being Lord Mayor of Morogoro, Mr. Nondo is also a board member of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT). From 2005 to 2010, he was Deputy Mayor of Morogoro. In May 2013, he was designated as local government development cooperation champion by the UCLG CIB Working Group. Mr Nondo holds a Bachelor degree in Political Science and Public Administration and a Master degree in Human Resources.



Jacqueline Moustache-Belle is the Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles and President of the Association of the Districts of Victoria since 2012. In October 2013, she was elected Co-President of UCLG.

Jacqueline Moustache-Belle studied journalism, radio and television production in France, in the United States and in Mauritius. She has worked in the Ministry of Planning and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Transport, Seychelles Broadcasting Company and National Arts Council.



Rene Peter Hohmann is a Senior Urban Specialist at the Cities Alliance Secretariat and holds a PhD in Geography from King's College London and a Master's degree in Social Sciences from Humboldt University in Berlin. He has worked as an Urban Specialist for GIZ GmbH for 10 years and was part of numerous national government and project appraisal missions in South East Asia, MENA Region and Sub-Sahara Africa. He is particular interested in pro-poor urban development approaches and urban policy frameworks in multi-level government systems.

