Local and Regional Governments: Priorities for Habitat III
16 September 2014 – 09:00-13:00
Room 5, General Assembly Building, UN HQ

The Global Taskforce, gathering all the main global, regional and thematic networks of Local and Regional Governments, will be co-organizing an event at the UN Headquarters in collaboration with the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, DESA. In the follow up of the first ECOSOC Integration Segment on sustainable urbanization, political representatives will present views on the implementation of Habitat II, discuss the links between the SDGs and Habitat III and set out their priorities for the Habitat III agenda.

09:00 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations
Vice-President of ECOSOC

Ms. Jacqueline Moustache-Belle
Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles
President of the Association of the Districts of Victoria
Co-President of UCLG

Mr. Lawrence Yule
Mayor of Hastings, New Zealand
President of Local Government New Zealand
Chairperson of CLGF

H.E. Mr. Joan Clos, Secretary General of the Habitat III Conference and Executive Director of UN Habitat

09:30 – ROUND TABLE 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND HABITAT III

The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 will be a key moment for the International Agenda of Local and Regional Governments, as it will be charged with the definition of a shared vision of the “New Urban Agenda”, and will most probably define many of the implementation mechanisms of the 2015 Summit Resolutions and Sustainable Development Goals at local level.

This round table will look into the possibilities opened up by the Open Working Group’s proposal for a set of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11: “Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”; which will be presented to the Member States for adoption before the end of the year. How this will impact Local and Regional Governments, and how to ensure we are provided with the capacities to contribute to the achievement of the goal, shall be discussed. The localization of targets and indicators will also be examined.
Facilitator: Mr. Carl Wright, Secretary General of CLGF

Mr. Khalifa Sall
Mayor of Dakar, Senegal
President of UCLG Africa

Mr. Mauricio Rodas
Mayor of Quito, Ecuador

Mr. Michael Müller
Mayor of Berlin, Senator for Urban Development and the Environment, Berlin, Germany
Vice-President of Metropolis

Mr. Ronan Dantec
Councilor, Nantes Metropole, France
UCLG Climate spokesperson

Mr. Rod Naylor
General Manager at Veolia Water North America

10:30 – ROUND TABLE 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF HABITAT II

The round table will explore what has effectively been done from Habitat II up to now: the legacy of Habitat II, what has worked versus the elements that are lagging behind, and the gaps that can be identified.

Local and regional leaders will discuss the implementation of institutional partnerships and the joint campaigns of the international community and local and regional authorities, as well as the implementation of the charter on local self-government and the guidelines on decentralization and basic services around the world.

The round table will seek to evaluate the progress made with regard to access to basic services in urban areas, as well as the proportion of slums found in these zones.

Panelists will share how they have effectively contributed to Habitat II, as well as their experiences and policies from the point of view of their governments. Case studies and insights of the Reports of the Global Observatory on Local Democracy will be showcased.

Facilitator: Mr. Alain Le Saux, Secretary General of Metropolis

Mr. Amiri Nondo
Mayor of Morogoro, Tanzania
UCLG Champion for Development Cooperation

Mr. Manuel Salgado
Deputy-Mayor of Lisbon

Mr. Roger Anderson
Regional Chair for the Municipality of Durham, Ontario, Canada

Mr. Richard Kemp
City Councillor, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Advisor, Local Government Association for England & Wales

Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi (tbc)
UN Secretary General Envoy on Youth
11:30 – ROUND TABLE 3: PRIORITIES FOR AN URBAN AND TERRITORIAL AGENDA

The third round table will explore the challenges and priorities of local and regional authorities for the next two decades. The emerging issues that should be considered at the Habitat III Conference and the priorities of the new urban and territorial agenda will be identified.

Panelists will share their views on the key priorities for their cities, associations or regions, focusing primarily on the issues of decentralization and governance related to cities and human settlements in all countries (legal and institutional environment, multilevel governance), financing urbanization (local finance and fiscal decentralization) and strategic urban planning (including land management).

Participants will advocate for a territorial approach as being crucial to the New Urban Agenda, and stress how urbanization can contribute to national development. Participants will discuss how National Urban Policies based on territorial management plans are critical to ensuring the sustainability of cities’ growth and equity.

The round table will aim to identify the core pillars of a new urban and territorial agenda, which should be based on joint ownership, good and transparent governance, and participatory decision-making, including consulting citizens and a clear division of responsibilities among local authorities, as well as between local and national governments.

The round table will also pay special attention to local economic development, culture, climate change and resilience.

Facilitator: Mr. Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of CEMR

Ms. Annemarie Jorritsma
Mayor of Almere, Netherlands
President of Council of European Municipalities and Regions
President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)
Vice-President of UCLG

Mr. Maria Mercedes Maldonado
Secretary of Habitat, Bogotá, Colombia

Mr. Fernando de Mello Franco
Secretary of Urban Development, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Representative of Fernando Haddad, Mayor of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Ms. Jan Peterson
Chair of the Coordinating Council of the Huairou Commission

12:30 - Wrap-up and Conclusion

Mr. Josep Roig, Secretary General of UCLG