



HABITAT III CONFERENCE REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR EVENT HOSTS AT THE ONE UN PAVILION

Deadline: 7 days after the event

Please send via e-mail: habitat3secretariat@un.org, cc habitat3untt@un.org

Name of Rapporteur:	Mary Dibo, Anne Idukitta
Event title:	Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI). Global meeting of Universities
Date:	20 th October 2015
Time:	01:00 PM - 02:30 PM
Room:	Venue: Room B - One UN Pavilion
Name of leading organizing UN agency:	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of the UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)
Contact Person (<i>Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number</i>)	Fuentenebro, Pablo Associate Programme Officer Environmental Education and Training Unit UNEP – DEPI Pablo.Fuentenebro@unep.org Phone: 254-20-7623195
Name of organizing partnering UN Agencies or Institution(s), with their respective bases (<i>City, Country</i>)	HESI Partners: UNESCO (Paris, France), UN-DESA (New York, USA), UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya), UNU (Tokyo, Japan) and UN-Habitat (Nairobi, Kenya).
Contact Person from partnering UN Agencies/Institutions (<i>Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number</i>)	Ola Goransson Goranssono@un.org Lilia Blades Lilia.Blades@unhabitat.org





Approximate number of attendees:	45
Number of female attendees:	26
Number of male attendees:	19

1. Background of the event (max: 300 words):

The event focuses on the role of higher education for sustainable urban development within the framework of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI).

The objective of the meeting is to define the role and capabilities of higher education, research institutions and think tanks should have in order to better respond to the urban needs so as to effectively support the implementation of the 2030 agenda and New Urban Agenda. The meeting is the last of a series of related events that started with the GAP Roundtable of the Academia and Researchers on Sunday, October 16th, continued with the GPEAN event that discussed the role of planning schools for the New Urban Agenda earlier on Thursday October 20th. This event focuses on concrete actions to support effective engagement of universities and cities in the implementation of the new commitments of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Development Agenda. For this purpose, the event presents the UNI Action Plan for higher education.

2. Summary of the Discussion (key points only, max: total 500 words):

1. In what ways are universities contributing and supporting cities and municipalities in achieving sustainable urban development? How can these initiatives be sustained?

Universities cannot solve all urban issues and urban needs, but they can build trust to enhance their relationship with city governments and city practitioners, becoming reliable partners e.g. by providing data and advise, conducting joint research, feasibility studies, etc.

Beyond the purely academic, universities have the possibility to form better citizens, who can then become better professionals. This includes quality assurance in education, but also ensure more integrative and humane approaches, e.g. by offering scholarships, flexible work/study arrangements, linking up with work opportunities. Universities can become “ambassadors of change”

Successful practices were reported from universities becoming hubs of stakeholder engagement, i.e. they capitalize from their non-partisan position within cities, have the expertise to analyze urban issues, map urban actors and together with city practitioners propose solutions that can both support and be supported by university curriculum.

Universities holding joint outreach programmes have good chances to succeed in integrating their programmes in city strategies.

2. How are cities making the most of academic resources and practice to improve their own sustainability goals?

Cities are benefiting of “triangles of collaboration” that link universities, citizens or/and private sector and local governments in planning practices and implementing specific urban projects. Initiatives such as “service-learning” , secondments and training of local authorities have good chances to succeed, but require an open attitude of both parties.





Both universities and cities need to highlight innovative approaches in education, research and collaborative action.

3. What and who are the drivers for sustainable urban development and how are universities learning from good practices that occur outside the academic world.

Cities themselves can start with urban sustainability programmes and engage the academia. This can pose serious challenges for academics, as responding to practical needs means stepping out of their conform zones and face different timings, different modalities of work, and not directly applying academic recommendations; but at the end, they also provide better learning opportunities. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) strongly advocated for the need to strengthen capacities of African and South East Asian universities, promote integration of different disciplines and for the need for every discipline to connect with local communities.

3. Recommendations/ways forward from the discussions (key points only).

UN-Habitat presented an action plan for universities, which incorporates recommendations and successful experiences shared by partners through an online survey.

The objective of the plan is to:

- Facilitate universities' support to governments, societies and communities;
- Support interdisciplinary research and thinking that spans the scope of urban issues.
- Strengthen platform of dialogue and debate among UN-Habitat, community, policy and decision makers, practitioners and the public.
- Facilitate linkages and trust building.
- Encourage academic improvement for sustainable urban development
- Reward positive results of collaboration

The plan proposes strengthening UN-Habitat's support to universities that are engaged in one or more projects in the following areas:

A. Enhanced Educational Capacities For Sustainable Urbanization.

(UNI Pillar: Education)

A.1 Improvement of academic curriculum

e.g. Collaborative approaches with international universities aimed at improving the quality of education

A.2 Institutional strengthening

Promote multi-disciplinary approaches Sustainability as a cross-cutting principle

In-campus initiatives (green university premises, rural-urban linkages, food security).

B. University – City – Community Partnership

(UNI Pillars: Research, Policy Advice)

Active involvement in a community initiative.

Proposing innovative approaches for collaboration or be involved in any of the following activities;

Coordinating urban planning sessions, stimulating multi-stakeholder effective participation;

Providing policy recommendations

Conducting multi-disciplinary research in collaboration with city governments and communities;





Filling the gaps that local governments have in specialized areas.

C. Capacity development. (UNI Pillar: Professional Development)

Involvement in capacity development of local officials or designated civil society.

- Development toolkits, manual and training guidelines, based on research and experiences by implementing agencies.
- Providing training on locally relevant issues, focusing primarily on local governments and selected non-governmental urban stakeholders.
- Hybrid programs that provide the opportunity to continue studying beyond the training program and acquire an academic degree.
- On-the-job training
- MOOC's

Who is eligible for this?

- Individuals based at universities or institutes within universities and think tanks.
- Responsible for project implementation and reporting;
- Institution needs to be a UNI member
- Meet the target 4.3 of the 2030 Development Agenda, to “ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university” within the university boundaries.
- Be able to monitoring and report progress.
- Involve a minimum of 100 students.
- *Preference to Universities that address the educational needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small-island developing States.*

Recipients of UN-Habitat’s support (UNI “chairs”) will be entitled to:

- Use the UN-Habitat – UNI logo in the implementation of their proposed project and its business cards.
- Participate in bi-annual competition for the UN-Habitat University Award
- Are eligible to showcase project results during UNI activities at World Urban Forums
- Can use the open access online project repository platform and upload research products, publications and other material.
- Can call upon UN-Habitat expertise to enhance “chair” activities
- Can partner with UN-Habitat in project proposals and fund-raising.
- Participate in peer-review of UN-Habitat flagship reports.
- Organize international Expert Group Meetings, seminars and symposia jointly with UN-Habitat.

Financial sustenance

- Chair contributes to the sustenance of UNI with an annual fee.
- UN-Habitat will liaise with possible donors and foundations to help chairs obtain resources for project implementation.
- A trust fund is established at UN-Habitat for platform maintenance, knowledge management and annual award.





4. Synergies: has any new partnerships, or other type of collaboration emerged during or after the event?

Yes, several UNI partners, UCLG and the current UNESCO chair for intermediate cities expressed interest in participating in the action plan. For the full list of UNI university partners , see uni.unhabitat.org/university-partners

5. Detailed Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof. Sahar Attia
Nationality:	Egyptian
UN Agency/ Organization/Institution:	UN-Habitat University Network Initiative (UNI). University of Cairo
Position:	Chair UNI Steering Committee
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Ms. Martina Otto
Nationality:	German
UN Agency/ Organization/Institution:	UNEP
Position:	Head, Cities & Lifestyles Unit, UN Environment
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof. Dory Reeves
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Nationality:	New Zealander
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Moderator:

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Panel members/discussants

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof. Seneshaw Tsegaye
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Kevin Hsu and Caroline Nowacki
Nationality:	US American





UN Agency/ Organization/Institution:	Stanford University
Position:	Lecturer, International Policy Studies; PhD Candidate, Global Projects Center. Stanford University
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof. Circe Monteiro
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof. Reinhardt Goethert
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Ms Gabrielle Guimarães,
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof. Josep Maria Llop Torné,
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6. If you have pictures from your event, please insert here, or send them as an attached file with your report. If you have uploaded them online, feel free to share the URL with us.

<http://uni.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2016/11/UNI3.jpg>

<http://uni.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2016/11/UNI6.jpg>





<http://uni.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2016/11/UNI12.jpg>

<http://uni.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2016/11/UNI13.jpg>

7. What is your outreach strategy, if any? How will you and your partners disseminate the outcomes of your event?

HESI will post the outcomes of the event as it disseminated the event itself at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/hesi>

UNI is disseminating this event through its online portal at:

<http://uni.unhabitat.org/>

UN-Habitat's and UNEP'S twitter and social media tools will disseminate outcomes through the following handles:

@UNHabitat

@unhabitatUNI

#GUPES.

8. Additional comments.

Disclaimer for report:

Please note that information you provide will be made public, and will be used for the making of the final Habitat III Conference report available online to the general public.

