



**Post-Habitat III Cross-Cutting Expert Group Meeting on
UN-Habitat's Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

Co-organized by the Habitat III Secretariat and UN-Habitat

Dates

5-7 April 2017 in New York, United Nations Headquarters

Background and Objectives

In July 2016, while the New Urban Agenda was still being negotiated, and just after the third session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee in Surabaya, Indonesia, 30 international experts from professional groups, civil society organizations and the United Nations regional commissions assembled to review and advise on a draft of UN-Habitat's Action Framework for the Implementation for the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA).

The goal of UN-Habitat's AFINUA was and is to support national and local governments and other key actors in getting right the foundational urban elements of the New Urban Agenda: (1) national urban policies, (2) urban legislation and regulations, (3) urban planning and design, (4) local economy and municipal finance and (5) local implementation.

Good urbanization does not happen by chance, but rather by design. This constitutes a paradigm shift; one that the New Urban Agenda suggests can occur only by readdressing the way that cities are planned, financed and governed. Whenever and wherever cities have supportive rules and regulations, sound planning and design and a viable financial plan, they function as transformational drivers of sustainable development. And the five foundational elements of UN-Habitat's AFINUA (previous paragraph) reflect these prerequisites. Specifically, national urban policies acknowledge that national governments often set the 'rules of the game' for cities. Urban legislation governs the legality and effectiveness of urban policy. Urban planning and design integrate sectors and spatially concretize abstractions. Urban financing helps cities reap the benefits of agglomeration through fiscal health and creditworthiness. And local implementation, tailored to specific geographic and socioeconomic contexts, is the foundation for all of the above.

In October 2016 in Quito United Nations Member States adopted the New Urban Agenda, and in December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly endorsed it. Now that the world is preparing to implement the New Urban Agenda it is clear that the UN-Habitat's AFINUA would benefit immensely from an advanced consultation, review and revision if it is to enable urbanization to be an engine for sustainable development.

The expert group meeting will convene representatives of stakeholder groups, substantive bodies, local governments and international agencies and lead a refinement of the descriptions and metrics of the key elements of UN-Habitat's AFINUA, to ensure its relevance, buy-in and measurability.





Habitat III legacy and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

This expert group meeting is one of the activities post-Quito supported by the Habitat III Secretariat as part of the legacy project. Within the United Nations Task Team on Habitat III, other expert group meetings on specific issues would be convened to support the creation and consolidation of platforms towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Priority would be given to those activities building on the legacy of the Habitat III conference and its preparatory process and promoting innovative, participatory, multidisciplinary and interagency approaches.

Participation of the Policy Unit co-leading organizations and the General Assembly of Partners

In addition to the participation of members of the United Nations Task Team on Habitat III, the expert group meeting will invite stakeholders and experts who were closely engaged in the preparatory process of the Habitat III Conference and the negotiations of the New Urban Agenda, such as co-leading organizations of the Habitat III Policy Units, the General Assembly of Partners or the Global Taskforce on Local and Regional Governments.

Format

Invited participants in mixed plenary/breakout groups and organized provisionally as follows:

Wednesday 5 April	Morning Afternoon	Overview of a current draft of AFINUA Breakout groups
Thursday 6 April	Morning Afternoon	Breakout groups Presentation of recommendations in plenary
Friday 7 April	Morning	Determination of next steps

Invited participants

- Co-leaders of the Habitat III Policy Units
- Members of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly of Partners, including the President and Vice President and Co-chairs of the Partner Constituent Groups
- Global Taskforce on Local and Regional Governments
- Habitat III United Nations Task Team
- Habitat III Secretariat
- UN-Habitat experts

Travel and per diem

A two-and-one-half-day meeting in New York with travel and per diem provided for non-local participants in accordance with the United Nations financial rules and regulations.

