

## Agenda Item 4.c: MTS 2014-2017 Updates

Document Title: JWP Habitat III Update

#### **Background:**

In 2012, the General Assembly decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanisation focusing on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda. This Conference will build on the Habitat Agenda and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, particularly the Rio+20 conference, as well as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). A Joint Work Programme (ASA Track II) was formed in 2013 between various members of the Cities Alliance to create and deliver a common set of priority messages to inform and influence the Post-2015/SDG Agenda in the preparation process for Habitat III.

**Recommended Action:** 

For Information

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## **DOCUMENT TITLE:**

Update JWP Habitat III

### Name of project:

Joint Work Programme in support of the preparation process for the Post-2015/SDG Agenda towards the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (JWP HIII)

Start date (grant date): November 2013

**Cities Alliance Task Managers:** 

Rene Hohmann / Lisa Reudenbach

### **Cities Alliance Members:**

- United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)
- UN-Habitat
- Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)
- German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MFA)
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)- observer
- Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)- observer

### **Cities Alliance Partners:**

- Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments;
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network



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### Short narrative:

In 2012, the General Assembly decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanisation focusing on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda. This conference will build on the Habitat Agenda and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, particularly the Rio+20 conference, as well as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). A Joint Work Programme (ASA Track II) was formed in 2013 between various members of the Cities Alliance to create and deliver a common set of priority messages to inform and influence the Post-2015/SDG Agenda in the preparation process for Habitat III.

## **Results to date:**

Various activities within the JWP have been conducted during the reporting period, such as:

- The Secretariat has facilitated monthly telephone conference calls with JWP members. Habitat III Secretariat (New York) also joined the group call to provide a direct update on the preparation process including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prep Com Meeting in April 2015.
- Based on the outcome of the last planning workshop in December 2014, the group agreed on a key advocacy message consisting of promoting examples, experiences and evidence on the value of partnerships between national governments, local authorities and organised civil society for the implementation of the new urban agenda.
- Based on the planning workshop, an action plan for 2015 and beyond has been drafted by Centro de Alianzas para el Desarrollo (CAD) and endorsed by the JWP members. The action plan comprises the following four main areas of intervention: 1. Finalise and compile key messages of the JWP with supporting evidence from the Cities Alliance Partnership;
  Organise a series of events in Brussels to inform about the need for a New Urban Agenda and a consideration of cities in global development frameworks; 3. Organise side events around relevant international conferences; 4. Develop further advocacy material and a series of dissemination events.
- Lead Cities Alliance partners for key action items have been identified and three co-funding proposals are being prepared by UN Habitat, SDI and HFHI.
- Based on the key advocacy message, a JWP position paper has been drafted and circulated to JWP members.
- The Group successfully organised a Side Event for the 2<sup>nd</sup> PrepCom of Habitat III in Nairobi based on the key advocacy message and nominated panelists. Panelists were:
  - o Ms. Annemarie Jorritsma, Mayor of Almere, Netherlands
  - Mr. Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin
  - Mr. Elton Santa Fé Zacarias, Executive Secretary and Joint Minister of the Brazilian Ministry of Cities
  - Ms. Janet Adu, Slum Dwellers International Core Team Member and Community Leader of the Ghanaian Homeless People's Federation
  - Ms. Rubbina Karruna, Cities Advisor, Growth & Resilience Department, UK Department for International Development (DFID)

 Mr. Eric Huybrechts, European & International Affairs Paris/Ile-de-France Regional planning Agency, Member of the French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development (PFVT)

# Next steps:

- Report outlining the communication/advocacy strategy and plan including a pre-and-post publicity plan for identified key events, messages for print and electronic media and outreach materials and activities
- Briefing material, pre-and-post-publicity plan and event support for selected key events
- Endorsed co-funding proposals by JWP members and follow-up activities.

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