



## REPORT OF THE 12TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY 11 APRIL – SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2014

TRIBE HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA

### Executive Summary

On April 11-12, 2015, the Steering Committee of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) convened for its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. They met prior to the Second Preparatory Committee for Habitat III and the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, welcomed the partners emphasizing the importance WUC partners' contributions to the Habitat III process. As a former mayor of Kigali, she reflected on the rapid urbanization on the African Continent and highlighted the need to move from *The City We Want* to *The City We Need*.

The attendees then focused on detailing two WUC special initiatives: the Urban Thinkers Campuses (UTC) and the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), establishing protocols for the initiatives and developing a Road Map towards Habitat III, (including key meeting dates for GAP, WUC and Urban Thinkers Campuses). They also reviewed WUC partners' contributions to the campaign and new ideas for coordinating the partners' actions.

#### The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- The Steering Committee reviewed and endorsed the Draft GAP Constitution and the agenda for the inaugural meeting, 13 April 2015.
- The Steering Committee prepared a template and process for conveying the UTC results to GAP
- The Steering Committee developed a comprehensive GAP Road Map which covers all major milestones of the Habitat III process (including GAP and Executive Committee Meetings).
- The Steering Committee discussed how to improve WUC communication towards Habitat III, including the capitalization of partner's inputs to the Post-2015 process (in particular with regard to monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals).

This report is divided into two parts (the two meeting days):

**DAY 1**

- A. Introduction
  - 1. Address by Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
  - 2. World Urban Campaign Secretariat Progress Report & Introduction of New Partners
- B. Updates by UN-Habitat & Habitat III
  - 1. Habitat III Update
  - 2. UN-Habitat Updates
- C. Progress Reports
  - 1. Working Groups
- D. Working Groups I
  - 1. GAP Constitution
  - 2. GAP Road Map

**DAY 2**

- E. Working Groups II
  - 1. Template & Guidelines
  - 2. Road Map
  - 3. Communications & Advocacy
- F. Urban Thinkers Campuses
- G. Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Committee for Habitat III
- H. Preparations for the GAP meeting
- I. Preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of UN-Habitat
- J. Conclusion

*Annex A: SCM 12 List of Participants*

*Annex B: SCM12 Agenda*

*Annex C: WUC Secretariat Report*

*Annex D: WUC Secretariat Presentation*

*Annex E: WUC Partners (12 April 2015)*

*Annex F: Urban Thinkers Campus Timeline*

*Annex G: UN-Habitat & Post-2015 Presentation*

*Annex H: WUC Partners Reports*

*Annex I: GAP Template & Guidelines*

*Annex J: GAP Constitution (Final Draft)*

*Annex K: GAP Road Map*

# DAY 1 – 11 April 2015

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Eugenie Birch, Chair of the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, opened the meeting, and welcomed Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, inviting her to address the WUC partners in light of the upcoming events in Nairobi.

### **1. Address by Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**

Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira welcomed WUC partners<sup>1</sup> to Nairobi for this 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee. She addressed the attendees by reflecting on her former role as the Mayor of Kigali.

Dr. Kacyira highlighted that a united voice of partners in the process towards Habitat III is crucial. She congratulated WUC partners for their strong engagement and commitment. She also stressed the need for a New Urban Agenda that is truly transformative, acknowledging the rapid pace of urbanization in many parts of the World, especially in Africa.

In this context she encouraged WUC Partners to focus on implementable policies and practices going beyond *The City We Want* by shifting towards *The City We Need*. She stressed the need to go from global advocacy to the National Level – stating that National Urban Policies are key to a successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In this regard Dr. Kacyira asked the members of the World Urban Campaign to increase their awareness-raising activities at the country level and continue building global advocacy through their respective constituencies and networks. This would allow enhanced preparedness towards Habitat III and the elaboration of the New Urban Agenda.

Following the address by Dr. Kacyira, the Steering Committee adopted the meeting agenda<sup>2</sup>.

### **2. World Urban Campaign Secretariat Progress Report**

Christine Auclair, Project Leader of the World Urban Campaign, joined in welcoming the WUC partners to Nairobi for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Urban Campaign Steering Committee. She presented the WUC Secretariat Progress Report<sup>3</sup>, covering the period from 1 October 2014 to 4 March 2015. The presentation included the introduction of new WUC partners<sup>4</sup> and agreements. The WUC now has a total of 113 partners<sup>5</sup>.

Ms. Auclair reminded the attendees of the outcomes of the first Urban Thinkers Campus held in Caserta, Italy in October 2014 and furthermore presented the approval of 19 Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) applications. 6 of the 19 UTC applications had been approved in the morning during the WUC Standing

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<sup>1</sup> Annex A: List of Participants

<sup>2</sup> Annex B: SCM12 Agenda

<sup>3</sup> Annex C: WUC Secretariat Report

<sup>4</sup> Annex D: WUC Secretariat Presentation

<sup>5</sup> Annex E: WUC Partners (12 April 2015)

Committee Meeting (8 – 9 a.m. on 11 April 2015). A summary of the approved UTCs, visualized in the form of a timeline, can be found in Annex F of this report.

The General Assembly of Partners concept, developed during the first Urban Thinkers Campus, was also part of the presentation. Ms. Auclair emphasized that the GAP intends to be a deliberative device to build a consensus on *The City We Need* as the partners' contribution towards the New Urban Agenda. In this context *The City We Need* document was revisited to demonstrate the importance of this special initiative, in particular its principles for a new urban paradigm towards *The City We Need*.

Following a brief overview of the upcoming PrepCom2, Ms. Auclair focused on the way forward for the World Urban Campaign, elaborating on the next possible steps towards Habitat III. She explained that National Urban Campaigns (NUCs) would become increasingly important and that preparations were ongoing to hold between 5 – 10 NUCs in 2015. She emphasized that the active role of all partners, especially in the context of the GAP, was crucial, especially when looking beyond the Habitat III conference. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda would depend largely on the partner's commitment towards action. The WUC could serve as a platform for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through jointly implemented urban solutions.

## **B. UPDATES BY UN-HABITAT & HABITAT III**

### **1. Update by Habitat III Secretariat Coordinator**

Ana Moreno, Coordinator of the Habitat III Secretariat, began her briefing by highlighting the importance of the WUC's role as well as the stakeholder engagement in the Habitat III process. She further elaborated that the WUC and its partners are key for long term strategic planning beyond Habitat III. Ms. Moreno noted that the success of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda would be largely determined by the local level.

Ms. Moreno updated participants on the progress of the Habitat III preparation with the host city, Quito, and informed that there has been a delay in hiring personnel. However, the Quito operations would commence shortly, starting with the preparation of a live exhibition across the city of Quito. which is in fact part of the capacity building activities of Habitat III, aiming to make an impact in the host city by creating a new inclusive public spaces and incentives to invest for the future.

Ms. Moreno further explained the expected outcomes of the Prepcom2 by noting that four key themes would be flagged during the Prepcom, viz., (a) Process of finalization of the New Urban Agenda; (b) Localizing the New Urban Agenda; (c) Indicators of Success; and (d) Platforms and partnerships. A largely formalistic process with little debate, the Prepcom would at least indicate who the champions would be and what could be the major challenges in the road towards Habitat III. However, though there are only 18 months till the Habitat III conference, the PrepCom2 would not yet discuss any documents which would be part of the negotiations at the Habitat III conference.

Finally, Ms. Moreno explained what the Habitat III Secretariat expects from the World Urban Campaign and its partners. She expressed her hope that all WUC partners would become members of the GAP that would be a valuable platform for partner's deliberations. She encouraged the GAP to finalize its set-up in Nairobi,

as it would then be counted as one of the PrepCom2 outcomes. In her opinion, the GAP should be flexible enough to bring new ideas on the table and that it could present a stakeholders consensus document to the members of the Habitat III bureau. Ms. Moreno asked all those present to act as ambassadors of the New Urban Agenda and closed her briefing by underlying the crucial role of the World Urban Campaign beyond Habitat III.

The briefing was followed by a brief Q&A session, in which various partners expressed their interest to contribute to the Habitat III issue papers. The regional and thematic meetings were also of high interest, and it was noted that various countries from the Arab region had expressed their interest to host regional Habitat III preparatory meetings, but no application was submitted to the Habitat III Secretariat. Mr. Ali, Vice-President of UIA, added that the UIA is composed of 5 regions and that the Union would like to support the regional and thematic meetings and share best practices. It was also suggested that the Habitat III process should build upon and take further two key agreements/recommendations that were made as part of the Habitat II preparations, namely, (a) that all national delegations should include stakeholder representatives; and (b) that a third Committee should be established for an open, multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Ms. Moreno announced that the WUC partners will be formally requested to propose experts who can contribute to the Habitat III Policy Units and issue papers. The group of experts that will come together in this context would form the '*Who is Who in Sustainable Urbanization*'. She also announced the deadline for submissions of papers for the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda (6 months before the Habitat III conference – end April 2016). In this context Ms. Moreno reminded attendees that the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) concept is a special initiative of the WUC but that the UTC outcomes will feed into the Habitat III process.

## **2. Update by UN-Habitat on the SDG process**

Raf Tuts, Coordinator of UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Branch and Acting Coordinator of the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch, joined the meeting to make a presentation<sup>6</sup> to update participants on the post-2015 development process.

A key part of the presentation referred to indicators and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the Post-2015 process. Mr. Tuts suggested that the WUC could give valuable input to various indicators (i.e. access to sustainable transport, expansion and footprint of cities, maintaining and safeguarding natural and cultural heritage, etc.).

Mr. Tuts further mentioned that the global set of commitments will be part of the next climate agreement (COP21) and that the universal agreement will include pledges from member states. However, cities all over the world are very keen to also feed their ideas into this final agreement and many activities are taking place to strengthen the voices of cities and their recognition in the process. He noted that there will also be a set of COP21 pre-events with various mayors, such as the following:

- Compact of Mayors – this will combine thousands of cities to discuss climate change

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<sup>6</sup> Annex G: UN-Habitat & Post-2015 Presentation

- Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance – includes regional and bilateral banks, and aims to document on how cities have gotten funding for direct city climate action plans
- Summit of Mayors - a joint meeting of cities as well as regional and national governments (4-7 December 2015).

In the following Q&A session Dr. Birch noted that the urban SDG would fill the gap in regard to spatiality and that none of the other proposed SDGs address space as they stand. She further suggested that the spatial focus of this proposed goal would ensure its uniqueness and therefore its hoped-for success. However, the urban SDG is still a proposed SDG and Dr. Birch urged all those present to continue to advocate for this goal. It was further noted that local governments were underrepresented in the COP21 process and that efforts must be made to improve their formal representation.

Ms. Katz from Habitat for Humanity International questioned the number of process indicators in relation to outcome indicators. Mr. Tuts acknowledged the need for a balance between the two types of indicators and explained that the SDGs would have a total of 120 outcome and 40 process indicators and that this is a major improvement in comparison to the MDGs. Another improvement is the inclusion of already established indicators and indices, as well as the use of geo-spatial data.

Ms. Brown expressed WIEGOs interest in the proposed SDG 8 (Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All) and its relation to the proposed urban SDG. Mr. Tuts informed that UN-Habitat is actively engaged in other SDGs, too, but that SDG 8 was currently not a main focus. Prof. Girard from the University of Napoli expressed his concern by noting that sustainable urbanization is not possible without employment opportunities and decent work. He suggested that employment should be included in the list of proposed indicators to allow these to be operational.

Mr. Siri from UNU International Institute for Global Health questioned the linkages between the SDG 11 and health related topics and noted with concern that the topic health is not really addressed. Mr. Tuts explained that the SDGs must be looked at as a package and that they all feed into each other. He emphasized the need to retain the uniqueness of the urban SDG, as an inclusion of all topics into this goal would make it vulnerable.

Mr. You reminded participants that certain countries, that have federal governments, were not interested in an urban SDG which talks about local implementation. He urged that a balance is necessary to keep all members states in favor of the Urban SDG.

## **C. PROGRESS REPORTS**

In the interest of time, partner organizations were asked to avoid making oral presentations of their progress reports. Written partners progress reports can be found in **Annex H** (those submitted to the WUC Secretariat before the Steering Committee Meeting.)

## 1. Working Groups Progress Reports

### Working Group: Communications & Media

Mr. Pierce from Citiscope updated the Steering Committee Meeting by introducing Citiscope's new coverage named "Towards Habitat III". This recently launched coverage aims to provide regular news events and bulletins on Habitat III related issues. In particular, articles will be prepared during Prepcom 2.

### Working Group: Targets & Indicators

Ms. Katz informed attendees that members of this working group were involved in the most recent meeting of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) held from 12 – 14 January in Bangalore, India. The meeting focused on the urban SDG, producing the *Bangalore Outcome Document* (<http://urbansdg.org/>). Although the meeting led to positive outputs, the work is not done yet. Members of the working group were asked to review and comment on the meeting's outcome document to align efforts. The next milestone will be the March 2016 meeting of the Statistical Commission on SDG targets and indicators which will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York.

### Working Group: Habitat III

Ms. Auclair briefed the Steering Committee on the progress made in the Habitat III working group. To put the GAP into context Ms. Auclair briefly outlined the history of the GAP, which was proposed during the first Urban Thinkers Campus in Caserta, Italy in October 2014. Ms. Auclair further explained the background of *The City We Need* and that this document, once reviewed and approved by the GAP, will constitute the partner's contribution towards the New Urban Agenda. In this regard Ms. Auclair also clarified that the GAP is a WUC initiative, however it will be managed by the Habitat III Secretariat to allow a wider inclusion of partners in a UN Conference. The WUC will manage the coordination of Urban Thinkers Campuses, National Urban Campaigns and other activities feeding into *The City We Need* process initiated by the Campaign in 2013.

Questions were raised with regard to outcome documents of Urban Thinkers Campuses and how these will feed into the GAP, followed by a discussion about the engagement of the Major Groups as well as the relation with the Habitat III Bureau. It is noted that the current 14 constituent groups of the GAP may not be sufficient. Mr. You suggested that member states' support of the GAP is crucial for its success and that their commitment to the process is essential to its success.

Ms. Brown raised concerns about the added value of the GAP as an additional body to the WUC and emphasizes that a strong cooperation between the two bodies is necessary, also to avoid any duplication. With regard to the process of drafting the GAP outcome document, Ms. Wyant from Huairou Commission reminded participants about the success of the first Urban Thinkers Campus (Caserta, October 2014) and suggested that this model should also be used in the GAP. Ms. Auclair underlined that each GAP constituent group should be encouraged to prepare their own statement and position on *The City We Need*, which can then feed directly into the GAP.

Following an intense discussion, it was decided to break into two working groups on the afternoon of day 1.

## **D. WORKING GROUPS I**

After the working groups exchanged on their respective topics, they came back together to report in a plenary session.

### **1. GAP Constitution**

Dr. Narang Suri, Co-Chair of the WUC Steering Committee and ISOCARP representative, highlighted the importance of clarity and transparency in the drafting process. Furthermore, she suggested that a renegotiation of the actual text of *The City We Need* is not necessary at this stage and that the harmonization of positions, rather than the reduction or expansion of existing text, should be the main focus.

Furthermore, the need for a reporting template for national and regional meetings was underlined, as well as the importance of a consolidated road map which combines all events (Urban Thinkers Campuses, GAP meetings, WUC meetings, Habitat III meetings).

With regard to the GAP process, participants requested that a GAP resolution be issued during the first GAP meeting. This will allow the meeting to officially request the Habitat III Secretariat to consider the outcome of the GAP process. It was also noted that the Executive Committee of the GAP might require a drafting group to ensure the streamlining of all inputs to the final version of *The City We Need*.

### **2. GAP Road Map**

This working group discussed the frequency of GAP meetings in the lead up to PrepCom3 and decided that 3 – 4 meetings would need to take place. It was also discussed that the Executive Committee of the GAP would meet more frequently than the actual GAP meetings.

A Draft road map was presented to participants, endorsed as a living document to be presented at the First GAP meeting.

Following the conclusions of the working groups, Mr. You added that the list of GAP constituent groups must be amended before the first GAP meeting. It was also decided that WUC Standing Committee members who represent specific constituent groups will represent the same groups in the GAP – in the interim. It was also made clear that one person cannot represent more than one GAP constituent group at a time.

The first day of the meeting closed with a proposal of a slightly amended agenda for day 2, which is adopted by the Steering Committee.

# DAY 2 – 12 April 2015

## **E. WORKING GROUPS II**

### **1. Template and Guidelines**

Ms Dyan Currie, President of the Commonwealth Associate on Planners, reported to the plenary, starting with a draft reporting template.

The template includes a preamble that explains the aim of the reporting template, namely *“the aim of this process is for the General Assembly of Partners to draft **The City We Need 2.0** (working title), to be submitted for consideration in the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda”*. The draft guidelines give an indication on the length of the reporting document and request that each submitted reporting document should be able to serve as a stand-alone document. The guideline also refers to a set deadline for the final draft of *The City We Need 2.0* (March 2016) and notes that therefore *“changes to principles will therefore need to be resolved by the proposed GAP meeting in September or October 2015”*.

The actual template<sup>7</sup> consists of 8 parts, which are as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Partners/participants
3. Key outcomes
4. Key recommendations
5. Key actors
6. Matrix of linkages
7. Outstanding issues
8. Annexes

Ms. Fiona Woo from the World Future Council noted that the use of this template and guidelines document would have to be discussed and decided upon. Dr. Birch added that the Executive Committee would have to look into this in more detail, as it is this Committee which will process all the reports submitted in this format.

### **2. Road Map**

Ms. Auclair briefed the Steering Committee on the outcome of the discussions on the way forward towards Habitat III including all relevant events in the proposed road map. The road map includes all GAP meetings, GAP Executive Committee Meetings, WUC Steering Committee meetings as well as all approved Urban Thinkers Campuses. A draft road map was presented and further refined (Annex J).

### **3. Communications and Advocacy**

Dr. Narang Suri highlighted the importance of correct timing and frequency, as well as choice of meaningful content in any form of communication and advocacy activities. She further explained that different modes of communication were discussed, as well as the optimal outreach materials. All members of the working group

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<sup>7</sup> Annex I: GAP Template & Guidelines

agreed that social media must be utilized, including Twitter, together with info graphics and stories on best practices which demonstrate urban solutions.

The group also discussed the various targets and recorded the need to develop a matrix on the different levels of engagement on the one hand as well as the actors who are responsible for this engagement on the other hand. A matrix would assist to capture the wide range of people (national governments, parliamentarians, major groups, civil society, etc.). Finally, such a matrix could be used to keep track of the GAP constituent groups' communications and advocacy activities, showing in detail what types of messages and forms of media are being used and how these methods assist the efforts to maximize the anticipated outreach.

## **F. URBAN THINKERS CAMPUSES**

Following the reports from the working groups, the Steering Committee decided to add an agenda point to the meeting to continue the important discussion on how the Urban Thinkers Campus outcome documents will feed into the GAP. In this context Dr. Narang Suri expressed the importance of an equitable treatment of all UTC outcome documents to ensure continued support by the UTC hosts. However, it is crucial to harmonize the outcome documents of all UTCs, noting that the outcome document (report) of the first Urban Thinkers Campus should be considered and part of this harmonization process.

Discussing the zero draft of *The City We Need* and how this document could be updated, it was noted that the suggestions made during the first Urban Thinkers Campus should feed into a new draft of *The City We Need*, which is being tentatively titled *The City We Need 2.0*. However, the deadline for the discussion on principles should be September or October 2015. The first draft of the *City We Need*, proposed by the GAP, should be reviewed by December 2015, whereas the final version of *The City We Need* must be finalized by March 2016 – in line with the announced deadline for the New Urban Agenda (zero draft) in April 2016.

Mr. Van Walsum from Cordaid raised concerns that this process would produce too many versions of *The City We Need*. Dr. Birch and Dr. Narang Suri noted these concerns, but explained that this would be an iterative process and eventually only one final position paper (*The City We Need 2.0*) would be submitted for consideration towards Habitat III.

A separate discussion on the call for experts to provide input to the Habitat III Policy Units and issue papers commenced, based on the announcement by the Habitat III Secretariat on the previous day, inviting all WUC partners to support the Habitat III Policy Units with selected experts.

Mr. Fernandez noted that the content of Policy Units and issue papers would be needed as a prerequisite to make a call to WUC partners to propose experts to contribute to the Habitat III process. Dr. Birch pointed out that the abstracts are available on the Habitat III website and that these have been developed with and endorsed by the Habitat III Bureau. The Policy Units shall form a knowledge platform for Habitat III. Mr. Siri shared his concerns that none of the issue papers cover the topic of health. Dr. Birch suggested that all partners must be conscious of areas which are not mentioned in these Policy Units and that these should be raised with the Habitat III Secretariat.

Mr. Soule from the American Planning Association questioned the process of proposing experts through the WUC network, suggesting that any relevant organization could propose experts directly to the Habitat III bureau. Dr. Birch and Dr. Narang Suri explained that this is a possibility, as it is clear that the request for experts will go beyond the WUC and the GAP. However, to ensure that WUC partners are represented on this knowledge platform, it is imperative to mobilize all partners to engage in this process.

Mr. You raised the question on the availability of Terms of Reference for the experts to be included in the Policy Units. In this context, Ms. Sofjan noted that member states will have an interest in placing certain experts into these Policy Units and that all WUC partners should seek support from member states when proposing experts from inside their organizations. Dr. Birch summarized that once key experts have been identified, all partners will have to work hard to advocate for these experts to be chosen.

After the participants returned from the lunch break the United States International University (USIA) Africa, a new WUC member, screened a short video. The video presents a film production called USONI (meaning future in Kiswahili) in which European citizens flee the continent in search of a better life in Africa. Mr. Rigaudis, USIA Film Production Director and Mr. Oleg, USONI Producer, explained that the production has a direct linkage to urbanization, as it addresses various topics (such as migration, climate change, conflicts etc.), which are part of the current discussion around urbanization. In a follow-up debate, many suggested that film could serve as a strong advocacy tool in order to reach out to citizens on urban issues towards Habitat III and beyond.

## **G. PREP COM2 PREPARATION**

At the afternoon session on the preparations of Prepcom2 several partners shared information on activities and side events which they were hosting. Among them were: the Lincoln Institute (Enrique de Silva), the Cairo University (Sahar Attia), the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (Christopher Dekki), Cities Alliance (Rene Peter Hohmann, Eric Huybrechts), Habitat for Humanity (Jane Katz), ISOCARP (Shipra Narang Suri), Citiscope (Neal Pierce), Huairou Commission (Sri H. Sofjan), Habitat Professionals Forum (Ismael Fernandez) and many more. Dr. Birch informed participants that a WUC side event entitled *The Straight Path to Habitat III: From The City We Need to the SDG's to the New Urban Agenda* will be held on 15 April. The Building and Social Housing Foundation (Mansoor Ali) announced that it would exhibit during the PrepCom2 and the GC25 and that its own side event would take place during the GC25.

## **H. GAP PREPARATION**

In preparation for the first GAP meeting Dr. Narang announced slight amendments to the original agenda for the GAP meeting including the addition of a meeting of the Executive Committee (consisting of all chairs of the constituent groups as well as the interim President and interim Vice President of the GAP). Dr. Birch added that the revised GAP constitution provides for 14 constituent groups<sup>8</sup>. She noted that while most groups have a direct link to the groups of the WUC Standing Committee, many of which the UN also designates as major groups, some vacancies existed, notable indigenous peoples, foundations and philanthropies, grassroots organizations and farmers. The 14 constituent groups of the GAP are as follows:

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<sup>8</sup> Annex K: GAP Constitution (Final Draft)

1. Local and sub-national Authorities
2. Research and Academia
3. Civil Society Organizations
4. Grassroots Organizations
5. Women
6. Parliamentarians
7. Children and Youth
8. Business and Industries
9. Foundations and Philanthropies
10. Professionals
11. Trade Unions and Workers
12. Farmers
13. Indigenous People
14. Media

Steering Committee members voted in plenary to **endorse the revised GAP Constitution** and to present it at the first GAP meeting for approval. They also decided that the WUC Standing Committee members would act as the interim chairs of the GAP constituent group, until elections would take place.

Mr. You asked if the goal of the meeting would be to present a draft **resolution**. Dr. Narang Suri noted that due to time constraints and organizational matters, the GAP should aim for a **declaration** first, which could then feed into a fully fledged resolution at a later point. Mr. You raised concerns that without such a resolution, the acceptance of the GAP outcome by the Habitat III bureau may not be guaranteed. Dr. Birch announced that she and Dr. Narang Suri have been invited to present the GAP to the Habitat III Bureau in the evening of the first GAP meeting on 13 April 2015.

To support the GAP process as well as the role of the World Urban Campaign, Dr. Birch reminded all attendees that ECOSOC accredited organizations would be able to make statements during the PrepCom2. She encouraged those in consultative status with ECOSOC to speak on the floor and incorporate GAP and WUC in their statements. Potential speakers representing the following organizations were identified:

1. Huairou Commission
2. World Vision International
3. ISOCARP
4. UIA
5. WBCSD
6. APA
7. World Future Council
8. Habitat for Humanity
9. Shack/Slum Dwellers International
10. UCLG
11. Metropolis
12. FNAU

## I. GC25 PREPARATIONS

Similarly to PrepCom2, many WUC partners would host side events during the GC25 and/or speak at these events. This was seen as a strong sign of commitment towards UN-Habitat and all partners who would remain in Nairobi for the GC25 were encouraged to participate in the events.

Partners were also informed that those with accreditations could make requests to speak during the GC25.

The schedule of GC25 side events revealed that many event titles referred to the current discussion on urban-rural linkages. In order for partners to have a better background of this discussion, Ms. Cardama from the Communitas Coalition was asked to give a brief overview.

Ms. Cardama explained that this topic was not new to practitioners, but that it had received a lot of attention in the past years for various reasons. The discussion has become so powerful that it threatens a standalone Urban SDG by questioning the reasoning for the absence of a standalone Rural SDG. This tension has spilled over into the discussions around the New Urban Agenda and beyond, and efforts must be made to avoid the historic tunes “rural areas are left behind when urbanization processes are strengthened”.

Mr. Soule agreed that the discussion about urban-rural linkages is ongoing and possibly stronger than before, and that partners must ask themselves what actually defines “rural-ness”. He notes that the term “Human Settlements” was added to UN-Habitat’s goal to include rural areas. Mr. You added that the definitions of urban from a statistical perspective vary widely. Dr. Narang Suri agreed to this comment and suggested that this issue be addressed in the Habitat III process to avoid repeated mistakes in dealing with urban-rural linkages. Ms. Cardama informed the partners that the Communitas Coalition has a strong focus on this topic and that a workshop could be planned, together with the World Urban Campaign, to discuss these issues in more details.

## J. CONCLUSION

Before concluding the 12<sup>th</sup> WUC Steering Committee Meeting, Prof Birch added a very important question to the agenda: “What will happen to the World Urban Campaign after Habitat III”?

Ms. Auclair provided a brief overview of the history of the WUC, explaining its inception in the Habitat II Conference. Dr. Birch added that the idea of partnerships and their role in the Habitat III process would have to be looked at closely. Ms. Auclair informed the attendees that the WUC is part of UN-Habitat’s work programme and budget until 2019. She asked the partners to brainstorm about what their expectations are from WUC beyond Habitat III, taking into consideration that the New Urban Agenda must be an implementable agenda – which could be a joint undertaking in which WUC partners should play a major role. She noted that this was the beginning of a very important debate, which must be kept in mind and continued.

Mr. You added that the future of the World Urban Campaign depends largely on the governance and structure of UN-Habitat after Habitat III. He suggested that the discussion on the future of UN-Habitat should be an integral part of all current activities, asking what role UN-Habitat would have after Habitat III. Would it monitor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda? Would it implement the New Urban Agenda? All

these questions were not yet answered and this should be considered each time any partner makes recommendations in the context of Habitat III.

Dr. Birch closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their attendance, inviting them to actively participate in the first General Assembly of Partners meeting the following day.