



UN-Habitat YAB Statement on 15 Oct Vote, for 16 Oct Meeting

Hung Vo

to:

Christine Auclair, Devina Meinzingen, Amit Chandan, kumar, Rose.Molokoane

16-10-2016 14:44

Cc:

Olivia Labonte

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From: Hung Vo <hv73@cornell.edu> Sort List...

To: Christine Auclair <Christine.Auclair@unhabitat.org>, Devina Meinzingen

<Devina.Meinzingen@unhabitat.org>, Amit Chandan <ac788@cornell.edu>,

<kumar@actionaid.org>, <Rose.Molokoane@gmail.com>.

Cc: Olivia Labonte <labonte.olivia@gmail.com>

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1 Attachment



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Dear WUC Secretariat, Chair and Co-Chairs,

I am writing on behalf of the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board to send this statement regarding yesterday's election. We ask that you bring this everyone's attention at today's meeting, and read out loud as it is short. We do not believe this is a light matter to be delayed to a future time.

We are naturally at your disposal to answer any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

UN-Habitat YAB

Dear WUC Secretariat and World Urban Campaign Members:

The UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is writing to congratulate the new Chair and Co-Chairs of WUC, and to the new organizations representing their distinctive groups. However, we also want to express our deep disheartenment with the outcome of the election process for the Children and Youth seat for the Standing Committee. We do not question World Vision's credibility and strengths, although as youth, we find it problematic to have neither a child nor a youth hold this seat. We seem to have progressed so much these past few decades, yet still managed to have this mismatch between the person representing and the represented at this 16th meeting.

Meanwhile, we were also aware of some inappropriate lobbying done against us by a non-voting member with misrepresented information, shared not out of genuine concern but a personal conflict and bias beyond the YAB's control. Any information shared to persuade your vote was inaccurate, and we know that at least one organization that voted against us is reconsidering its position after clarification. YAB members are not political figures engaged in conceptual thinking nor the dramas of UN disputes, and it is unfortunate that we have to bring this issue up. We are young actors on the ground working as a community organizer and planner in Guadalajara; a Chief Operations Officer for a sustainable consumption and production organization in Sao Paulo; a Fellow at the City of Toronto and member of the Canadian Delegation to Habitat III; a young medical doctor organizing business workshops in Algeria, and much more. We are writing this note because we are reminded of something that Henry de Cazotte said at the Youth Assembly closing ceremony: "Young people hold the UN to a standard of quality and responsibility."

Are the strengths of the 16th YAB members from around the world insufficient to hold onto a seat for meant for children and youth? And are we willing to continue with information that questions the spirit and commitment of this election process? We ask that the Secretariat and Co-Chairs consider the content of this statement and proceed as necessary to ensure that the tone and precedent we are setting is one that is not regressive but will build upon progress made to date. As the only democratically global advisory board in the UN system, YAB looks forward to continuing our historical engagements with WUC.

Sincerely,

UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board