



## **Comments on Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda**

by

**GAP PCG Professionals**

Informal Hearings for Stakeholders

6-7 June 2016, New York

Compiled, Edited & Prepared by

Ishtiaque Zahir, Co-Chair, PCG Professionals, GAP

---

The General Assembly of Partners PCG Professionals notes that the New Urban Agenda (NUA) is a progressive, comprehensive and aspirational document which is unique in a typical UN process. We congratulate the drafting team and acknowledge their contribution. However we understand that in draft "one" there will be more clarity in story line and process of drafting. We also believe that a better reflection of the outcomes of thematic and regional meetings, as well as the work of the Policy Units, is needed in the document, as considerable effort went into these and significant recommendations emerged from these processes.

PCG Professionals recognises the contributions of the following members in providing this feedback on the Zero Draft:

- Kerry McGovern, EAROPH
- Regitze Marianne Hess, International Federation for Housing and Planning
- Cláudio Bernardes, INGAI
- Maruxa Cardama, Communitas
- Currie Dy, City of Gold Coast, President, CAP
- Rafael de Miguel González, EUROGEO
- Huybrechts Eric, IAU
- Didier Vancutsem - ISOCARP
- Ishtiaque Zahir- UIA

Following are the key issues our PCG has raised in response to the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda.



## Positive Elements of the NUA

1. A new partnership paradigm is a prerequisite for exploring and finding innovative, disruptive and unusual urban solutions. It recognizes all present stakeholders' engagement specially GAP. It further recognizes the need for a renewed partnership among stakeholders, local and sub national. Thus we must say NUA is a paradigm shift.
2. NUA commits to a new set of standards in planning, selection and design of the urban form and infrastructure etc. It recognizes the role of planning and design in building resilient communities and cities. Quality Planning and design can catalyze urban regeneration, create socially and culturally inclusive spaces and promote greening of city. It also recognizes that inequality can be combated by good design.
3. It acknowledges that DATA collection and indicators are essential at all level to monitor progress. Qualitative and quantitative data collection is a prime requisite for a good planning and design process. Open and easy accessible data is acknowledged.
4. Place making is one of the key aspect of public space design. Sense of place and quality of life is the core component of a community life, which is based on local culture and heritage. NUA safe guards and promotes traditionally tested knowledge and arts that has been shaping urban areas of our time. In the process of designing, it recognizes the collaborative process of including physical, cultural and social identities that define a place.

## Points to be included in NUA

5. We may term NUA as 'Human rights-based NUA & Public space-led NUA', as these two elements are critical to realizing a sustainable and inclusive urban future.
6. Planners should plan for informal settlements. Urban informality should be recognized as a result of lack of affordable housing, dysfunctional land markets and urban policies. We must redefine our relationships with informal settlements and slums, in ways that leave no one behind, taking into account that those areas are also engines for economic growth, prosperity, and job creation.
7. We need to work within financial and social capabilities to avoid future informal settlements occurring and to improve the starting infrastructure and decision making processes in those instances.



8. We recognize the necessity to better regulate land and real estate markets and also better managed funds to avoid misallocation of investments that produce empty buildings and increase social and spatial segregation.
9. The financial and legal instruments that generate & facilitate funding for sustainable urban development, need to be addressed.
10. Planning policies and strategies should be strengthened through specific bodies and funding. Specific funding and territorial engineering should be implemented to implement the strategic urban planning and management of cities and metropolitan areas.
11. Alternative housing options should be supported at large scale by international funding agencies, national and local authorities and planners.
12. The need for a system to be established to monitor and share progress is clear. Participatory, bottom-up data collection should be an integral part of this system. This could be inspired by the Partners Dashboard for Sustainable Urbanisation, one of the core elements proposed by the General Assembly of Partners in its document "Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda".
13. Capacity development at all levels and for multiple stakeholders, both at institutional and individual level, is critical. This could be facilitated through peer to peer learning.
14. A new form of partnership should be introduced where people's, stakeholders' voices are at the center.
15. GAP, which is a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign, should be recognized and given space for engagement in UN meetings like other official UN group. The role of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) should also be acknowledged.
16. It is imperative to make the governance of UN-Habitat more open and inclusive, by providing a specific position for local authorities represented by the Global Task Force, and civil society represented by the General Assembly of Partners, or a similar, inclusive platform that involves, as a minimum, the fifteen Partner Constituent Groups of GAP.

### **Areas in which PCG Professionals can contribute to the NUA**

17. Sustainable urban development necessitates a multi-level, participatory and collaborative approach during all phases of planning and decision-making processes. We need a new understanding of stakeholder engagement that recognizes all urban



inhabitants, both formal and informal, as co-planners and co-creators to achieve sustainable development

18. NUA should create opportunities for engagement and initiate partnerships for implementation. GAP PCG Professionals can contribute and give guidance in developing new tools for implementation of NUA.
19. The implementation tool will vary from country to country region to region. PCG professionals may initiate a new form of campus as NUA Thinker Campus, aimed towards the implementation of NUA. It may initiate international debates through the thinker's campus, within the frame of the International Decade of Sustainable Urbanisation, which has been proposed by GAP in its submission *Partnerships for the New Urban Agenda*.
20. GAP Monitoring of the NUA to be defined (indicators and mapping) and implemented by researchers that need specific global institutional support, and finance. The Professionals group can also contribute to assess progress towards transformative change, using qualitative and quantitative information from multiple sources through our PCG.
21. PCG Professionals can contribute substantively to a permanent urban task force or International Multi-Stakeholder Panel on Sustainable Urbanisation, as proposed by GAP..
22. NUA needs a mapping of urban solutions and initiatives managed by researchers or global institutions. Innovation through Urban labs to be financially supported through a global mechanism.