



French Foundation Center

December 10, 2015

Full Report: FROM COP21 TOWARDS HABITAT III - CITIES AND CITIZENS NETWORKS ENGAGED TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Introduction

The workshop focused on the impact of COP21 on the agenda for Habitat III and the possible engagement for climate between local governments, cities and grassroots.

The workshop was organised in two rounds of short presentations by three panellists. The first round focused on the involvement of each speaker in the COP21 negotiations. The second part of the workshop was devoted to the discussion of the UN Conference Habitat III. To conclude, the floor was opened to questions from the public.

Speakers

Magali Fricaudet – Coordinator of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights / United Cities and Local Governments

Lorena Zarate – President of Habitat International Coalition.

Gino Van Begin – General Secretary of ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability.

Moderators: **Julien Woessner** - Fondation CL Mayer; **Amy Kenyon** - Ford Foundation; **Ali Kahn** – Funders Forum on Sustainable Cities - European Foundation Center.

Content

First round of discussion on COP21: expectations and dispute. Second round focused on: What is Habitat III and why is it important?

Priorities

- Local governments need civil society support in order to change the way we make cities, and to advocate for inclusive, democracy and sustainable cities.
- Present at COP21 not just Habitat III, but a new global agenda and the role of ecological transition to face local inequalities in the periphery. “There is no sustainability without social justice,” Magali Fricaudet said. To which the moderator Amy Kenyon, from Ford Foundation added: “And there is no climate justice without social inclusion”.
- Direct input in the negotiation, bringing forward the opinion of local and regional governments.
- Recognition of power and potential of cities and local governments.
- Find a way to bring people’s voices together. It is not a habitat agenda but an urban agenda.
- Renew the social contract at local level: make cities a public good.

Recommendations

- Solutions are local and sustainable development goals have to be based on local governments implementation: find local solutions to global problems
- The agreement has to be complemented with action at the local level, cities and regional governments and civil society have to strive to implement it.
- The only way to manage climate change and implement the agreement is on a multilevel scale, not just relying on national governments.
- The UN conferences on Habitat has to bring together civil society voices.
- Civil society has to face challenges at the COP, as the decision-making process is not including civil society's voice.
- The urban agenda has to be discussed internationally because it is part of the globalization.
- Habitat III conference should be set every three years, not twenty as it is now, because everything is going fast. We need to discuss how resilient the urban areas are.
- Habitat III should include more human rights issues. The UN habitat programme has focused mainly on urban issues, and narrowing the scope to the glorification of urbanisation.

Partners

- Role of Habitat International Coalition in taking care of memberships of grassroots organisation and academic institutions, no-profit.
- Role of civil society to face difficult situation on the ground.
- Essential for foundations to be very engaged in the process, at different levels: inside and outside the official process.

Prospects

- Three levels of intervention at COP21 and after the conference, advocacy and clear overview of what is happening at the local level is required.
- Change is not about single project processes and bringing actors together, but it is long-term objective.
- Rethink the agenda for both rural and urban regions. The way we are doing cities today does not fit the expectations of the people coming.
- Include civil society in the process.
- Have a follow up of the Habitat agenda and efficiency indicators for human rights and the well-being in the cities.
- How can we make the cities more resilient? How can local governments act in that sense?