

## BUILDING INNOVATIVELY INTERACTIVE CITIES HORIZONS & PROSPECTS

### **ROUNDTABLE 1: GIZ: INDIVIDUAL PARTNER GROUP MEETINGS - ACADEMIA “IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA (NUA) IN EGYPT”**

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at the Third United Nations (UN) Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III, offers the opportunity for dialogue and reflection on urban challenges. It is a framework for orientation that reinforces sustainable urban development on the international level. However, the realization of the holistic perspective to urbanization and urban issues is often differently understood among different stakeholders.

One common but unsatisfying conception is the limited scope of the terms “urban development” and “urbanization” to housing, i.e. the production of residential units. We are yet to come to an understanding of, and a reflection on, how the term “urban” mandates cross-cutting and inter-sectoral cooperation and development. Implementing NUA, therefore, requires a long-term guided orientation of the practical mechanisms of implementation. While acknowledging the universal meaning of the Agenda, implementing it will expose the wider scene of contradictions among the different stakeholders addressing urbanization on both national and local levels.

The New Urban Agenda has been criticized concerning a number of things including, but not exclusive to, the general and unprecise terms, lack of monitoring and follow up systems and lack of cultural and context sensitivity yet the adopted agenda included a number of issues that face the Egyptian urban areas. Sustainable urban development, urban mobility, poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and human settlements conditions were acknowledged with a vision that promotes cities for all, created through inclusiveness and participation. The principles of the agenda support the

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collaboration of a multi-disciplinary and sectoral approach focusing on the role of the different stakeholders among which academia is highlighted. The “Implementing the New Urban Agenda (INUA) in Egypt” round table will discuss comprehensively the relevance of Habitat III highlighting the New Urban Agenda, its critique and the role of academia to localize and implement the articles of the agenda in Egypt.

### Questions:

- 1- How do the Habitat Conferences (HI 1976; HII 1996; HIII 2016) differ from each other, what has been their importance at the time?
- 2- What are the critiques of the NUA (after HIII)?
- 3- What are the topics within the NUA relevant to the Egyptian context?
- 4- What is to be prioritized in terms of implementing the NUA in Egypt?
- 5- What is the role of academia and where are the gaps for research?

### Moderators:

- a. Dr. Khaled Abdel Halim
- b. Dr. Dina Shehayeb

### Speakers:

- a. Dr. Ahmed Mounir - Alexandria University
- b. Dr. Ahmed Yousry- Cairo University
- c. Dr. Dalia Wahdan-AUC
- d. Dr. Hassanein Abu Zeid - Azhar University
- e. Dr. Sherien El-Agroudy (Solid Waste) - Ain Shams university
- f. Dr. May El Ibrashi - AUC

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### ROUNDTABLE 2: UN HABITAT: MANAGING NEW CITIES

New cities have been established with a different administrative structure than existing local governments in Egypt. It can be argued that this structure has its advantages compared to governorates and cities as it gives the city management relatively higher level more flexibility and more authority. On the other hand, coordination are not usually easy with actors responsible for the provision of services and promotion of economic development, which exist outside the scope of the new cities' administrative structure. In addition, according to the new urban communities' authorities' law, it was planned that new cities, once completed, will be integrated into the existing administrative structure of local governments. This has not been undertaken until today and there has been several proposals focusing on enhancing the role of the board of trustees of new cities in enhancing accountability and the efficiency of provision of needed infrastructure and services. The session aims to discuss openly how the future of the administrative and managing structure of new cities could look like. Therefore, different stakeholders, also non-governmental, will be heard and different models will be discussed.

**Target group:**

All interested parties involved or related to the governance and management of new cities

**Moderator:**

Mohamed Nada, UN Habitat

**Speakers:**

Representatives of NUCA, Dr. Tarek El Hosary, advisor to the Minister of administrative reform, representative of new city administration, private sector representative, board of new city council, civil society (e.g. 'Omdet Sheikh Zayed), representative of new city council



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### ROUNDTABLE 3: UN HABITAT: HYPER-DENSITY AS DRIVING FORCE FOR SUSTAINABLE METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

#### Related Theme:

Policies, tools and indicators for new cities, with reference to SDGs.

#### Introduction:

The UN-Habitat supports countries to develop urban planning methods and systems to address current urbanization challenges such as population growth, urban sprawl, poverty, inequality, pollution, congestion, as well as urban biodiversity, urban mobility, energy and municipal finance. A new strategy of sustainable neighborhood planning (Five Principles) was recently adapted as an implementation tools for planners, practitioners, officials...etc. The Principles focus on certain planning interventions; such as, providing adequate space for streets and an efficient street network, high density, mixed land-use, social mix and limited land-use specialization that secure proper urban planning implementation. The workshop therefore, will shade light on the Five Principles and investigates questions in a world of rapidly-increasing urbanization, urban mobility, power of exchanging, urban resilience, which are high on the agenda for policy-makers, city planners and other practitioners, as well as researchers focusing on Hyper-density management as one of the proposed tools.

#### Aim and Objectives:

The roundtable discussion aims at providing evidences that using range of qualitative sustainability assessments, measuring performance of economic, social and environmental sustainability for Hyper-density planning and managing metropolitan areas will secure remarkable benefits in high density, such as cost savings in land provision, infrastructure and energy; reduction of economic and time costs of travel; positive concentration of knowledge and innovative activity in the city core; the preservation of green spaces in conjunction with certain kinds of urban development; greater possibilities for physical activities and enhance social interaction and communication. It shows

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a possible way forward for improving planning methods for employ hyper-density as driving force for sustainable metropolitan development and local economy development.

### Expected Outcomes:

During this discussion, the following outcomes are expected:

- Driving forces for sustainable metropolitan development;
- Social interaction and communication enhancement;
- High-density metropolitan management policies;
- Local economy development;
- Resource mobilization;
- Physical activities.

### The Participating Stakeholders and their Affiliation:

Academia, Practitioners, Government Officials, Professional planners, Architecture/Planning Students

### Speakers:

**MARCO KAMIYA**

Coordinator, Urban Economy and Finance Branch  
UN-Habitat Global Headquarters in Kenya

**Bassem Fahmy MRTPI**

Programme Manager - Strategic Planning Program  
UN-Habitat Egypt Office

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### ROUNDTABLE 4: UN HABITAT: PLANNING CITY EXTENSION AREAS ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND

Due to the natural population growth and increasing urbanization, the government has decided to allow existing cities to grow besides the creation of new cities. The urban growth boundary in the strategic plans defines the urban extension areas for each city. Then, the law foresees that local governments (governorates) develop detailed plans to implement a street network, services and spaces for residential use in these extension areas. For different reasons, these plans face several difficulties in their implementation, including: outdated cadaster, land fragmentation and missing tools to facilitate the engagement of landowners in relocating their properties according to the detailed plan. As a result, landowners agree informal subdivision among themselves leading to the common pattern of informal settlements with narrow streets and little space for services and amenities.

The workshop will explore with the different stakeholders involved or interested in the process of planning city extension how the current process could be improved. The “Who” and the “How” will be discussed, as well as ideas to alter the process, e.g. through land readjustment and participatory planning. The workshop will be based on practical examples. Discussions will evolve around an extension area in Banha and Qena city.

**Target group:**

Central and local government officials, policy makers, urban planners

**Moderator:**

Mohamed Nada, UN Habitat

**Speakers:**

Salwa Abdelwahab, GOPP; representative of survey authority, representative of real estate publicity department (shahr aqari), governorate representatives (e.g. urban planning department), academia



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### ROUNDTABLE 5: LANDSCAPES AS PUBLIC SPACE: TOWARDS A NEW URBAN AGENDA FOR CITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

**Related theme:**  
Branding New Cities

**Introduction:**

In the last two decades, the role of urban landscape projects in Middle Eastern cities has grown in prominence, with a gradual shift in emphasis from gardens for the private sphere to an increasingly public function. As a natural consequence of this shift, contemporary landscapes have begun to serve as the core of new urban plans and designs. This phenomenon has not only established a new relationship between the environment and the city, but has also emphasized the public space as the focal point in new Middle Eastern cities. These contemporary landscape projects, either designed as public plazas or public parks, have played a significant role in transferring the modern Middle Eastern cities to a new era and also to transform to a newly shaped social culture in which public has a voice. These projects have improved the quality of life within cities in different ways either by providing recreational space for public or through its ecological benefits. This workshop aims to discuss the meanings, forms, and future of contemporary gardens and parks of the Middle East through the study of specific case studies (e.g., gardens, parks, plazas) from various countries (e.g., UAE, Iran, Turkey, and Egypt).

**Questions:**

This workshop will address the following questions:

A. How did landscape projects emerge as part of urban design in contemporary cities of the Middle East, and how are design elements used to create static and

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dynamic spaces and sub-spaces (e.g., theatre, temporary markets, festivals, public gatherings)?

B. How are landscape projects perceived by citizens and visitors, and how people's perception makes an impact on the design of new cities?

C. How do landscapes contribute to the enhancement of the life quality in urban and rural communities and to the betterment of environment and ecology?

D. What role have the politics played in shaping the contemporary landscape of the Middle East, and what are the impacts of the governmental and economic patronage on the design of landscape projects?

E. What are the influences of westerns architectural and landscape movements in the development of the landscapes in contemporary cities of the Middle East?

F. What are the roles of public in reframing the concept of landscape design in contemporary and new cities?

G. What are the impacts of contemporary landscape in cultural and social affairs in Middle Eastern cities?

### **Expected Outcomes:**

A. To engage both academics and professionals from a variety of fields, including but not limited to architecture, real estate, urban planning, sociology

B. To educate the audience about global movements and trends, regional and global precedents, and the role of landscape in new cities

C. To engage students and faculty from variety of disciplines in productive conversations about the design and planning of contemporary and new cities



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**D. To discuss environmental and ecological changes as a necessity for the design of new urban and landscape projects**

### **The Participating Stakeholders and their Affiliation**

Governmental agencies, university faculty from wide range of disciplines, architecture and planning students, artists, private sector, investors, and the public audience

### **Moderator:**

Mohammad Gharibour (Morgan State University, Baltimore, USA)

### **Speakers:**

Marie Pessiat (Cedej- The French Research and Documentation Centre)

Kevin Mitchell (American University of Sharja, UAE)



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### ROUNDTABLE 6: ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESPONSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT – DISTRICT BASED SOLUTIONS FROM HAMBURG AND ITS TRANSFERABILITY TO NEW COMMUNITIES!?

#### Related to the Themes:

ANTICIPATE (climate change mitigation) and REACT: (resource efficient cities)

With regard to:

Understanding the notion of risk and uncertainty as constraints in architecture and urbanism

Climate change mitigation

Sustainable urbanism and mobility

Water management and energy

#### Introduction:

Hamburg is affected by anthropogenic impacts to the environment and by the ones of climate change. As a response to these constraints, there is a strong set of instruments for environmental planning and long-term experiences with the application and the improvement of instruments and measurements.

In Hamburg, heavy precipitation events regularly lead to overwhelmed urban drainage systems. These events could occur more often in the future. As well, dense urban areas in Hamburg suffer increasingly from heat waves and its effects. It is still unclear what proportion of heavy precipitation can be delayed and retained by decentralized stormwater measures. For example, the role of green roofs in urban flood reduction. Yet, Hamburg seeks as well for measures to reduce the urban heat island effect (UHI). Such measures should enhance, at the same time, the thermal comfort during heat waves.

Furthermore, reducing emissions from transport is one of the most important aims to mitigate climate change and air pollution in cities. Hamburg is trying

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to enhance the use of electro-mobility in the city by promoting it through car-sharing systems.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The workshop is dealing with experiences from Hamburg and its transferability to Cairo's sustainable and climate responsive urban development. These experiences will focus on (1) UHI effects' mitigation, as well as (2) the implementation of decentralized water management, green infrastructure and (3) electro mobility, in dense urban areas. In the context of this conference, the HCU working group "Environmentally sound Urban and Infrastructure Planning" will present research results of the last five years and discuss its transferability to Cairo and Egypt's new communities.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

The workshop will (1) discuss the applicability of the presented solutions for Cairo and Egypt's new communities, (2) enable the development of further ideas for future research on sustainable urbanism in Cairo and Hamburg and (3) expand the scientific dialogue.

### **Participating Stakeholders:**

Urban/landscape planners

Architects

Administrative staff of the urban planning board in Cairo and other Egyptian cities

Universities

NGOs

### **Moderator:**

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Dickhaut

### **Speakers:**

(1) Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Dickhaut:  
"Enhancing Sustainable and Climate Responsive Urban Development – An Overview of Targets and Experiences"



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(2) M.Sc. Resource Efficiency in Arch. and Planning (REAP) Zamna A. Rodríguez Castillejos:  
“Climate Adaptation in Dense Urban Districts”

(3) Dipl. Geo-Oekolog.: Michael Richter:  
“Green Roofs as a Tool for Climate Adaptation, Stormwater Management and Enhancing Urban Environment”

(4) Dipl.-Ing. Johana Fink:  
“Implementing Electric Car-sharing on a Neighborhood Level”

(5) Final Panel: Enhancing Sustainable and Climate Responsive Urban Development in Hamburg and Cairo - A Comparison of Lessons Learned and Transferability of Experiences

