



Regional implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Side Event during Habitat III Conference

Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana “Benjamín Carrión”, UN Pavilion, Room A, Quito

17 October 2016, 13:00-14:30

Concept note

This event will highlight the ways in which regional processes can promote the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, according to each region's specific priorities and within the context of the COP21 agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Apart from underlining the role of the United Nations Regional Commissions in this process, it will also provide an opportunity to share the implementation strategy of each region, including the possibility of regional agreements on implementation. In some regions, the implementation strategy is already under discussion by multiple stakeholders in close cooperation with the Regional Commissions. The side event is an opportunity to present these strategies to a broader base of stakeholders and participants and to promote the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Regional Commissions are uniquely positioned to facilitate regional commitments from member States and other regional actors towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. They act as platforms, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental actors as well as international and regional organizations, to support governments in evaluating regional trends, facilitate the exchange of national policy experiences, develop national and local capacities and help member States translate global commitments into policy action. The Regional Commissions pursue such work in collaboration with the United Nations system, including the regional offices of UN-Habitat.

The United Nations Regional Commissions have played an important role in the Habitat III process coordinating the preparation of Habitat III Regional Reports in cooperation with regional UN Habitat offices as mandated by the General Assembly, through its resolutions 67/216, 68/239, and 69/226, by ECOSOC, through resolution 2012/27 and by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat through resolution 24/14. The Regional Commissions have lead the convening of several regional UN stakeholder and expert consultative meetings and have also been closely involved in other regional preparatory activities including ministerial ones (MINURVI Habitat III position document in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNECE Committee of Housing and Land Management, the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, African Union Commission/STC 8-HUD, and the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development). These processes have enabled the Regional Commissions to gather broad stakeholder and expert input for defining regional priorities, participate closely in regional initiatives of governments (national and local) towards Habitat III and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders in sustainable urban development. As a continuation of these activities, the Regional Commissions are important actors in shaping and facilitating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including through the creation of regional platforms and networks, as they have done with regard to the 2030 Agenda. The Regional Commissions have the potential to effectively synergize outcomes of Habitat III



with their regional mandates and strengthen implementation and coherence of the New Urban Agenda.