

WORLD URBAN FORUM 5

Rio de Janeiro



24 March
Room W3 - 7
1.30 to 4 pm

Habitat Professionals Roundtable

What role for Urban Professionals in
the World Urban Campaign ?

The world is experiencing a surge of urban growth on a scale never seen before. Better management of this growth is fundamental to international attempts to grapple with CO2 emissions, the consequences of climate change, and threats to food security through loss of farmland.

Huge urban growth is inevitable, but the way we manage that growth is not.

The Habitat Professionals Roundtable aims at debating and highlighting best professional practices and core principles for achieving urban sustainability.

The Roundtable will debate and present the 2010 Rio Habitat Professionals Forum's Charter : Vision for our Future, Bridging Urban Gaps.

Coordinated by the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF), this roundtable will bring together human settlements professionals to address the issue of professional practices' steps towards bridging the urban divide.

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The urban professionals are active in research, policy-making and practice. Town planners, transport, waste, energy and water infrastructure planners, engineers, housing experts, architects, landscape architects, surveyors, etc, determine to a large degree the physical and therefore social and economic environment of towns and cities.

They are an essential component of environmental, socially and even economically sustainable urban settlements. Their skills matter more than ever; they can make a difference. But they need to work together and as partners with governments, communities and UN-Habitat.

A number of major global and continental organizations of such professionals having worked together for some 10 years in a 'Habitat Professionals Forum' (HPF), is now focusing its efforts on the World Urban Campaign. Their knowledge and skills must be used effectively to achieve its strategic objectives.

The Habitat Professionals Forum's role

Within the context of the World Urban Campaign, HPF's objectives are basically two-fold.

1. To pool the resources of professionals and work towards reducing the segmentation of urban issues by sectors. Best practices and urban policies are often developed sectorally, but sustainable urbanization requires a more integrated multi-sectoral approach. Urban professionals can help to implement a more integrated urban planning approach.

2. By doing this, the professionals want to maximise their expertise as a major partner to UN-Habitat by applying working methods which are fully in line with those featuring prominently in the World Urban Campaign :

- developing synergy and partnerships ;
- encouraging exchange and dialogue ;
- promoting and disseminating professional practices, common values and ethics ;
- providing leading-edge information and expertise and increasing professional capacity and learning.

To this end, HPF has recently drawn up Terms of Reference and produced a Charter to be presented to the WUF 5.

These are important background documents to help achieve the aims of the urban professionals as a major partner in working towards sustainable urbanisation.

The fifth World Urban Forum's Professionals Roundtable

This roundtable welcomes urban development professionals from different backgrounds and networks representatives.

The objective of the Roundtable is to discuss, collect ideas and provide some inputs on what professionals can do to help UN-Habitat in its sustainable urbanisation mission. The urban professionals do not want to just describe nice intentions on paper; they want to do something concrete and pragmatic.

The specific objective is to present the HPF's Charter and to discuss with the participants on how the Charter can be effectively applied in practice. In so doing, ideas can be collected for HPF's working programme for the period 2010-2012.

It is not to discuss the text of the Charter itself, although any comments on its principles and major challenges would be welcome. It is more to take the intended functions of HPF and activities laid down in the Terms of Reference and Charter and provide ideas on how to implement them in practice.

Some of questions that will be addressed during the roundtable ;

1. *How can HPF promote cooperation and partnership between professionals themselves and between professionals, UN-Habitat, policymakers and the general public?*

2. *How do the professionals distinguish themselves from other UN partners ?*

3. *What is the most important "leading edge information and expertise" for professionals to transfer, what are the best routes to be taken to ensure that transfer ?*

4. *What sort of international knowledge transfer activities can take place at the international level; what are the modern tools and techniques to ensure a more constant stream of knowledge ?*

5. *What are the main obstacles to promote common values and realistic ethics in a multi-cultural world ?*

6. *On which areas of the broad urban sustainability agenda (urban growth, slum improvement, climate change, urban infrastructure and health etc) should the professionals preferably concentrate their efforts ?*



Louise Cox

President, International Union of Architects (UIA), Chair of the Habitat Professionals Forum

Member of the UIA Council since 1996, **Louise Cox** was Vice-President for Asia and Oceania from 2002 to 2005, and first Vice-President of the UIA from 2005 to 2008. She contributed to revising the Charter for Architectural Education and drafting the documents that make up the UNESCO-UIA Validation System for Architectural Education. Louise Cox received her architecture degree from the University of Sydney. Louise Cox is the second woman to serve as UIA president.



Pablo Vaggione

Secretary General, International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)

Pablo Vaggione, a practising urbanist, focuses his activity in sustainable urban development. After receiving a Masters Degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, he obtained a Certificate in Environment and Sustainable Development from the United Nations University in Tokyo. He is the founder of Design Convergence Urbanism. In 2007 he was elected Secretary General of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), a non-governmental organisation recognised by the United Nations and the Council of Europe, and with consultative status with UNESCO.



Prof. Stig Enemark

President, International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

Professor Stig Enemark obtained a Master of Sciences in Surveying, Planning and Land Management and a degree in cadastral surveying in Copenhagen. He worked for ten years as a consultant surveyor specializing in cadastral surveying and land management. Since 1980 he is a full Professor in Problem Based Learning and Land Management at Aalborg University. He was Head of the School of Surveying and Planning (1991-2005) and President and Honourable Member of the Danish Association of Chartered Surveyors (2003-2006). He has been active in FIG since 1984 (Vice-President in 2005-2006 and President from 2007).



Christine Platt

President, Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

Christine Platt holds a Masters Degree in Town and Regional Planning. She is a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (United Kingdom), Corporate Member South African Planning Institute and a Registered Planner with the South African Council of Planners ; President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP, from 2006) and President South African Planning Institute (SAPI, 2002-2006). She was first employed as a Research Fellow in the Economic Research Unit of the University of Natal, then worked in local government ending up as head of a Municipal Town Planning Section.



Derek Martin

Secretary General, IHPF / International Federation for Housing and Planning

Derek Martin holds a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Amsterdam. He is specialised in the cross-border and European dimension of spatial planning. He was a policy officer at the former National Physical Planning Agency in The Hague (NL) for many years. After working on the cross border and European dimension of the Dutch 4th National Planning Report, he spent 3 years at the EC working on the development of the spatial dimension of EU regional economic policy. For almost 10 years, he was Head of International Spatial Policy, and then of Sustainable Spatial Development at the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.



Mohamed Fawzi Zniber

Vice-President, Moroccan College of Architects and Urban planners (CAUM), Global Planners Network member

Mohamed Fawzi Zniber graduated at Bordeaux School of Architecture and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts de Paris, and holds

a Master's degree at l'Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris. He was part of the founding team of the National Institute of Urban Planning and Development (INAU) in Rabat where he was Assistant Professor, Head of seminars and was also Academic Director of the CERAU for 4 years; presently Vice-President of the Collège des Architectes Urbanistes du Maroc (CAUM). Currently, he participates in the design and implementation of urban upgrading programs and at the same time is active in social and urban areas within civil and professional associations.



Alison Brown

Expert and Planning advisor to WIEGO / Inclusive Cities Project

Alison Brown is a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Reader and Course Director at the School of City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University. She has extensive inter-

national especially in planning practice, international planning in emerging economies, and the informal economy. She has current projects including comparative research on poverty reduction in low income cities, and works for local authorities, NGOs and private clients in the UK. She is a member of the UNESCO expert team for the project on Social and Spatial Inclusion of Migrants in the City, and planning advisor to WIEGO on their Inclusive Cities Project.



Desirée Martínez

Secretary General, Americas International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)

Desirée Martínez is Regional Secretary of the Americas Region of the IFLA. She is immediate past President of the Mexican Society of Landscape Architects and has

her own practice, working mainly on public projects of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. At present she is an IFLA representative in the project advisory group for the Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture's Project Climate Adaptation Tools for Sustainable Settlements (CATSS).



Xavier Crépin

Chief Executive Officer, Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement (ISTED)

Xavier Crépin worked as an international consultant and worked for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for ten years as an adviser

and programme manager in developing countries for Ministries of Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works. He joined ISTED in 1994, dedicated to international cooperation in the areas of transportation, construction, urban services and infrastructures. The opening up to the private sector led to his involvement in European institutional cooperation activities and regional planning and sustainable development programmes. He is also teaching architecture and planning in different universities.



Nicolas Buchoud

Senior policy advisor & urban development expert, representative of Global Planners Network (GPN) and Conseil Français des Urbanistes (CFDU)

Nicolas Buchoud Graduated at Master's Degree in Chinese History, Public Law and Political Science and Planning and Urban Development in La Sorbonne University and Sciences Po in Paris. He currently stands as a Senior policy advisor at the Office of the President of Paris Ile de France Region, working on strategic planning and sustainable metropolitan development as well climate change issues. He has published and directed several books and professional articles about urban development worldwide. He has created a consultancy and R&D agency in Paris, Renaissance Urbaine (2006), dedicated to urban knowledge exchanges. He is an active member of several professional planning and urban development networks.

For more information, contact :

Derek Martin, IFHP, Secretary, Habitat Professionals Forum / d.martin@ifhp.org

Christine Auclair, Focal Point for Habitat Professionals, UN-HABITAT / christine.auclair@unhabitat.org