Guatemala City

Credit photo Benjamin Michelon

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On our way to Habitat III
Testimony of stakeholders

A year after the adoption of the 2030 Universal Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the historic Paris agreement on climate change, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, which will be held in Quito in October 2016, will provide a unique opportunity to make the New Urban Agenda (NUA) a top global priority. Achieving the sustainable development goals contained in this new agenda will depend on the active participation of all urban stakeholders, primarily cities and urban areas, but also citizens and the private sector. The New Urban Agenda can therefore provide a launching pad for the SDGs, in particular SDG 11 which is concerned with cities and urban spaces.

The NUA will specify the necessary conditions and priorities for the creation of cities that are inclusive, prosperous and resilient. It is also intended to foster a universal vision of the city which nevertheless recognises the specific features of each country and each region. Highlighting the need for a partnership between governments, cities and regions, it will promote urban governance that brings together all stakeholders, conferring on the citizen a central role in urban development and recognizing the important role of women. Last, the NUA will stress the importance of the right to housing and the eradication of informal settlements, as well as the need for urban planning that considers both property and infrastructure, cultural embedment, the prevention of the risks resulting from climate change and access to essential services.

Member States and stakeholders wish to shift the emphasis of the Quito Conference towards implementation and concrete measures. The NUA has the intention of being an "agenda for action". How should action be taken, with which levers, and with whom? What concrete initiatives should be taken at the global, national and local level, in the areas of funding, capacity building, technology and innovation, and governance? The answers to these questions will be central to the negotiations. In addition to "declarations" which become reference documents for governments and international institutions, United Nations Conferences also encourage dynamics and processes which may have far-reaching effects.

Member States, United Nations Institutions, the Global Task Force and the 15 major groups that form the *Global Assembly of Partners* have reached an agreement whereby Habitat III will be provided with a robust monitoring system. This will be based on existing mechanisms such as the urban forums and the system that was set up to monitor the SDGs. Among the options that are under consideration are regular rendezvous clauses, an improved partner consultation system which gives a special place to local authorities, an indicator matrix, etc.

Quito will be an important meeting and a success if everybody is willing to make commitments and contribute to initiatives, as was the case with the extraordinary energy that was deployed during COP 21 where so many urban stakeholders, in particular corporates, made commitments and showed themselves willing to make an active contribution. The New Urban Agenda can draw on this dynamic and carry it forward. France, which is co-chairing the event with Ecuador, has great hopes for the Quito conference. Its representatives know that they can count on a high degree of mobilization and participation on the part of French stakeholders. Let's meet in Quito! ◼

Maryse GAUTIER,
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On the way to Quito ━━━

Between April 2015 and April 2016, in partnership with the journal Urbanisme[1], AdP-Villes en Développement published a series of articles penned by its members that dealt with the urban issues and challenges that will be facing us in the next twenty years. Under the French title of "En route vers Quito" (On the Way to Quito), these texts show the diversity of experience, profiles, career paths and points of view that exist among the association's membership. Ferdinand BOUTET and Éric HUYBRECHTS, who edited these magazines, present a summary and some recommendations.

Bridge between two edges in Vang Vieng, Laos

Credit photo Ferdinand Boutet

In October 2016, the Habitat III Conference will adopt the New Urban Agenda, which will constitute the shared doctrine on cities for the next twenty years (Kamel Bouhmad and Raf Tuts, *La place du fait urbain dans l'agenda 2030*, n°398). Once adopted by all States, the agenda will define the policies of international institutions with regard to urban development.

The spatial growth of cities is extending beyond their administrative boundaries, making it necessary to **re-examine the methods and geographical scales that are employed when managing territories**. This growth also forces us to reconsider the sums that are devoted to urban development and their sources (Claude de Miras, *Renouveler le financement urbain dans les pays en développement ?*, n°400). Coordination between local authorities in order to take account of the operation of areas is essential both within metro areas and with regard to the relationship between urban and rural zones. Planning becomes territorial outside the administrative boundaries. In order to act, the local authorities nevertheless need a national framework. However, few countries have put in place a national urban policy (Julien Allaire and Lorenza Tomasioni, *Planifier l'accessibilité urbaine pour tous,* n°396). In the same way, local authorities need to adhere to strategies that involve different geographical levels in order to take account of the environmental hazards and the social and economic dynamics, in particular those linked to migration, that are transforming their regions. The re-examination of centralized systems sets out to give priority to systems that are more flexible, decentralized, suited to the context and that can be managed and maintained at the local level.

The acceptance of the SDGs in 2015 and UN–Habitat's adoption of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*[2] provide a strong signal that planning is once again becoming one of the major concerns of the authorities (Eric Huybrechts, *Un guide international pour la planification*, n°397). SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - recommends an integrated approach to urban development that goes beyond sector-based methodologies. COP 21, which was held in Paris in December 2015 emphasised **the need for planning in order to design resilient cities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. The Paris Urban Campus which was held in January 2016 and organised by the World Urban Campaign[3], FNAU[4], IAU-IDF[5] and the PFVT[6], has repositioned the citizen at the heart of urban planning and design (Camille Le Jean, *La planification intelligente au service d'une ville durable*, n°400). Smart planning aims to contextualise urban strategies and policies to avoid "one size fits all" responses, while retaining a planning process that considers the local, territorial, regional and national levels (François Noisette, *Les labs, panels et autres ateliers projets*, n°397).

From "beneficiaries" to "partners": the terminology of projects news to adopt new terms that **include and stress the importance all the stakeholders involved in the joint construction of territories.** Long-term exchanges (Laurent Pandolfi, *L'expérience de la coopération décentralisée de la Région IdF*, n°399) help to strengthen local capacities in order to improve the planning of metro areas, involve a large number of players and encourage innovation.

At the same time, the transformations taking place in urban areas vary according to their location. For example, we are witnessing rapid urban growth in the South and shrinking urban areas and deindustrialsation in some countries of the North. Whatever the case, in the next twenty years, the changes promise to be considerable. **On its own, urban project management will not be equal to such challenges and will need to rely increasingly on a large number of stakeholders. It will need to set priorities for public action and hand over large areas of urban development to civil society and the private sector.** This is already occurring today with the informal production of urban areas which accounts for almost half of all urbanization in the South, and the increasing number of urban services which are entrusted to the private sector due to the insufficient investment capacity of the public authorities (Bruno Valfrey, *Les nouvelles frontières de l'eau*, n°398). Today's policy crisis makes it necessary to provide accountability and **improve transparency in public decision-making and the use of public funds.** However, it also encourages the control of planning actions

1. https://www.urbanisme.fr
2. http://unhabitat.org/books/lignes-directrices-internationales-sur-la-planification-urbaine-et-territoriale/
3. http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/
4. National Federation of Urban Planning Agencies
5. Ile de France Region Development and Urban Planning Institute
6. French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development

and the management of urban services by local authorities and civil society. Multi-stakeholder governance must give a greater role to civil society and mobilise high level expertise more effectively in order to inform debate, increase knowledge and facilitate decision-making.

Providing access to urban data and establishing indicators (Cédric Baecher, *Faisons de l'urbanisme durable l'affaire de tous !,* n°396) to monitor urban policies have become important measures for managing societal and territorial change and modifying urban policies as they are being developed. Data production makes use of collaborative tools that provide a detailed and up-to-date picture of residents' behaviours but nevertheless require privacy protection measures. The data in question are spatially referenced and contextualised in Geographic Information Systems which have become widespread, making it possible to deal with both the short and long terms at all geographical scales. The development of social networks and collaborative tools transforms the use of this data which is now available in systems which are shared by and accessible to all. However, the management of the enormous amounts of data requires processing techniques which are still concentrated raising the question of the control of data.

The new urban paradigm must be based on the mobilisation of citizen initiatives. The solutions to urban problems need to be anchored in the local context and require the development of collaborative practices and partnerships in order to foster innovation (Marc Sylvestre, *Innover et simplifier, deux clés de la durabilité urbaine dans les villes du Sud*, n°399). The joint construction of projects is part of the same approach. The scale of the changes that are occurring is such that local authorities are becoming mediators whose role is to facilitate the development of civil society initiatives and private stakeholders. The measures that are required are more open, transparent and inclusive, both in the project design and the project implementation phases. This means it is necessary to grant citizens a greater role in the processes of project design and decision-making, as well as in the implementation of projects and the management of urban services. ■

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Éric HUYBRECHTS
Ferdinand BOUTET

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The priority of Habitat III: taking action to achieve the Global Sustainable Development Goals

Gérard PAYEN was an advisor on the United Nations Secretary-Generals' Advisory Board on Water & Sanitation (UNSGAB) between 2004 and 2015 and sets out here the board's priorities for Habitat III which are to make sure the issue of water in developing cities is present in the debate and for Habitat III to politically launch Sustainable Development Goal No. 11, which is concerned with cities.

Water-related problems are becoming increasingly severe in many parts of the world, particularly in the cities of developing countries where they are intensified by urban growth. The steady increase in the amounts of water used by agriculture, the economy and cities mean that every year it becomes more difficult to provide enough water to meet everybody's needs. Cities are in direct competition with other users. As they have used up the local resources which permitted their creation, they are often forced to take water from far away that has traditionally been used for agriculture. In spite of all the efforts to develop appropriate infrastructure, access to drinking water and sanitation is deteriorating in the urban half of the world: there are today more city-dwellers without adequate access to drinking water and sanitation than there were at the end of the 20th century. More than 80% of the wastewater produced by cities is completely untreated. In many regions, climate change is increasing the risks and intensity of torrential rainfall and flooding.

This situation is extremely worrying. More proactive policies are necessary to ensure that water requirements are met in a sustainable manner, to guarantee the human right to water and sanitation, to stop polluting our environment and better forecast disasters in order to limit their human and economic consequences.

At a global level, at the United Nations the issue of urban water has until now been a non-subject. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's speech on 22 March 2011 warning about the deterioration of access to drinking water in cities has received no reactions. A fundamental - but erroneous - belief among the global water community is that more needs to be done in the other half of the world, i.e. the rural part, while access to water is rapidly improving there.

Habitat III is taking place at an extraordinary time, just after the historical fixing by all nations of 17 major priorities for humanity. One of these 17 Global SDGs is concerned with cities, another with water-related issues (SDG 6). Given this situation, the negotiators who are responsible for framing the policy decisions made at Habitat III should ensure, above all else, that Habitat III is the global initiator of the large number of actions that are necessary for SDG 11 to be achieved by 2030. For this, they must ensure, in particular, the achievement of target SDG 11.1 which is concerned with universal access of citizens to essential services (therefore drinking water and sanitation) and target 11.5 which aims to make cities resilient to natural disasters (most of which are water-related). Will they abandon their traditional debates and become part of the global movement to achieve the SDGs and adopt its operational requirements?

A major challenge of Habitat III is the use of the SDGs to break down thematic silos. What is necessary is to bring about long-term cooperation between experts in planning and urban management, water management and the SDG's, a miracle that has yet to be seen within the United Nations. ■

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Gérard PAYEN

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Facilitating the link between knowledge generation and global policy making

Cities Alliance and N-Aerus Partnership Activity collaborate to defining a collective position on Habitat III papers. Herewith, Luisa MORETTO and Viviana d'AURIA introduce this partnership.

Urbanization is transforming social, economic, cultural and spatial conditions in cities, requiring urgent action to both hasten achievements in these conditions and cope with negative consequences of urban growth. This action is all the more relevant within the context of on-going preparation for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016 (Habitat III). Within the broad range of issues in the new urban agenda, international negotiations on the future global development framework (Sustainable Development Goals-SDG/Post 2015) revealed for example the need for further evidence on urbanization patterns and their transformative impacts on whole countries, the role of informal economies for sustaining city economies, and evaluative investigations of policies addressing urbanization and the growth of slums.

European universities and institutions have undertaken a large array of individual and joint research projects and participated as knowledge exchange partners in the global South. However, not only have most European Union governments failed to fully draw on this research and training to design their support programmes and policies, but they have also lately been reducing their support for development research and aid. The *Cities Alliance* and N-Aerus Partnership was conceived with these needs in mind, aiming to facilitate the link between global policy making and knowledge generation. For the members of the *Cities Alliance* advocacy work in support of the new urban agenda is essential, and facilitating discussions between academic institutions and networks with development partners across Europe an important objective. N-Aerus as a pluri-disciplinary network was created two decades ago with the objective to mobilise and develop European institutional and individual research and training capacities on urban issues in the South.

Preparation for Habitat III is an outstanding opportunity for both organisations to fill crucial evidence gaps in support of investments in cities and urban research. Whereas *Cities Alliance* is able to identify the strongest arguments towards an urban agenda expressed in international negotiations, N-Aerus can identify evidence that could address these concerns. In this partnership, three strategic priority areas have been identified: Informality; Governance; and Housing & Planning.

The focus on informality highlights its growth in a context of growing inequity, becoming the norm in many places. Despite decades of studies and interventions in the South, **'recognising informality' is still a key issue**; even though informal practices are increasingly also taking place in the North. In a new context of inequality, with a growing number of citizens deprived of their basic rights, the creation of solidarity and the development of mutualism are alternatives to the crisis of governmentality and to the incapacity of public institutions in responding to the 'demand for city'. Hence acceptance of informality is a pre-condition for structuring appropriate responses in order to manage urbanisation. The reasons for such lack of recognition – which range from lack of political will and power imbalances favouring minority interests, through organisational incapacity, to lack of understanding of the contributions from all sectors of society in producing and managing urban space – need to be addressed.

Governance is also crucial given the tremendous challenges for urban development that lie ahead. Since the city as a never finished product cannot be managed by a single stakeholder but is instead a process dependent on the interactions of many stakeholders, including conflict and agreement. Normative, binary, and technical thinking on urban governance leads to the assumption that urban problems can be overcome by providing the "right" solutions. This thinking contributes to a stagnant production of knowledge that mainly repeats what is already known. Since there are no universal solutions to the manifold urban challenges, it is more likely that local problems can be solved with context and dialogue-based solutions.

Housing is a widely acknowledged fundamental need and basic right, closely connected to accessing other key assets. Nonetheless, while there is a proven interrelation between sustainable development and well-located and affordable homes, today housing price rises and ill-placed housing developments produce socio-economic and spatial segregation and fragmentation. Moreover standardised urban forms, financialised outcome-based policies, and inadequate planning models, contribute to inequality in housing access and a disconnect from urban planning. Planning codes and design standards impact significantly on the way urban transformations are implemented and how land is managed and used. Despite numerous effective and innovative approaches for the implementation of affordable and accessible housing, their adoption and adaptation remain a challenge due to stakeholders benefitting from the status quo and fail to be up-scaled or framed within a given locale's specificities.

The Partnership's work supports the following as priorities: to acknowledge the rights of citizens as a starting point for recognizing informality's contributions to the city; to increase the connectivity of urban actors; and to suggest ways to link housing policy and design with integrated planning. For policy, this leads to recommend developing context-dependent responses to specific local conditions and at a local scale, with participatory definition of strategies and programmes in all settlements, both 'formal' and 'informal'. For research, the understanding of trans-disciplinary approaches is crucial, to support the achievement of the right to the city through a new de-centred and de-westernised approach to urban studies. To allow for such issues to be addressed by the research communities, an increase in demand-driven research agendas by means of more flexible grants would counteract the influence of developer or industrial lobbies on research agendas as well as complement multi- and bi-lateral funding agency programmes. ■

Luisa MORETTO
Viviana d'AURIA

For an "urban planning of emergence" and new forms of urban governance

Thinking about local development inevitably leads to the conclusion that development projects are no longer underpinned by ideological discourse; what holds sway is the realpolitik of economic and social development. The utopic vision of technically advanced cities - ecocities, smart cities – has been extinguished by the global crisis, whether in Dongtan (Shanghai) or Masdar City (Abou Dhabi)[1]. If urban projects are losing their appeal, we may find some hope in emergence, even though it is difficult to identify the ideal conditions for urban projects. Urban planning should adopt an ethical position which links it intimately to the search for the "common good". Jean-François DOULET, consultant and lecturer at the Ecole d'urbanisme de Paris explores a few possible avenues.

Globalisation provides new opportunities for emerging countries: in volume terms, private sector funding has replaced public development aid. This unprecedented situation provides a context that is conducive to an "urban planning of emergence" which is the expression of an economic, political and social vision. Globalisation leads to the circulation of resources which may provide opportunities for successful local development. Of course, all areas do not have the same advantages but well-conducted diagnosis can identify possibilities and opportunities.

Smarter forms of governance in the service of urban development: Emergence, namely the proactive participation in globalization, represents a challenge for the creation of local policies as it requires local public authorities to be strategists who are able to use globalisation to their advantage. For this they need to develop expertise in the areas of financial arrangements, management techniques, the formulation of regional development strategies, etc. Emerging metropolises are created by public policy, globalized stakeholders and private investment working together. For example, the ability to call on direct foreign investment supported the invention of the Chinese industrially and technologically effective metropolis; the effective management of international expertise made the expansion of the Gulf metropolises possible and that of public-private partnerships dominates the management of urban services in Africa and elsewhere. How can we make sure that the efficiency that is sought is not ultimately to the advantage of a limited number of stakeholders? How is it possible to monitor the impacts of frequently complex financial and organisational arrangements? How can we create robust urban projects?

Public-private partnerships in the service of the "common good". Local public authorities which are governed by cumbersome mechanisms may be dominated by private stakeholders with agility in the sphere of globalisation. But private stakeholders create neither policies, nor cities, nor urban projects. Their strategies tend to be predictable, targeting clear goals and employing standardized behaviours. This state of affairs provides a way of exercising some sort of control over PPPs.

The creation of pluralist forms of governance is central to urban projects. The involvement of private stakeholders is not the ultimate aim but a methodological device. It is because of the existence of an urban project that serves the "common good" that the strategies of private stakeholders converge with those of local public stakeholders. Also, the chief danger facing the "urban planning of emergence" is the absence of a project. The New Urban Agenda that has been agreed by the Habitat III conference should give the "common good" a central role in urban projects and lay down the conditions for balanced PPPs. ■

Jean-François DOULET

1- Simon Texier and Jean-François Doulet, *Abou Dhabi, Paris : Editions B2, 2016.*

Rechannelling local authority finance to foster urban and social integration

Carlos DE FREITAS and Melissa VERGARA of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) are working on the financing of urban development, particularly in the cities of the South. In this article they set out FMDV's ideas on the topic.

The years 2015 and 2016 are decisive for the renegotiation of international agreements on the implementation of concerted and fresh sustainable development policies. FMDV's approach aims to give central importance to the concepts of strategic partnerships, and the convergence, coherence and complementarity of policies and programmes for development, governance and shared responsibility, particularly between the private and public sectors, with the latter being defined in the broad sense of the term.

Although cities produce 80% of global gross domestic product, and drive both innovation and development, they cur-rently lack the regulatory and legal possibilities, and the engineering capacities that are needed to cope with the following phenomena: urbanization and globalisation and the inequalities they generate, financial crises, climate change and the need for adaptation and mitigation, technological revolutions, etc.

In the framework of the Habitat III conference and the specification and adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the most urgent challenges facing local authorities relate to the provision of high quality local public services and the promotion of development models that are sustainable,

Opening session of Habitat III Thematic meeting Financing Urban Development, Mexico City, 09-11 March 2016

Credit photo Carlos De Freitas

The Mexico City thematic meeting on Financing Urban Development (March 2016), that was organised by the Habitat III Secretariat, the Urban Authority of Mexico City and the Global Fund for Cities Development[1], pointed up the urgent need to reconsider the full diversity of needs in the area of local finance: engineering options, geographical scales, income levels and institutional development. The participants confirmed the importance of the principles for the financing of local development that were set out in the 11 priorities identified in the final declaration.

In a context where more and more responsibilities are being allocated to cities and resources from national governments are diminishing, it is a vital to give cities access to financial and legal mechanisms that enable them to become more autonomous, better able to mobilise resources and capture added value and returns on local investment. In 2015 the FMDV launched the *Subnational Pooled Financing Mechanisms-SPFM*[2]. These are catalysing instruments that seem to provide appropriate solutions that enable local governments to diversify their resources with a view to achieving sustainable urban development. This programme aims to conduct an analysis of experience and study its reproducibility in five pilot countries (Colombia, Turkey, Mexico, India and South Africa) and also set up a global platform for SPFMs that brings together all the members of the stakeholder chain that creates and operates the mechanisms.

equitable, resilient, that improve the quality of life for residents - and which are backed up by financial resources which are on a par with the projected costs of development. Sustainable urban funding is therefore key to the success of the SDGs and the implementation of Agenda 2030. The conclusions of the Addis Ababa conference on *Financing for Development* (July 2015) and COP 21 in Paris (December 2015) have confirmed the importance of this topic and the major role played by local government in co-defining and applying measures to achieve these goals.

Interview of Adrián Augusto Barrera Guarderas and Clara Doe Mvogo

The Habitat III Conference will be held in Quito in October 2016. It will make a number of recommendations for urban development worldwide. Many risks today weigh on urban territories, first and foremost those related to climate change. Cities resilience has become a major priority that should be highlighted during the Quito Conference. Interviewed by Serge Allou and Omar Siddique (Cities Alliance), Adrián Augusto Barrera Guarderas, medical doctor, Ecuadorian politician and former Mayor of Quito (Ecuador) from 2009 to 2014 - and Clara Doe Mvogo, current Mayor of Monrovia, capital of Liberia, give their point of view and field experience as urban stakeholders.

1) The "resilient city." Cities must be able to face and overcome the multifaceted environmental, economic and social challenges of urban development. Do you think this objective is relevant for cities of the Global South in general, and Monrovia in particular?

AB: It is an important goal which means we need to rethink how we create our cities. In recent years Latin-American cities have experienced a large number of events with natural or human causes, from the earthquakes that have struck Haiti, Chili and Ecuador to the environmental pollution warnings issued in Mexico City and Bogota, not forgetting the floods in Greater Buenos Aires. The human and economic costs of these events can no longer simply be seen as incidental. The ability to prevent, face and react to such events, which is nowadays referred to as resilience, involves a new comprehensive and systemic vision of urban spaces in which there is interaction between exclusion and inequalities, the geographical model, the delivery and monitoring of land, the quality and coverage of transportation systems, etc.

Quito joined the United Nations Resilient Cities Programme very early on and is making considerable progress. The city has conducted detailed vulnerability studies that include identifying the precise location of seismic risks and a map of potential landslide locations. Air and water quality monitoring systems have been set up. These steps have been taken under the supervision of high quality public institutions and specialized bodies. A considerable amount of work has been carried out with residents in the last decade in order to build the best possible response capacities at the micro-local level.

Some challenges, of course, remain. Seismic, volcanic and climatic risks are present all the time. As in every high-altitude city, where poor combustion increases environmental pollution, we need a radical transformation in travel systems in favour of high-capacity systems such as the Metro – whose construction is under way – or the promotion of non-motorised travel. Challenges with regard to the water supply will also increase.

CM: A multifaceted concept of resilience is very relevant for developing cities. In Africa we have a number of countries recovering from conflict

Clara Doe Mvogo

Credit photo Citiscope

and crisis. Liberia came out of a long civil conflict, which devastated our society as a whole. In 2014 we were confronted with a different type of crisis - the Ebola outbreak. This was the first time Ebola hit major cities in Africa and it forced us to strengthen the resilience our city's health and emergency response systems. We have now prioritized the socio-economic recovery of the city from the disease. This has been hampered by the decline of our rubber and iron ore commodities prices. We need to diversify our economy and re-purpose national, municipal and community finance to respond to this downturn. Monrovia is at the centre of economic resilience - we house one third of Liberia's population and generate two thirds of its GDP.

In addition, financing local development through the local economy is an important means of achieving inclusive change. To do this, we need to change current paradigms and adopt models that are more open to the recommendations of social and solidarity economics and finance, and more resilient to crises. This change will improve the integration of the macro-, meso- and micro-economic scales, to allow the consolidation of multi-stakeholder partnerships and spaces for closer dialogue and cooperation between local and central government, the private sector and citizen movements.

In order to achieve these goals, it is vital for cities to be considered as trustworthy partners by national government, the private sector, banking institutions and financial markets. New public-private alliances must develop and allow local authorities to improve their in-house procedures by making them more transparent, less cumbersome and more modern, and by providing public officials with the necessary knowledge and expertise in the areas of strategic planning, project management and financial innovation.

The FMDV wishes to restate the need to recognise that access to sources of funding under appropriate terms is still a major obstacle for local governments in many countries, in particular for those who depend on a sovereign guarantee in order to obtain funding from international organisations. The FMDV backs the need for local governments to be provided with an adequate range of possibilities for finance that is capable of supporting and assisting them on a permanent basis, in particular through an essential group of bodies, the specialised financial institutions. During the Mexico City meeting, the FMDV announced the launch of the *Global Forum of Local, Metropolitan and Regional Governments Financing Institutions*, that brings together 14 institutions from 13 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The success of the New Urban Agenda depends on the ability of stakeholders to commit to pragmatic, concerted roadmaps. In this respect, the FMDV has undertaken, in partnership with the City of Johannesburg, to launch an agenda of actions and solutions with regard to Habitat III with regard to financing issues, with the creation of a *Global partner ship for localizing finance for inclusive change".* This will help local governments implement the Conference Declaration in order to boost decentralised cooperation and dialogue with other development actors. ■

Carlos DE FREITAS and Melissa VERGARA

1. The FMDV report is available at http://www.fmdv.net
2. Policy paper on the SPFMs available http://www.fmdv.net

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2) "Participatory Democracy". Have you taken specific action to help the people of Monrovia strengthen their capacity to carry out development projects at the local level with a view to achieve this objective of resilience? Do you have any suggestions in this respect with regard to the cities of the Global South?

AB: The more local our response capacities are, the better. The events we are speaking about often have devastating impacts on communications systems leaving areas that are in some cases very near each other completely isolated. It is vital to strengthen the social fabric and district-level response capacities. Quito is divided into 8 administrative zones, 32 urban districts and 33 rural municipalities. We have decentralised the accountable bodies and above all trained civil society safety committees. Each committee is responsible for carrying out diagnosis and developing specific action plans that include immediate responses and early warning systems. We have developed this process by means of a system of citizen training schools.

Augusto Barrera
Credit photo Hámilton López

CM: I actively seek the participation of civil society to guide us on how we plan more effectively. Take for example solid waste management and sanitation – we work with waste pickers and slum dwellers in those communities and let them tell us how waste should be managed and what areas would reap the most significant benefits from public toilets. We have donors coming in offering assistance which is very supply driven. Do they always ask what we need before providing it? We have to meet community leaders to gain trust and to know what would work best. In Monrovia we have institutionalized town halls which have proven to be beneficial to ascertain local priorities. We need to get communities more involved in decision-making as a key aspect of building resilience. If you make decisions with your citizens you get better development results for your city.

3) "Human and Financial resources." What financial resources (taxation, government support, international donors) have you been able to mobilise to enhance resiliency of your city? What local and/or international human resources have you been able to draw in and stabilise to achieve this objective?

AB: We need to move towards a situation in which the city itself is financially responsible for resilience issues. If what is required is to integrate this vision within the entire urban planning, development and management process, it is reasonable to make it a cross-cutting concern. In Quito, the general budget of the municipality and the service companies includes an emergency fund, programmes to prevent and mitigate risk and improve infrastructure. Discussions with other cities all over the world and with international organizations are extremely interesting and worthwhile, particular with regard to the development of human resources. Nevertheless, the training that is available to professionals is very patchy in this area, particularly as regards providing them with a comprehensive vision of the situation.

CM: I have been able to get a lot of support for the city to achieve our ambitious development agenda. We have implemented an effective municipal tax regime but greater support for enhancing its coverage and efficiency is needed given steep urban population growth requires us to provide services to a greater number. The international community continues to support Monrovia to deliver urban services, including during the Ebola outbreak, which tested our systems. We have mobilized support from UNICEF, Oxfam, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and USAID. The World Bank supports our solid waste management operations and we have launched with UNICEF 'Operation Attack Plastic' which aims to recycle in a way that generates income for communities.
The Cities Alliance is our newest partner to assist us in the socio-economic recovery from Ebola through community driven mapping and upgrading of our informal settlements, improvements to our long-term city resilience planning and governance systems as well as strengthening our partnership with the Government through the development of our National Urban Policy. ■

Interview of Sheela Patel

Interviewed by Agnès Deboulet, professor at Paris 8 University and researcher at LAVUE, Mrs Sheela PATEL is the main responsible and founder of Sparc NGO (Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres). One of the major NGO on the issue of housing and furniture of infrastructure, Sparc[1] is also a major contributor to research and advocacy on the issue of low-income communities. Sparc is member of the National Slum Dwellers Federation (SDI[2]).

Sheela Patel

Crédit photo SDINet

Policies: not enough devoted and creative for solving informality: In reality most fundamentals issues of land tenure for slum dwellers at a national level have dramatically change, but we don't see the discussions around Habitat III leading to that.

Most attempts to resolve the slums issue try to make formal housing but by when neighbourhoods reach this time and standard, that housing stock becomes unaffordable. When you want to maintain the existing, the cost become much higher that what the 20-30% poorest are able to pay. Really the poors are stucked.

With the existing magnitude and volume of urbanization, the volume of backlog becomes a tough solution. This would need especially very involved actors able to see who needs to know what, explore different ways to reach that goal rather than standardized solutions

There have been some steps forward but not enough. The general problem of cities (and planning) organization shows that in reality lots of people will remain to live in informality.

Necessity to take intermediary measures and struggle for citizenship:

• Slums dwellers federation say that there is a need for official legitimation of all existing informal settlements and this is require before you have to count the dwellers

• City authorities have to start looking at people as a citizen. At the minute you come to the city, everybody needs to be included.

• This current state does not mean that we agree on the exiting conditions of living. There is a need for intermediary measures, as sanitation & toilets, basic services. Secure tenure and gradually housing will improve.

• At least improve the environment before starting working on the housing, before everything stabilizes.

Position and voice of NGO's: getting to a larger scale: Many organizations at bi-lateral levels are encouraging us to position and voice. You need local and international partnership at the time where everybody is connected.

Right to adequate housing: All these legal things matter and don't matter as a right can be included in the constitution and not to be enforced. Justice protects private ownership and there is no justice in the value of the rights in our countries. The rights discussion does not lead to secure tenure in many places.

Slum resettlement, on places and processes: Large number of people is squatting; we need to explore ways to share it and its various forms. Some resettlement programs are "working", such as Mumbaï's because of high price of land that brings developers to take interest in investing in people's les resettlements. Hence, it is important to look at ways by which we develop these processes carefully. And just bringing resettlement as a solution is not enough.

Actors not beneficiaries: You can't solve present problems with hierarchical vertical organizations, it requires people to involve: that's my message, don't see poor people like beneficiaries and they can make a big difference in what is gone to happen.

Initiatives but no scaling up: In India there is a lot a good quality initiatives, but there is no evidence of experiences working on scale and being affordable. ■

1. http://www.sparcindia.org
2. http://sdinet.org