



PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION IN ACP COUNTRIES

SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION IN AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND  
PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES  
NETWORKING EVENT

23 MARCH 2010 (14:00 – 16:00)  
W3-1



Asmara. Photo © A. Grimard/UN-HABITAT

Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum  
Theme - The Right to the City-Bridging the Urban Divide  
Rio de Janeiro

## INTRODUCTION TO THEME

The theme for the World Urban Forum is *The right to the city – bridging the urban divide*. Half of the world's population lives in towns and cities with the urban poor constituting a majority of urban dwellers. The theme for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum recognizes the rights of the urban poor and promotes their inclusion and equal access to the city. The poor should live in "dignity and in safety" and should also benefit from the city, as well as the poor obviously contribute to

the development of the city. The forum will stress the role of the government (and other key actors) in ensuring the rights of the poor are guaranteed.

The main topics of the fifth World Urban Forum are: *The Right to the City, Bridging the Urban Divide, Equal Access to Shelter, Cultural Diversity and Identity in Cities, Governance and Participation and Inclusive Sustainable Urbanisation*.

In addition to these topics, discussions will also look at urban income gaps, inequality, participatory governance, democracy and women-friendly cities. Under the Millennium Development Goals for poverty reduction by the year 2015, governments agreed that these combined with good urban planning, and good governance are the best way forward for a better urban future.

## SLUM UPGRADING AND PREVENTION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION

Urbanisation rates are highest in pace and scale in the developing world where a projected 2 billion urban dwellers will be added over the next 20 years. UN-HABITAT estimates that of the one billion urban dwellers living in slums, 94 per cent are from the South. In the Least Developed Countries, UN-HABITAT estimates that 78 per cent of urban population lives in slums and 42 per cent of all developing country residents are slum dwellers. The Participatory Slum Upgrading and Prevention Programme (PSUP), funded by the Intra-ACP Funds from the European Commission, was launched in 2008 to respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization and urban poverty. Through implementation of slum upgrading activities, the programme contributes towards implementation of Goal 7, Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to harmonize with local and national stakeholders on key slum-upgrading projects by creating networks for regional slum-upgrading challenges.

The purpose of the Participatory Slum Upgrading and Prevention Programme is to strengthen the capacity of regional, national and local institutions to raise the profile of urban development challenges at national and regional levels, agree on urban challenges and responses and design action plans, strengthen existing urban development initiative, to identify bottlenecks and implementation gaps and to raise resources for prioritized urban capacity and investment projects

Consisting of two components (Rapid Urban Profiling and Action Planning), the programme involves 30 countries and more than 80 cities throughout the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

## ACP GROUP OF STATES, EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND UN-HABITAT ASSESSING THE URBAN DIVIDE

The overall steering committee consisting of representatives from the European Commission, the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States and the UN-HABITAT Programme Management Team is part of a larger team represented by national focal points from key ministries, selected cities, local government associations, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, informal and private sector institutions and academia. In a collaborative manner, the Programme responds to the main themes of the forum, particularly those related to shelter, governance and participation and sustainable urbanization.



Massawa. Photo © A. Grimard/UN-HABITAT

## PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

By the end of 2009, 18 countries had launched the first phase of the programme, Urban Sector Profiling, including eleven countries in Africa, four countries in the Caribbean and three countries in the Pacific countries. Twelve other countries that completed activities through a previous urban sector profiling programme have published profiles during the first programme year and are now in the process of launching component two of the Programme, i.e. Action Planning. All of the countries in the latter category are located in Africa. A total of 42 profiles were published, including 11 national profiles and 31 city profiles. A joint ACP/EC/UN-HABITAT conference was held in June 2009.

### GENERAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Awareness-raising on sub-regional, national, and local urban development issues
2. Inclusion of urban issues in poverty reduction strategies, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the Africa Gender Index, and other development management tools
3. Identification of priority projects and developing project concepts for future implementation at the national level
4. Full collaboration and support from local and national partners
5. Country-tailored implementation plans with financial and in-kind contributions from the Programme country teams (national and local institutions, NGOs).



### AGENDA

OPENING AND PRESENTATIONS	
14h00- 14h05	Welcome, Mr. Clifford Everald Warmington, President of the Governing Council, Minister of State, Water and Housing, Jamaica
14h05-14h10	Sir. John Kaputin, former Secretary General, ACP Group of States
14h10- 14h20	Mr. Jean Bakole, Director, UN-HABITAT, Representation Office to the European Union
14h20- 14h30	Mr. Alain Grimard, Programme Manager, Participatory Slum Upgrading and Prevention Programme
OPEN DISCUSSION	
14h30- 15h55	<p>Mr. Asad Mohammed, Facilitator, Regional Implementation Partner, University of the West Indies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the recurring themes around city profiling?</li><li>2. Do we have common problems following cities' size, types of control, government bodies and or location?</li><li>3. Discuss the challenges experienced between the first phase and second phase of the programme in your cities and how implementation has been impacted.</li><li>4. What has resulted from the partnerships formed in your cities? How are these partnerships sustainable?</li><li>5. Discuss current initiatives in upgrading and/ or preventing slums.</li></ol>
CLOSING STATEMENT	
15h55- 16h00	Mr. Antonia Garcia Fragio, European Commission / DG Development

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Participatory process is challenging as the approach is new to communities and ministries.
2. Key stakeholders should have leadership of the process at an early stage to guarantee the programme's sustainability and ownership.
3. UN-HABITAT's in-country presence is necessary when conducting the urban sector profiling exercise. UN-HABITAT Programme Managers in neighbouring countries were instrumental in the implementation process.
4. Programmes should be tailored to the local context for success and a training workshop should be held to facilitate this process before starting each Programme component.
5. An assessment of the country's political situation should be done between the first and second phase of the programme, if significant time has elapsed.

### UN-HABITAT CONTACT:

Mr. Alain Grimard,  
Regional and Technical Cooperation Division,  
Tel: 254-20-7623075,  
Email: [Alain.Grimard@unhabitat.org](mailto:Alain.Grimard@unhabitat.org)