REPORT OF THE MISSION TO THE 2ND ACP/EC/UN-HABITAT INTERNATIONAL TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN KIGALI (RWANDA)

4 TO 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

Louis MICHEL (ALDE), Co-President, Head of Delegation
Norbert NEUSER (S&D)
Philippe BOULLAND (EPP)
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and

Joyce LABOSO (Kenya), Co-President
Nita K. R. DEERPALSING (Mauritius), Vice-President
Dharamkumar SEERAJ (Guyana), Vice-President
Ana Rita SITHOLE (Mozambique), Vice-President
Introduction

The 2nd Tripartite Conference on Sustainable Urbanisation for Urban Poverty Eradication: Slum Upgrading and Community Empowerment took place in Kigali (Rwanda) on 3–6 September 2013. The event was hosted by the Government of Rwanda and jointly organised by the ACP-Secretariat, the European Commission and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The objective was to strengthen regional and international cooperation in the area of sustainable urban development and to engage ACP States in policy dialogue on relevant issues concerning sustainable urban development in preparation for the Post-2015 Agenda and the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III, 2016). Furthermore, the Conference sought to maintain the momentum for sustainable urbanisation and to strengthen the tripartite partnership.

At its meeting of 16 June 2013, the Bureau of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly decided to send a mission to the conference from 4 to 6 September 2013.

Background

ACP States, on average, are experiencing the fastest urban growth rates worldwide. In many countries, the rapid pace of urban growth has already had profound effects on the demand for housing and basic urban services, on transportation systems, on labour markets, and on the quality of the urban environment. Despite the strong relationship between urbanisation and wealth, it has proven very difficult to harness it equitably, especially for the least advantaged. Due to inadequate policies and planning strategies, Governments have struggled to ensure a decent standard of living for all their urban citizens. In many cities in the ACP States, 70% of the urban populations live in health- and life-threatening slums.

In response to the urban challenges and opportunities faced by ACP States, in general, and the commitment to improve the lives of slum dwellers, in particular, in 2008, the ACP Secretariat, the EC, and UN-Habitat jointly launched the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), aimed at contributing to sustainable urbanisation in ACP States by assisting governments in assessing their urban challenges and opportunities and devising and implementing urban as well as slum upgrading and prevention policies and strategies.

In 2009, the first ACP/EC/UN-Habitat Tripartite Conference was held in Nairobi. Culminating in the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Urbanisation Challenges and Poverty Reduction in ACP States, the Conference confirmed the strong political commitment to develop appropriate policies and integrated strategies for sustainable urban development. It also recommended that the PSUP be extended to all interested ACP States and, more broadly, that the topic of urban development be better integrated into national, regional and international cooperation programmes.
**Structure of the conference**

The Conference was structured in two interrelated events: an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) and a High-Level Conference (HLC). The EGM, which took place during the first two days, brought together delegates of ACP States to engage in a technical dialogue on important thematic areas relevant to sustainable urban development with the aim of setting the priorities of the Kigali Declaration. The HLC, in turn, brought together Ministers from across the regions to engage in policy dialogue on the issues and formulate recommendations as well as agree on common challenges and opportunities for ACP States and their sustainable urbanisation for poverty eradication.

**The High-Level Conference**

The High-Level Conference featured policy debates amongst Ministers and Mayors of ACP States. Statements on visions for sustainable urbanisation and poverty eradication were followed by thematic roundtables where Ministers, Members of Parliament and Mayors exchanged on the topics of urbanisation patterns, gender equality, governance mechanisms, decentralisation and partnerships.

1. **Opening Ceremony**

The welcoming addresses were inaugurated by Fidèle Ndayisaba, Mayor of Kigali, followed by statements by Michèle Dominique Raymond, Assistant Secretary General of the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States, a video message by Klaus Rudischauser, Deputy Director General of DEVCO at the European Commission, Louis Michel, Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Joyce Laboso, ACP Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Pierre Damien Habumuremyi, Prime Minister of Rwanda.

**Key messages:**

- To achieve sustainable urbanisation we need smart urban design and innovative master plans.

- Sustainable urbanisation would be incomplete without market regulation and the active and inclusive participation of communities, women and youth.

- Decision makers are responsible for providing the adequate services in infrastructure to lift the economically weak out of poverty and to improve economic growth through job creation.
- ACP States have to be proactive in developing solutions to the many challenges of urbanisation and consider them as an essential part of the practice of urban planning.
- The institutional framework is of utmost importance for increased accountability and social cohesion.

2. Achievements towards MDG 7 and emerging themes for the post-2015 and Habitat III agendas

a) Ministerial roundtable: "Urbanisation patterns and sustainable urban development achievements for the Post-2015 and Habitat III Agenda"

The roundtable was introduced by a presentation from Esther Mutamba, from the Rwanda’s Ministry of Infrastructure. The Panellists were Duadi Migereko, Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban development of Uganda; Morais Guy, Minister of Transport Works and Housing of Jamaica; Thanda Mokalake, Minister of Lands and Housing of Botswana; and Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

Key messages:
- Urbanisation today is in crisis because it is not addressing the new demands of the developing countries. Typical responses of standard urban planning produce spatial patterns that do not create jobs or wealth.
- Land-use planning and policies are particularly important given that land is scarce.
- Increased regional partnerships by countries will allow for sound technical and political solutions to address common problems.

b) Ministerial roundtable: "Gender equality in livelihood development in participatory slum upgrading"

The roundtable was chaired by Michèle Dominique Raymond, Assistant Secretary General of the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States. The Panellists were Emerine Kabanshi, Minister of Local Government of Zambia, Oda Gasinzigwa, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion of Rwanda, Guy Morais, Minister of Transport, Works and Housing of Jamaica, Alioune Badiane, Programme Director of UN-Habitat, and Yeboah from the Ministry of Local Government of Ghana.

Key messages:
- Slum upgrading needs to be inclusive with gender issues being integrated in planning to ensure higher participation of women and marginalised groups.
- The right policy framework to guide countries on gender issues is a prerequisite to the success of gender mainstreaming in slum upgrading.
c) Ministerial roundtables: "Enhancing intra-regional ACP collaboration for reinforcing efforts towards MDG 7, Post-2015 Agenda and Habitat III" and "Public and private financing mechanisms for sustainable urbanisation and slum upgrading and prevention"

The roundtable was chaired by Mariam Yunusa, Head of the Partners and Inter Agency Coordination Branch of UN-Habitat, who made a presentation stating that slums and housing shortages are symptoms of the absence of a larger transformative process. A balanced territorial approach needs to be advocated for.

Key messages:

– The most important growth in developing countries is expected to take place in secondary towns
– Political will is important to ensure public-private partnerships. Stability is the basis for any investment. But before looking for funds, proper planning and viability assessment needs to be ensured.
– Municipal finances need to be diversified and garner sources of funding from all relevant stakeholders.

d) Parliamentarian roundtable: "Legal framework and governance mechanisms for slum upgrading and prevention"

The Parliamentary roundtable was chaired by Louis Michel, EU Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. In his introduction, Louis Michel outlined that institutional reforms on decentralisation are crucial for urban development. He also emphasised that funds received from foreign donors represent only a fraction of developing countries’ resources and that thus the emphasis should be on generating local revenues.

Key Messages:

– Financing for slum upgrading needs to be incorporated in national legal frameworks.
– Parliamentarians should ensure that their government engages with the PSUP and need to monitor the project implementation.

e) Mayors roundtable: "Decentralisation and basic services provision for sustainable urbanisation as response to poverty eradication’ and Launch of the Mayors’ "Water Integrity Network"
The roundtable was chaired by Fidèle Ndayisaba, Mayor of Kigali, who stated that the advantages of decentralisation were the efficiency of the basic services provision, accountability and the benefit of participatory planning.

Key messages:

– Local leaders need to reach out for knowledge in addition to the political will. Technical cooperation has proven to increase substantially municipal revenue collection.
– Mayors have a key role to play in shaping the international development agenda.

Outcomes of the Conference

Convening over 400 delegates from 56 countries, the Conference culminated in the adoption of the Kigali Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation for Poverty Eradication, bolstering the commitment of ACP States, the EC, and UN-Habitat to collaborate in developing appropriate policies and programmes for sustainable urbanisation.

UN-Habitat, the European Commission and the ACP States reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation and the need to strengthen the tripartite partnership; they acknowledged that achieving sustainable urbanisation is vital to the process of national economic and human development.

Slums remain a significant challenge to sustainable urbanisation. Despite the fact that the MDG 7, Target D, to improve significantly, by 2020, the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers was achieved, the absolute number of slum dwellers continues to increase in ACP States, signalling failures in policy and planning strategies.

The PSUP has been effective in strengthening the commitment to improve living conditions in slums and to pursue slum prevention strategies. It should therefore be expanded further to interested countries and into a fourth phase dedicated to scaling up implementation to the city level.

Additional meetings

The Members of the ACP-EU JPA held bilateral meetings with Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and Jean Damascene Ntawukurirayayo, President of the Senate.

Conclusions

Urbanisation should be put on the international political agenda and discussed regularly in major international fora. It is one of the mayor challenges of our
globalised world. There will be no development without urban sustainability. There will be no development without urbanisation.

To achieve sustainable cities, several issues must be tackled:
– The promotion of good governance and local democracy;
– Land management and respect for property rights;
– Public-private partnerships;
– The support and involvement of organisations such as the EIB and ADB
– The sustainability of the environment through, for example, eco-tourism;
– The resistance to natural disasters and to political and economic crises;
– The key partnership between urbanisation and culture.
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COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Louis MICHEL (ALDE), Co-President
Norbert NEUSER (S&D)
Philippe BOULLAND (EPP)
Maurice PONGA (EPP)

ACP MEMBERS

Joyce LABOSO (Kenya), Co-President
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Dharamkumar SEERAJ (Guyana), Vice-President
Ana Rita SITHOLE (Mozambique), Vice-President

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT

Donatella PRIBAZ, Head of ACP Unit
Inga URBAN, Assistant

ACP SECRETARIAT

Michele Dominique RAYMOND, Assistant Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States
John F. KAKULE, Expert
DAY 1 - TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2013

10.00 - 11.15 OPENING CEREMONY
Mr. Lamin M. Manneh, UN Resident Coordinator, Rwanda
Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat
Mr. Daniel Schaer, Chargé d'Affaires, EU Delegation in Rwanda
Ms. Michèle Dominique Raymond, Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat
Hon. Prof. Silas Lwakabamba, Minister of Infrastructure, Government of Rwanda

11.15 - 12.00 TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP ACP/EC/UN-HABITAT
• ACP role: Ms. Michèle Dominique Raymond
• EC role: Ms. Annica Floren
• UN-Habitat role: Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira

12.00 - 12.15 COFFEE BREAK

12.15 - 13.00 TAKING STOCK OF MDG 7 IN ACP COUNTRIES
• Introduction: Mr. Alioune Badiane
• Lessons learned of top 20 performers in slum upgrading: Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi

13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 - 17.00 THEMATIC SESSIONS: SLUM UPGRADE AT SCALE
• Introductory session
• Urban planning and policy for slum upgrading at national and city level
• Financing slum upgrading
• Community-driven development for city-wide slum upgrading

17.00 - 17.15 COFFEE BREAK

17.15 - 19.00 PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADE PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN ACP COUNTRIES
DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2013

09.00 - 10.30 POLICY GUIDELINES AT NATIONAL AND CITY LEVELS
    • Decentralisation of basic urban services and infrastructures
    • Housing and upgrading strategies

10.30 - 11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 - 13.00 APPROACHES AND TOOLS AT CITY LEVEL
    • Participatory urban planning for slum upgrading
    • Participatory land readjustment and security of tenure
    • Mobility and sustainable transport systems
    • Capacity development for e-governance and e-participation

13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 - 18.00 FIELD VISIT (Side Event)

16.00 - 18.00 LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER AND SANITATION INITIATIVE (Side Event)

20.00 - 22.00 COCKTAIL HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA
DAY 3 - THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2013

10.00 - 11.00 OPENING CEREMONY
Mr. Fidèle Nadayisaba, Mayor of the city of Kigali
Ms. Michèle Dominique Raymond, Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat
Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy-Director General, EuropeAid, Secretariat of the EC
Mr. Louis Michel, EU Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
Ms. Joyce Laboso, ACP Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
Dr. Pierre Damien Habumuremyi, Right Hon. Prime Ministre, Government of Rwanda

11.00 - 11.15 COFFEE BREAK AND OPENING OF EXHIBITION (Side Event)

11.15 - 12.30 INTEGRATING THE URBAN CHALLENGE INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: THE CASE OF RWANDA

12.30 - 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 - 18.00 ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS MDG 7 AND EMERGING THEMES FOR THE POST-2015 AND HABITAT III AGENDAS

- 1st Ministerial roundtable on urbanisation patterns and sustainable urban development achievements
- 2nd Ministerial roundtable on gender equality in livelihood development
- 3rd and 4th Ministerial roundtables on intra-regional ACP collaboration and on financing mechanisms for slums upgrading and prevention
- Parliamentarian roundtable on legal frameworks and on governance mechanisms for slum upgrading and prevention
- Mayor's roundtable on decentralisation and basic urban services provision

18.00 - 19.00 LAUNCH OF MAYORS' NETWORK

20.00 - 22.00 HIGH LEVEL DINNER HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA
DAY 4 - FRIDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2013

09.30 - 11.00 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

11.00 - 11.15 COFFEE BREAK

11.15 - 12.00 ADOPTION OF DECLARATION, ACTION PLAN AND CONFERENCE REPORT

12.00 - 13.00 CLOSING CEREMONY STATEMENTS
Mr. Daniel Schaer, Chargé d’Affaires, EU Delegation in Rwanda
Ms. Michèle Dominique Raymond, Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat
Hon. Prof. Silas Lwakabamba, Minister of Infrastructure, Government of Rwanda
Mr. Louis Michel, EU Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
Ms. Joyce Laboso, ACP Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 - 18.00 FIELD VISIT (Side Event)