

Side Event

Achieving SDG 11 and the NUA with Participatory Budgeting PB

Wednesday 12th February, 2020, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

This side event is jointly organized by UN-Habitat, University College London UCL, Escobedo city (Mexico), UCLG, and ENDA. The event will begin with interventions from a diverse panel that will dialogue and showcase how PB can be used for achieving Agenda 2030, with special mention of SDG11 and the NUA at a local, regional and national scale. This will be followed by Q&A from the floor. The session will close with the moderator identifying principles, practices, and policies that could be emulated as other governments engage further with PB to achieve SDG11 and key aspects of the NUA -leaving no one behind.

Summary

UN-Habitat launched the Participatory Habitat Initiative for the implementation of Participatory Budgeting (PB) across world regions. This initiative utilizes ICT and integrates the values, approaches and experience of United Nations to achieve quality participation. It does this in a collaborative approach bringing together world experts and professionals, civil society, city leaders, as well as citizens in ensuring an inclusive process of PB.

Participatory Budgeting is an innovative and democratic way of empowering and engaging citizens to produce and change their environment and quality of lives. It gives inhabitants real power over the allocation of a variable portion of public financial resources designated to their living area, enabling them to be actively involved in the making and shaping of their neighbourhoods and/ or their city as a whole. Cities that implement PB have more open, transparent and inclusive government and a more informed, empowered and participatory society. In addition, PB improves communication and relationship between politician and citizens, as well as greater fiscal and financial efficiency. In this way, it contributes to the location and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Our goal is for Participatory Budgeting to be included and considered in the international agenda as a viable and democratic process for the sustainable urban development of our cities that strengthens participation, reducing inequalities.

The event brings worldwide Participatory Budgeting experts to discuss how to promote further and have this process as an implementation tool of the NUA and SDGs. The cases present during the event aim to: (a) showcase successes and struggles from Participatory Budgeting experiences. It will bring the particular expertise of Escobedo following the global urgency of fighting against climate change. It is not an easy task for city managers around the world to take concrete actions on climate change, and the time is running out. Nevertheless, the government of Escobedo, Mexico, with the implementation of the Participatory Habitat Initiative after the UN General Assembly, showcase the world that it is possible to take concrete actions through an innovative multi-dimensional approach to find pathways to fight climate change through Participatory Budgeting.

Also, these cases will (b) identify commonalities and possible synergies between them; and (c) highlight recommendations and suggestion of a course of action for the NUA implementation, in particular regarding participation and SDGs achievement that takes Participatory Budgeting into consideration for public financial decision-making and planning.

Key Objective

A proposal with recommendations related to PB that could be used for advocacy, lobbying and policy influencing of the international agenda for implementing NU guidelines and achieving SDGs, primarily SDG 11.

Relevance to the WUF 10 theme and the selected Dialogue(s)

Through the implementation of Participatory Budgeting PB, cultural exchange is possible between citizens, and the government. The interactions and the integration of diverse citizens foster inclusive participation and, tolerance. PB represents an essential strategy for allowing citizens to interact with each other to determine budgetary priorities. By doing the latter, citizens acknowledge collective and individual concerns, ideas, and needs. Therefore, Participatory Budgeting helps citizens to interact and realize their citizens' realities, and thus have a positive impact in constructing peaceful and inclusive societies that appreciates and tolerates other people's perspectives and concerns.

Moreover, government officials and institutions benefit from cultural exchange through PB as they can introduce consistent policies that are aligned with their city's realities. PB documents citizens' real perspectives that contribute to building, from a bottom-up approach of city planning. These policies, therefore, promote the development that consistently integrates the cultural diversity to build the social and physical infrastructure (through the implementation of the citizen's prioritized projects) that cities require for sustainable development.

At the same time, experience demonstrate that PB is a catalyst for mobilizing monetary and non-monetary resources, beyond public budget allocation. It is probably one least explored innovative issue that the session intent to unveil Cities of innovation through Participatory Budgeting. Participatory Budgeting has the unique ability to capitalize human ideas for improving cities. As it involves real money for real and concrete

actions, it motivates citizen's participation and social innovation for tackling context-specific challenges for achieving sustainable cities and bring significant impact on public policies.

Partners and co-organizers

This side event is jointly organized by UN-Habitat, University College London, Escobedo City (Mexico), United Cities of Local Governments and ENDA.

Panellists

- **Yves Cabannes**, University College London / Development Planning Unit, Moderator
- **Marco Kamiya**, Senior Economist, Knowledge and Innovation, UN Habitat Programme, Nairobi
- **Clara Luz Flores (TBC)**, Mayor, Escobedo Municipality, Mexico
- **Bachir Kanouté**, Enda Ecopop Director
- **Edgardo Bilsky**, Head of research, UCLG World Secretariat, United Cities and Local Governments

Language

English