



The 10th Session of the World Urban Forum – Cities of Opportunities:
Connecting Culture and Innovation

Report of the 10th Session of the WUF
TEMPLATE TO REPORT ON THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT
THE ABU DHABI DECLARED ACTIONS
ASSEMBLIES AND ROUNDTABLES

Background

WUF participants come from a wide range of urban stakeholders, comprising of national governments, local and regional governments, parliamentarians, researchers, universities, women and youth groups, community-based organizations, human settlements professionals, private sector, foundations, United Nations entities and other relevant development institutions, as well as the general public.

Mission

Since the First Session of the World Urban Forum, an Advisory Group, comprising of a multi-partner assemblage, has been established prior to each session to advise and assist the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in the conduct of the Forum, maximize the collection of its outcomes and inclusivity. The Advisory Group has an advisory oversight role. It monitors the progress of deliberations and generally advises the Executive Director on how to optimize a meaningful outcome from the Forum.

Preparing the WUF Outcome document

One of the Advisory Group's key functions is producing the consolidated outcome document of the Forum, the 'Abu Dhabi Declared Actions'. The Advisory Group will be assisted by a drafting support team composed of members of the WUF10 Task Force and the Local Organizing Committee. The WUF10 will produce an action-oriented outcome document: the "Abu Dhabi Declared Actions."

Template – Guiding the Reporting Process

The Reporting of five assemblies and sixteen roundtables by an Advisory Group that is composed by a heterogenous constituency group and a diversified drafting team requires a guide or template that can help to control the overall structure of the final document.

The Template works as a unifying mechanism that ensures everyone uses an agreed framework that brings together common elements and components. The template provides a standard to guide both the process and the conclusions of the roundtables, including the **discussion and actions from the stakeholders' point of view**, capturing the different agendas, priorities and recommendations.¹

All this information will be systematized into a full thematic report: the "Abu Dhabi Declared Actions."

¹ Although desirable, not all elements of the template are to be reported.



SESSION REPORT

Session title	Older Persons Roundtable		
Date & time	Tuesday 11/02/2020, 16:30 – 19:00		
Venue	Hall 4, Room B		
Name of the lead organization	UN Habitat		
Country and city of the lead organization	Nairobi, Kenya		
Contact person for lead organization <i>(name, function, e-mail and/or phone)</i>	Christophe Lalande – Lead Housing Specialist - christophe.lalande@un.org , + 254 207 62 3414		
Name of organizing partner institution(s) and their locations <i>(country, city)</i>	GAP Older Persons Partner Constituent Group; OHCHR; International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)		
Contact person from partner institution(s) <i>(name, function, e-mail and/or phone)</i>	Charles Mbugua , International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), GAP Older Persons (mbuguacharles@yahoo.com); Katherine Kline , GAP Older Persons PCG co-chair (kklineco@ao.com); Rio Hada , OHCHR (rhada@ohchr.org).		
Approximate number of attendees	20 of which	20 Male	20 Female
Name of the rapporteur	Charles Mbugua , International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW); Christophe Lalande as reporting coordinator.		

Supporting documents (concept note, guidelines, background documents)

1. Summary of the session

This roundtable served as a catalyst for discussion about what is needed to recognize the needs and contributions of the growing ageing urban population. What challenges do they face and what innovative solutions can be offered to make environments sustainable, resilient, healthier and more reflective of what makes cities viable places for all ages and to recognize the long cultural traditions that older persons bring to their communities. Lastly, to incorporate innovative and dynamic voices in all aspects of urban life involving the private sector, relying on the needs, desires and possible solutions offered by older residents themselves.

The session entailed both in person presentations and video messages from private sector, civil society and international organisations representatives.

The moderator introduced the panelist and managed the event by asking each one of the speakers a different question that allowed them to develop on their area of expertise.

The following questions were asked to the panelists:



- What are the key factors contributing to the successful inclusion and integration of older persons into cities?
- What are regular obstacles impeding proper inclusion processes?
- What can be and should be the role of local governments and institutions in the inclusion and integration of older persons?
- What impact does inaccessibility to the city have on older persons and on their interactions with society?
- How can the private sector bring innovative technology to make services better and more applicable to the needs of the growing older urban populations?

Upon answering to each of the questions, the speakers elaborated on the actions needed to fully integrate the perspectives, needs and challenges of older people in policies and regulatory frameworks. These are listed below in this report.

Ample floor was given at the end of the event to attendees from the public for questions and clarifications.

The rapporteur closed the session by addressing the social inclusion perspective of age friendly cities.

2. Main discussions – brief notes

The speakers' presentations and video messages addressed the following three core thematic areas

- 1) how to successfully integrate older persons into all aspects of cities
- 2) solutions and best practices for adequate and inclusive cities
- 3) the shift of the narrative around older persons from a medical model to one of human rights one

Three main outcomes of the discussion can be identified:

- There is a lack of integration of older people perspectives and inputs in urban planning, policy design and legislative processes. The current discussion around older persons is lacking accurate data about the actual needs, challenges and potential of this vulnerable group. This is due to poor planning, policy and legislative participatory processes and exacerbated by the incorrect narrative whereby older people do not fully contribute to the economy of a nation. This last consideration disincentivize efforts and investments on age friendly spaces.
- As a consequence of this first point, cities and public spaces are not fully accessible for older people. This manifest itself mainly in non-age friendly public spaces and infrastructure, but also in a narrative around older persons that generates in them discomfort and shame in their condition and needs.
- Actions can and should be taken by in a coordinated, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral fashion. The role of international organisations such as OHCHR is paramount in devising the next Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. The UN Working Group on Ageing is currently working on such convention, in order to (actively) include the interests of older persons in the list of fundamental rights protected by the UN System. The private sector plays a similarly crucial role in devising affordable and accessible housing solution for older persons, especially for those with low income. The financialization and commodification of housing is in fact currently increasing the vulnerability of older persons to today's housing challenges and a shift to a human rights based approach is needed to counter this process. Such an approach would put the people at the centre of national housing strategies thereby protecting the interest of older persons.



3. Conclusions – Main Recommendations

1. Governments should strengthen the evidence base on older persons. In particular, data should be gathered about the specific challenges, vulnerabilities, needs and opportunities of the ageing population. This include disaggregated data about location or neighborhoods within the cities.
2. Based on the strengthened evidence base, Governments should devise participatory processes to include the vision on older people in the design of policies, legislations, as well as in the planning of public spaces and infrastructure.
3. Governments should shift from a commodity based to human rights-based approach to housing and urban planning. This approach, based on data and policies mentioned in recommendations 1 and 2 above, should put older people at the centre and prioritize their fundamental rights over economic interests.

4. Declared Actions – areas of work

- The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) committed to join UN Habitat in reviewing their older persons policy paper adopted in 2008 in El Salvador. This will be implemented by addressing the issue of cities and planning, and by ensuring that policy and all the national IFSW organisations fully promote and support the implementation of such policy at the local level.
- GAP older persons committed to continue to advocate for the rights of older persons in international fora and through partnerships with private and public sector.
- FIABCI-The International Real Estate Federation committed to the publication of a study by 2021 on affordable cities to motivate the private sector to work towards accessible and affordable housing.

5. Follow-up mechanisms (post WUF and WUF 11th)

No follow up mechanism were discussed over the roundtable.

Knowledge capture and innovation

As a complement to this Reporting process, it is expected that the rapporteurs of the Advisory Group would identify the newest ideas, the most up-to-date products and implementation strategies, the best practices and policies, the strategic partnerships and funding mechanisms, and the actors driving innovation and creativity.

They are requested to report on these innovations, using the tables for selected themes and the on-line template that will help ensure uniformity of the process and complement the “Abu Dhabi Declared Actions” reporting mechanism. The online template can be found at the

Main speakers/presenters/moderators:

[please replicate the table as required]

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Katherine Kline
Nationality	
Position	Co-chair and INPEA Representative



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Full name (Mr/Ms)	Ana Lucy Bengoechea
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Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rio Hada
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Full name (Mr/Ms)	Charles Mbugua
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The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation

