



Roundtable on Canada participation to Habitat III- Minutes

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

13:00 to 17:00

Desmarais Building 3105,
University of Ottawa, Canada

(Final version prepared on September 10, 2016)

Opening Remarks

Lauchlan Thomas Munro

School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa

First Speaker: Allan Cain - Development Workshop, Visiting Professor – University of Ottawa

History of Cycles and Conferences Leading to Habitat III in Quito 2016

Allan Cain – Development Workshop

(Allan Cain led the discussion with a brief history of the Habitat Conferences)

“Discussions surrounding environment, development and human settlements began in 1972 at the Stockholm Conference with the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development. Led by Maurice Strong and Barbara Ward, this conference focused on the necessity of cooperation between environmental protection and social development, and also laid the foundation to future discussions concerning urbanization and housing.

Four years later in 1976, the first UN Habitat Human Settlements Conference was held in Vancouver, Canada. Civil Society organizations were involved through the Habitat Forum that ran concurrently on issues surrounding infrastructural development in urban areas, specifically noted in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements. Issues of the urban environment, the equitable distribution of development, and the right to adequate shelter and services were discussed, by the conference members. The consensus achieved fell short of a binding commitment - the conference did, after all, take place during an era of Cold-War division. Habitat I set the precedence of cyclical conferences to encourage the accountability of States in accomplishing the goals set before them. It was agreed that those present would be allowed 20 years to achieve progress on the new goals surrounding urban development and environmental protection.

Habitat II took place in 1996, in Istanbul, Turkey. Building from the foundations laid in Vancouver in 1976, Habitat II encouraged the universal commitment to adequate housing, in

addition to the inclusion of local governments. This conference focused principally on the countries of the Global South, emphasizing the necessity to democratize the planning process of urban regions, engaging both public and private institutions. Habitat II also provided the opportunity for civil society to participate in UN meetings, and although these institutions were accepted as non-voting members, they offered a turning point to the development agenda necessary for improvement of land and housing rights, gender equity, and inclusion. The recognition of the right to shelter, the right to housing, and the necessity of good governance were embedded in the Habitat Agenda.

Cain continued by remarking that Habitat II, negotiated in the 1990s after the end of the cold war, at a time of consensus in the international community produced a relatively progressive Agenda. He remarked that the soft power of international law may not have been sufficient to enforce the urban policies agreed upon. The subsequent Urban Development commitments present in the Millennium Development Goals were rather weak. MDG strategies concerned principally the rural poor while the urban poor were often thought better off due to the misguided belief that cities by their nature guaranteed livelihoods and provided adequate infrastructure. Thus far, only the Global Urban Observatory has provided accurate statistics to measure the implementation of the MDGs. However, no formal country evaluations have been done at the end of 2015.

The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, "Habitat III," will be held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016. Habitat III will chart a renewed agenda for the environment in human settlements. It needs to build on the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda of 1996, and incorporate the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

(Concerning the Zero Draft New Urban Agenda)

Civil Society Organizations are concerned that the shortcomings from Habitat II in 1996 have not yet been satisfactorily addressed in the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda that has been under discussion over the last year. It is impractical to believe that we can accomplish a new set of goals when the ones from 20 years ago have yet been assessed. We need to establish a better mechanism for review, evaluation, and accountability of urban development projects. The Zero Draft New Urban Agenda needs a clearer articulation concerning the Right to the City and the right to gender equitable services.

Second Speaker: Leilani Farha – UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Leilani Farha – UN Rapporteur on Housing

At present, many States with opposing values are reluctant to commit to agreements that they may not wish to recognize. In addition to that said by Allan Cain, there is a critical need to focus on the vulnerable populations in urban areas. The success of a nation is dependent on how the vulnerable people in the urban context are treated. The Zero Draft is also absent of consideration for basic human rights, the presence of homelessness in cities, and the conflict surrounding informal settlements.

(Farha to the Table)

We need to find a way to bring meaning to the “good” words that are in the draft. How do we do this? The document is not written by representatives of the global population living in poverty; it is written instead by the social elite, such as the academics in this room.

In Canada, the newly elected government is embracing human rights issues domestically and can offer an important guiding presence in the future internationally. Canada is poised to embrace urban issues from a human rights perspective. National governments need assistance in recognizing that urban issues are human rights issues. As is shown in Canada, the dedication and progress found in the work of local governments are necessary in assisting the larger Federal body.

Concerning Habitat III, the practicality of the Canadian governance system may be used as an example on a global scale. It offers accountability to the larger power of the state, while incorporating meaningful participation from the civilian population and civil society.

Panel 1: Canadian Perspective on Habitat III: Public Sector and Civil Society’s Contributions

Moderator: Professor Lauchlan Thomas Munro - School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa

Keynote Speaker: Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos - Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development

Jean-Yves Duclos - Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development

This is a very timely conference. Soon we will be meeting with the Federal Government with intention to re-engage the voices of civil society. We will be launching the renewal of collaboration of all levels of government, in addition to the scientific community, to provide insight to these issues. Housing is both a key and complementary ingredient to a better society.

As was previously stated, Canada will be taking a very different approach than that which has been done previously in the past administrations. It is the intention of this government to reaffirm Canada’s commitment to the United Nations, and accept the initiative necessary to participate in Global Leadership. To build a peaceful and prosperous world, we believe a strong United Nations is necessary, and there is a need to reform Canada’s role within the UN.

(Concerning the New Urban Agenda)

Today, more than half of world’s population resides within urban settings; therefore it is of critical importance that Canada be aware of the development initiatives concerning urbanization. Additionally, there is a stressed importance of Canadian engagement within domestic affairs. Both global and domestic urban issues offer many challenges - challenges that no single government can concur on their own. The Federal government can certainly make a significant contribution, but it is often limited by competing resources. It is therefore necessary that the Provincial and Municipal governments be engaged against these challenges, in addition to civil society organizations and Canadian civilians.

(Concerning the upcoming Habitat III)

We are excited to be involved in the upcoming Habitat III. This conference offers a collective chance to discuss larger issues on the international agenda, including social inclusive development, sustainable development, and economic development.

(Concerning Canada's 2016 Housing Development Budget)

I am happy now to discuss Canada's domestic contributions to housing development within the 2016 Budget. Our goals are to strengthen the middle class and the opportunities of middle-class families, as well as recover the Canadian economy. In order to achieve these goals, we need civil society to be an integral part in a new strategy. This concerns the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy. Success will be measured on how inclusive the economic plan will be.

Additionally, the process that leads to better outcomes needs to matter more within the Federal Strategy. This is accomplished with the integration of Academia in the Federal Strategy. We know that good, inclusive processes have proven to produce better outcomes, and more importantly, we recognize that our citizens want to be included with the Federal process. This is a reflection of the democratic values present in the Canadian society.

It is of crucial necessity to understand the needs of both domestic and international populations. The most important of these population are the marginalized of society, including Indigenous peoples, youth, people in poverty, women, and those discriminated against, to name a few.

(New Federal Service Reveal)

It is my honour to present a new government tool that will assist in completing the objectives discussed previously concerning the inclusion of civil society. Canadian citizens will have access to a new, online consultation service in which citizens can express their views on sustainable development in the future, and of course current domestic policies. This tool will be open until September 2016, and may be found on the Canadian government's website, Canada.ca

Comments and Remarks on Panel I:

Lorena Zarate - President of Habitat International

- There is a concerning lack of institutional participation within the development agenda. This lack of inclusion is present in the United Nations, Federal Governments, and the elite of civil society.

(Concerning Human Rights in the City and the Right to the City)

- After the inclusions mentioned previously concerning the rights to the city are addressed, we need to go beyond the provision of rights to services to our vulnerable populations. One method is to take into consideration the territorial and spatial point of view.



- There is currently a lost and lacking institutional memory concerning the development process. As drafts succumb to revision after revision, the necessary changes (concerning human rights) have been dropped from the document. This is an example of the international community's continuing habit of starting with good intentions for change, only to lose focus throughout discussion and publish an empty document.



- If we can hope to have a stronger final Draft before Habitat III, we need to reaffirm the necessity of human rights in the planning process.

Barry Pinsky – Rooftops Canada

(Concerning the Federal Government's new online tool)

- Both face-to-face and online engagements are very important. Although the online tool is a good step towards greater inclusion, online encounters are often limited in terms of accountability, and are subjected to the preferences of the recipient party.
- Civil society and the Federal Government need to attend more meetings together before Habitat III. A single conversation of academics and a minister, although an excellent transition from the former government, are not enough to establish consensus.
- During Habitat II, Canada presented a diversity of backgrounds within the Canadian Delegation. Comprised of academics, scientists, government employees, and civil society leaders, Canada offered an example of leadership to the other attending countries.
- We need greater initiative concerning how civil society and the government may work together between both domestic and international affairs.

(Concerning the Draft)

- Housing and homelessness are *an afterthought* to this Draft. Although Canada has done a fair job in meeting a lot of housing needs, there are still domestic affairs that need to be addressed.
- Affordable, equitable housing is not yet a strong pillar that it should be.
- There is great opportunity in the consultation of international development as Canadians. Global Affairs has not given strong consideration to urban development for a long time. In fact, Canada has been absent of any formal reaction within this domain since 1994. This needs to change.
- There is an unprecedented necessity to have a framework for our action plan to contribute to urban development. This framework needs to be created between credited individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Brock Carlton - Federation of Canadian Municipalities

(What can Canada offer to Habitat III?)

- Concerning international contributions
 - Canada is in a good position to offer leadership by encouraging the global movement of municipal government to engage similarly to those of Canada.
 - *United Cities and Local Government Organization* mandate: to influence global dialogue at the city level.
 - Canada plays a significant role in influencing municipal governments as it has been active within both its own municipal government and those internationally.
 - Because of this, the country has created a global network and platform to be present in the Sustainable Development Strategies of other countries.
- Concerning domestic contributions
 - There is a necessity for a comprehensive Federal housing development budget for lower-income and middle-class Canadians.
 - The Federal government is not alone, as municipalities are unique and strong partners for development. Municipal governments have the knowledge, willingness, and experience that offer opportunity to work strategically and efficiently on niche issues.

Further Remarks

Leilani Farha – UN Rapporteur on Housing

- I suggest a different role for Canada at Habitat III than has been previously discussed at this table. Canada certainly does have a lot to offer in during the conference, (expertise, experience, project successes, etc.) but it is very important for Canada to position itself with humility.
- Canada's focus needs to concern global unity rather than a (misguided) leading giant - as might be represented by the United-States, for example - as Canada is not in a good position domestically to be recommending policy. Instead, it should act as a partner should it desire to act effectively against the global hegemonic order.

Pierre Beaudet - University of Ottawa

(Spoken in French)

(In reference to the Minister's speech)

- The visions of the Federal government are a very welcome change after the last 10 years, and offer a very good start to future strategies. However, it is worth noting that this is a start, and not a solution.
- In order for the upcoming Federal strategies to be effective, including the new web tool, there needs to be consensus between experts, academics, businesses, and the government.
- In the past, Canada experienced a lot of Federal interaction and cooperation with civil society. At present, this does not exist. Not only does the Canadian government need to interact formally with civil society organizations, it also needs to offer greater spaces and opportunities for dialogue for all Canadian citizens. Note that an active civilian community is not effectively used when the government only acts upon suggestions that further their agenda.

Jack Jedwab - Association for Canadian Studies

- In recent years Canadian citizens have witnessed too much divestment from research that opposed government mandates. The principle of value for money within research and service organizations is wrong! It is important not only to recognize the immorality of this practice, but also to act and correct it within the next years of the Federal agenda.
- In reference to Leilani Farha's contribution, it is true that we should not be narcissistic during the Habitat III convention; however, although we have domestic issues, we should aim to present opportunities to learn and grow with other nations in the upcoming years.

Mebometa Ndonga – Institute of African Studies, Carleton University

- In order for Canada to offer leadership on modern urbanization issues, we need strategies that materialize concerning urbanization. It is important to maintain these discussions both in academic circles and in dialogue in which the government is present and accountable.

Jean-Yves Duclos - Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development

(Concerning the face-to-face meeting suggestions of Beaudet)

- There will certainly be many more opportunities for Canadian citizens to communicate with their government, both in person and through different types of electronic media.

Electronic media is an excellent method of engaging people since many civilians now have access to electronic forums, etc..

- Unfortunately, face-to-face meetings are not always possible for a diversity of reasons. Because of this, there is a critical dependency on national organizations that offer inclusive and efficient assessments concerning social interests.
- The desire for greater presence of housing in the Draft Agenda is *interesting*, as some believe that housing should have a lower weight in the greater picture. I will reflect on it.
- As we all know, politicians are often and easily distracted. They have many issues that they deal with daily. There is a joint responsibility with civil society organizations and civilians to achieve these goals with the government. Civilians also have the responsibility to lead in capacity to speak and express themselves.

Lauchlan Thomas Munro to Jean-Yves Duclos

- *Lauchlan*: Concerning the items that have been dropped from the agenda, where does the Canadian government stand on the disappeared items such as rights based approaches? We recognize here that many states continue to take on a legal-positivist interpretation of human rights, and that there are many opposing opinions and values in international conferences. Additionally, we know that the top management of the United Nations has difficulty enforcing the agreed upon conditions.
- *Minister Duclos*: This is all true, and various approaches in wellbeing and the poverty alleviation framework are necessary. Does the language of human rights in the USDC have comparative advantages to achieve similar objectives? Terminology does get dropped, yes, but there are many different views on a single objective.

Allan Cain - Development Workshop

- Various agendas emerged in the context of different environments. For example, Habitat I was greatly influenced by the Cold War, and yet 20 years later, Habitat II was a generally progressive agenda faced much less division and greater consensus. We know that Habitat III will be different from Habitat II; the global environment is no longer as progressive as it was 20 years ago and it is important to defend those policy positions and not erode them. Similarly the evolving vision of the Rights to the City needs to be embedded in the New Urban Agenda.

Leilani Farha – UN Rapporteur on Housing

- While the global environment has certainly changed, so too has International Law evolved greatly from Habitat II. Because of this, we can hope for increased accountability in the new agenda of Habitat III.

Lorena Zarate - President of Habitat International

- We need to ask ourselves: *what are the risks of not including human rights frameworks within new development strategies?* If we are to abandon them, we must be knowledgeable on their value first.
- The provision of housing does not simply concern building houses. There is a necessity in growing urban regions both in OECD countries and the rest of the world to address greater urban infrastructure. In order for the provision of housing to accommodate the vulnerable populations of urban regions, necessary steps must be taken. These steps are

provided through dialogue between the planners of said infrastructure, the developers of said infrastructure, and the people who will be affected by said infrastructure.

Panel 2: Canadian Perspective on Habitat III: Public Sector's and Civil Society's Contributions

Moderator: Benjamin Gianni – Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism, Carleton University

Keynote Speaker: Member of Parliament, Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Intergovernmental Affairs).

Adam Vaughan - Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Intergovernmental Affairs)

When I first became involved in the political sphere, I entered City Council as an activist. At the time of my entrance, cities never believed that they had the capacity or resources to reinvent themselves completely; a city was considered sedentary, rooted in historical identity. Throughout the late 20th century, politicians completely missed the opportunities present for change. These opportunities were real, and yet there was - and continues to be - a belief that cities cannot change their infrastructure through design overhaul.

Presently, there is an astounding lack of Canadian national housing policy and urban agenda strategies. This is an enormous problem, as Canada is one of the most urbanized countries of the G7, and is considerably urbanized in the global context as well. The Canadian government currently lacks a Minister of Urban Affairs. In order to address the challenges of the future - challenges of multifaceted nature, such as immigration, agriculture, land acquisition, etc. - we need an Urban Affairs councillor in every single municipal council. This would be extremely beneficial in scenarios such as those of our partnership with Canada's Indigenous communities.

It is often perceived that the Canadian government is comprised of a two-sided table: on one corner we have the Federal government, and on the other, we have the municipal government. However, Canada's intergovernmental affairs are much more accurately reflected as a four-cornered table: we have the Federal government and the Municipal governments, in addition to Provincial governments and Indigenous governments. The interests of all of these parties must be addressed when considering and acting on policy, making Canadian politics very interesting and very complex.

(Two suggestions from Adam Vaughan)

1. We need to change the way we think about cities in this country. Today's cities are a direct outcome of Colonial thinking. We need to get past documents written over 150 years ago. Our cities need to transform in infrastructure, and in resource allocation. We cannot allow our cities to be governed and constructed in the same fashion they were when they were first established.

2. We need to get the Federal Government to think carefully in its international contributions. Social inequity is becoming worse and worse in the global context, and although our values may encourage us to promote ourselves in leadership, we must realize that we ourselves have not pursued good policies within our country. How then can we recommend solutions to other countries?

After having worked in radio for a while, I recognized the value of radio transmissions through international cooperation. Communities could share between each other, regardless of their geographical location. Canada needs to lean into the capacity to collaborate with other nations and their urban perspectives. It is important to teach Canada's oldest, most established cities the humility to accept diverse perspectives through increased dialogue.

Comments and Remarks on Panel II

Jennifer Salahub - Safe and Inclusive Cities, IDRC

- The Safe and Inclusive Cities initiative works to identify the drivers of urban violence both in the West and in the developing world. Urban violence ranges from micro-aggressions within a society, to interpersonal violence, to structural violence such as geographic disadvantages for vulnerable populations. It is important to minimize and eradicate the opportunity for urban violence in order to progress with a rights-based development strategy.
- One of IDRC's chief research projects under Safe and Inclusive Cities is studying the potential to reduce urban violence through public employment programs that have poverty reduction as their primary mandate. These employment programs focus primarily on vulnerable, disenfranchised populations.

Bernard Cantin – Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia Program

- When considering the New Urban Agenda, Canada and other countries must also consider the necessity of adaptation to Climate Change. The impacts of climate change already being felt globally, but are being particularly felt by the Global South.
- After over 10 years of programing, new software is allowing for new partnerships between countries to examine the core issues of Climate Change more broadly. We now have the capacity to examine Climate Change hotspots - that is, biophysical stressed and vulnerable populations - and provide strategic adaptation plans accordingly before these communities witness disaster.
- When considering the urban strategies of cities, you need to examine their geography. Not only does this include the implications of the city's natural resources, it also includes the dramatic effects of human geography. Migration both domestically and internationally will be constant issues of the future.
- Concerning World Developing Projects and the presence of Federal governments within them; the people on the ground are much more in tune with the needs of the communities they work in than those working in the bureaucratic industry. It is important to access the expertise and research of the individuals on the ground through dialogue to provide stronger, modern development practices.

Jack Jedwab - Association for Canadian Studies

(Concerning the The Canadian Index for Measuring Integration)

- The creation of the most cutting-edge index (globally) to measure immigrant integration patterns has been realized. Immigration is becoming an issue of critical importance, specifically in inter-domestic issues.
- In a debate with 10 experts, one of the most challenging issues to address was housing. How do you address the housing needs for immigrants versus those of nationals when the national population has continued to face challenges itself for a very long period of time?

- This year, Canadian Federal research has taken a strong step forward in the restoration of the Canadian Census. The Census provides the rich information and statistics necessary to make comparisons and therefore address existing policy.

Antoine Noubouwo – Ville de Gatineau, Quebec

(Spoken in French)

- In correspondence with the issues mentioned previously, the Quebec city of Gatineau has made progress concerning the quality of urban dwelling for residents, specifically those of vulnerable and discriminated populations. Gatineau has increasingly worked on measures to improve the lives of citizens, noting that social development, prosperity, and housing are tremendously interrelated. *Quality* needs to be factored into housing strategies both domestically and internationally. The perception of quality has not been addressed in some time by the Canadian government, and this needs to change; we need to diversify choices concerning quality.
- Additionally, we need to revitalize the industry sectors that have been ignored. This can be done through new modern tools available to urban planners. One tool specifically used in Gatineau is *Access Logic*. Access Logic provides equitable access to wage in vulnerable populations, in addition to identifying and revitalizing societal social services. It is not good enough to have employment opportunities without the measures to access them through urban necessities such as safe, reliable transportation.
- Another tool used in Gatineau is the Adaptation Programme. Again accessing a vulnerable group, the Adaptation Programme focuses on civilians 75+ in age who require special services related to both their health and living conditions. The Adaptation Programme framework is also being used as a program of accountability for finance, and has been used to help new couples and parents achieve financial security to start their lives positively, and improve personal home technologies across the urban center.

Huhua Cao – Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Ottawa

(Concerning the Urban Development Agenda)

- ICCASU (*International Conference on Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization*) Secretary will present a panel at the Habitat III Conference in October on "Urban Collaboration between China, Africa and Canada".
- China has achieved massive investment in African countries over the last 20 years. These investments, both financial and political, have been changing the urban landscape in Africa in very fundamental ways. The Chinese have addressed the necessity to create a platform to address some of the most important development projects in the world, and because our cultures differ, we have yet to learn from their experiences.
- Proposition: Canada can explore the knowledge and practices that are happening in Africa without taking a political lead as it has done before. These types of partnerships are essential to create long-lasting strategies of the future in both international and domestic affairs.

Mebometa Ndongo – Institute of African Studies, Carleton University

- The next bi-annual UN-Habitat/ ICCASU Conference will be held in Cameroon in 2017. Canada and the Cameroon could benefit in the sharing of education, and urbanization strategies specifically. A partnership such as this one - which would not be very taxing

due to such similar policy preferences - could offer both countries insight on how to change their ways of thinking when considering the development of future urban planning.

Jean-Marie Cishahayo – UN-Habitat/ ICCASU Canada

- In accordance with Ndongo, Zarate, and Farha, Cishahayo insists that Canadian sectors such as housing, healthcare, and community building are transferable to our global partners. It also critically important to develop and nurture the institutional relationships between government and the private sector.
- As much as Canada can share many things with our global partners, the country rests at a transition point of political belief where our global partners may benefit less from our top-down hegemonic assistance, and more so from our passive partnership. That is to say that we should be learning what we can in specific scenarios from our global partners and avoid falling back into the old development paradigm.

Further Remarks

Caroline Andrew – Center of Governance, University of Ottawa

- Many of Canada's community projects need to be continued in order for them to be transferable. We are currently working on strategies that empower our vulnerable populations, and these need to continue. It is one thing to behave like the Canada of old and attempt to apply peace in crisis situations, but the future requires not only peacekeepers, but also solution finders. We need to empower the vulnerable populations of the world so that the cyclical conflicts do not continue.

Adam Vaughan - Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Intergovernmental Affairs)

- A good thing about cities is that they are an act in progress, even if politicians have not yet acted proactively. Canada's cities require specific tailoring to needs of individual communities according to the actual residents of the communities. We need to abandon the blanketing, top-down approaches present today.

Jennifer Salahub – Safe and Inclusive Cities, IDRC

(Concerning changing perspectives)

- Changing perspectives in different cultures is very difficult. Canadian cities, as international immigration hot centres, experience difficulty in accepting the norms and values of others.
- It is difficult to test theories concerning safer cities and changing perspectives due to differences in cultural values globally. For example, initiatives addressing the reduction of crime that worked well in the Global North have not achieved the same success in the Global South because the social context is different. For example, IDRC-supported research has shown that the Community bonds and social cohesion that some Northern-based crime reduction interventions are based on may not translate to Southern contexts. This must be addressed in the upcoming agenda.

Adam Vaughan - Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Intergovernmental Affairs)

(Concerning Salahub's point on North-South transitions)

- If we want our policies to transcend cultural barriers, we need to further recognize the value of small, organized, local community institutions. These organizations recognize the specific inputs of their communities, and only need to be engaged into policies. Additionally, some goals are very translatable by their nature; for example, if you make a city safe for 8 year olds and 80 year olds, the city can largely be considered safe – this works both in the North and in the South.
- Community institutions do not have to be small either; an example of the strength of community institutions creating a better public space can be found in Public Education Systems. Public Education is a force of fundamental unification for young citizens.

Leilani Farha – UN Rapporteur on Housing

- The new urban agenda is now offering an excuse to go deeper into the dialogue that we've been using for decades (North-South, East-West, etc.).
- There's a continuing feeling - both in the North and the South - that the North does not have any problems concerning urbanization and urban planning. We need to be careful when we decide to frame things in all levels of participation and dialogue.
- Many of the assumptions of the North are not wrong. Canada has a long-standing experience of a healthy and engaged non-profit sector in housing. This is reality in the North that can be shared in the South. Additionally, Canada has rich cultural diversity assisting in its progress to more inclusive cities, and this cultural diversity has transformed into Canada's metropolitan governments. However, although Canada has many successes concerning cultural diversity, the country must accept humility and continue to allow itself to learn in the upcoming years both from its domestic examples and from those internationally.

Closing Remarks

Allan Cain - Development Workshop

(Cain led the closing remarks with a return summary of the Habitat agendas)

Canada has had a historic role in promoting the Habitat Agenda dating back from our leadership in the first Environment & Development Conference in 1972, hosting the Vancouver Habitat I Summit in 1976 and supporting the Habitat II Summit in 1996.

It is the concern of the Round Table organizers that there has appeared to be little engagement from Canada in the lead-up to the important Habitat III Summit. A Canadian national multi-stakeholder committee for Habitat III does not appear to have been convened as in most other countries. For that reason the School for International Development and Global Studies agreed to host the event on the 22nd June at Ottawa University. The workshop was well attended by over 40 representatives from Government, civil society organisations and academic and policy research institutions. Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Jean-Yves Duclos and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister Adam Vaughan were key participants from the Government.

There is a concern from Canadian civil society organisations is that Canada currently faces the danger of backsliding from supporting a fairly progressive Habitat II agenda that was negotiated 20 years ago in Istanbul. The loss of Canada's institutional memory is a critical problem for both

Government and civil society. Recognizing that Canada has now taken the initiative to reengage globally on issues such as climate-change (as demonstrated in Paris in November 2015) we hope to see that Canada follows up with engagement in the linked issue around urbanisation. We are pleased to be informed by Minister Duclos that the Government has re-opened a dialogue with local governments in Canada on housing after a seven year pause and that Canada reaffirms the importance of supporting a strong United Nations. However we feel that we have a short time to catch up and contribute to the Habitat III Agenda before October.

On the urban agenda, there needs to be a recognition that landlessness, slums, informal settlements, new urban migration, gender violence and micro-entrepreneurship are all global as well as domestic Human Rights issues. It is important for Government to support civil society to participate and partner with Government on these urban issues, both locally and globally.

We have an opportunity in the immediate term to positively influence the Habitat III Agenda. A “Zero Draft” is currently under discussion. While the Habitat III’s vision builds on the concept of cities for all - *just, inclusive, accessible and sustainable cities*. understood as the Right to the City, the Right to the City and *Cities for All* need to be strengthened and clearly articulated. From civil society’s point of view, the Zero Draft needs to be improved in the following manner:

- The Zero Draft should more clearly identify the means for the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda.
- The shortcomings of the implementation of Habitat II will only be compounded — especially in the context of increased complexities of cities today, unless a robust accountability and follow-up mechanism needs to be established,.
- The global Right to the City needs to be more clearly articulated.
- A rights-based follow-up process needs to specify the role of stakeholders and rights--holder groups in its engagement.
- Should affirm the crucial contribution of women to the informal, formal, private and public economies, as an essential contribution to sustainable cities.
- Explicit mention to HR instruments, standards and commitments.
- Stronger commitment to avoid forced evictions and guarantee security of land and housing tenure.
- Recognition of social production of habitat and the need of specific set of instruments to support it.
- Stronger support to subnational and local governments.
- The Canadian Delegation to Habitat III should be inclusive of Government policy makers, civil society, practitioners and academics.



INVITATION

Dear participants,

On behalf of:

Professor Lauchlan Thomas Munro

Chair of the School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa

You are cordially invited to attend and contribute to the coming Roundtable discussion on 22nd of June (Wednesday) on the Canadian Contribution to the Habitat III Global Summit “New Urban Agenda for the 21st Century” to be held in Quito Equator in October this year. This roundtable is being co-organized by the School of International Development and Global studies at the University of Ottawa and ICCASU (<http://chinaeam.uottawa.ca/ICCASU/>) to promote an exchange between Government, Universities, Civil Society, Researchers and Practitioners on Canada's involvement in the up-coming Habitat III Summit. It is hoped that the discussion will contribute to developing a direction for Canadian strategic actions in response to the challenges of urbanization and the implementation of the sustainable development goals from a global perspective.

The roundtable will be held at Desmarais Building 3105 at University of Ottawa on **Wednesday, June 22, 2016 between 13:00 to 17:00**. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Marie CISHAHAYO, email: cishachina@gmail.com, Tel: (+1) 343-777-3756

For more information about Habitat III, visit www.habitat3.org or www.unhabitat.org

Organizers:

Lauchlan Monro, School for International Development & Global Studies

Allan Cain, Development Workshop

Huhua Cao, University of Ottawa/ICCASU



Roundtable on Canada participation to Habitat III

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

13:00 to 17:00

Desmarais Building 3105,
University of Ottawa, Canada

Agenda

12:30-13:30 Registration/Networking/Refreshment

13:30-13:35 Opening Remarks

Lauchlan Thomas Munro,
Chair of School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa

13:35-14:00: Brief Introduction on Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador

Allan Cain
Director of Development Workshop
Leilani Farha
UN Rapporteur on Housing

14:00-15:00: Panel 1:

Canadian Perspective on Habitat III: Public Sector's and Civil Society's contributions

Moderator: Lauchlan Thomas Munro, University of Ottawa

Keynote speaker: Honourable **Jean-Yves Duclos**,
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
to be introduced by: Andrew Taylor, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa

Habitat International Coalition: Lorena Zarate
Rooftops Canada: Barry Pinsky
Federation Canadian Municipalities: Brock Carlton

Open discussion

15:00-15:45 Coffee/Tea/Networking/Refreshment

15:45-16:45 Panel 2:

Canadian Perspective on Habitat III: Public Sector's and Civil Society's contributions

Moderator: Benjamin Gianni, Carlton University

Keynote speaker: **Adam Vaughan**, MP for Spadina—Fort York, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs
*to be introduced by: **Jack Jedwab***, Executive Vice-President of the Association for Canadian Studies

IDRC: Bernard Cantin/Jennifer Salahub

ACS: Jack Jedwab

Ville de Gatineau: Antoine Noubouwo

ICCASU: Huhua Cao/Mebometa Ndongo

Open discussion

16:45-17:00 Closing Remarks

Allan Cain, Director of Development Workshop

Huhua Cao, Co-President of ICCASU

Organizers: Lauchlan Thomas Munro, University of Ottawa/SIDGS
Allan Cain, Development Workshop
Huhua Cao, University of Ottawa/ICCASU

Coordinators: Jean Marie Cishahayo
Ziwei Liu
Gaoxiang Li
Liqin Zhang

Volunteers: Mu'tasem Abu-Hammad
Luke King-Godard

Free internet access will be available, please connect to the WiFi named "guOttawa"

Round-table on Canada participation to Habitat III

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

13:00 to 17:00

Desmarais Building 3105, University of Ottawa, Canada

Organizers:

Lauchlan Thomas Munro, University of Ottawa/SIDGS

Allan Cain, Development Workshop

Huhua Cao, University of Ottawa/ICCASU

Habitat III is the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to take place in Quito, Ecuador in October, 2016. It will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It is an opportunity to discuss and chart new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The conference promises to be unique in bringing together diverse urban actors such as governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and all relevant interest groups to review urban and housing policies affecting the future of cities. The conference aims to generate a 'New Urban Agenda' for the 21st century which recognizes the ever-changing dynamics of human civilization (UN-Habitat, 2013).

The first Habitat summit called "Habitat I" was held in Vancouver in Canada in 1976 as governments began to recognize the need for sustainable human settlements and the consequences of rapid urbanization, especially in the developing world (UN-habitat, 2014). This reminds us of the great contribution of the Canadian government for this historical event and how Canada will continue to play a leading role and actions in the field.

In this context, the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa and ICCASU co-organize this roundtable to get Governments, universities, NGOs, civil society, researchers and individual experts together to exchange information on Canada's involvement in Habitat III. It is hoped that the discussion will contribute to developing a direction for Canadian strategic actions in response to the challenges of urbanization and the implementation of the sustainable development goals from a global perspective.

The roundtable will be held at Desmarais Building 3105 at University of Ottawa on **Wednesday, June 22, 2016 between 13:00 to 17:00**. If you are interested to attend at this roundtable, please send us your name, your affiliation to Jean Marie Cishahayo (cishachina@gmail.com)

For more information about Habitat III, please visit at www.habitat3.org or www.unhabitat.org

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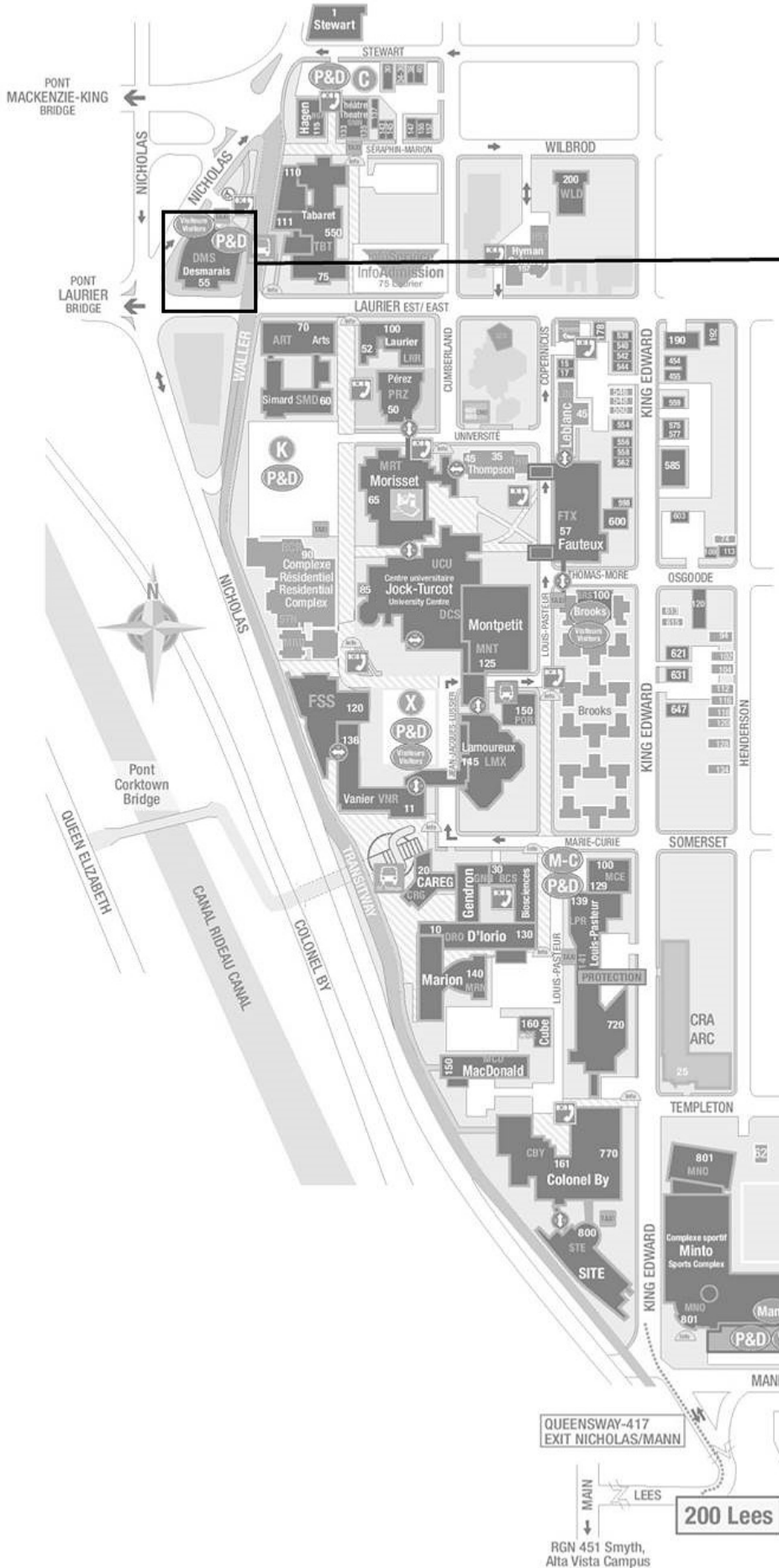
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Campus principal

Main Campus



uOttawa



DMS (Desmarais Building)

55 Laurier Avenue East,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1N 6N5

Parking:
Underground parking is
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Fees: \$4.50/hour with no max

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