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Special Session on Urban Land

Date: 19 October, 2016

Time: 13:00 – 15:00

Issue Paper # 9	Urban Land
Subtitle of Special Session (if any)	Urban Land Management: Building the Foundations for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
UN Agency/agencies co-leading	OHCHR and UN-Habitat
Focal Points Name and email	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Danilo Antonio (danilo.antonio@unhabitat.org) 2. Bahram Ghazi (bghazi@ohchr.org)
List of partnering UN agencies	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, UNECA, UNESCAP, UN-Women, FAO, IFAD, UNDESA/UNGGIM, World Bank
Format of the Special Session	Panel Discussion
Key words	Land governance, tenure security, sustainable urban development, fit-for-purpose land administration, continuum of land rights, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), plurality of tenure, urban-rural linkages, land and housing policies, land-based financing, land re-adjustment, public space, national urban policy, gender, land markets, urban poor., partnerships, slums and informal settlements, human rights, right to adequate housing, right to food, right to an adequate standard of living, equality, poverty, housing, forced evictions, discrimination, inclusive cities
Objectives of the Special Session (200 words max)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review progress made and lessons learned in the articulation of land issues in the preparation of the New Urban Agenda • Identify key implementation challenges and opportunities from various actors • Identify and agree on specific actions and recommendations for the implementation framework of the New Urban Agenda
Brief concept of the Special Session (500 words max) with focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda	<p>Land is fundamental for the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights and a key foundation in tackling urbanization challenges although it is not always reflected in policies that intervene and get implemented when addressing urban realities and cities' needs. Governance of land is central to reducing inequalities, multi-dimensional poverty, the realization of many human rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living for all (e.g. housing), the right to adequate food and environmental sustainability. It is also important to harness sustainable and transformative urbanization and to improve municipal revenues. Since land cuts across all sectors in urban development, urban land management offers unique opportunities in reinvigorating the call and commitment towards the New Urban Agenda. The inter-dependence of urban and rural areas economically, socially and environmentally also proved to be relevant and critical as more and more cities continue to expand. Sustainable urban development therefore requires consideration of the carrying capacity of the entire ecosystem supporting such development, including the prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental impacts occurring outside urban areas and enhancing municipal revenues. This calls for identification and adoption of innovative land management and planning tools that</p>



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	<p>are innovative, impactful and fit-for-purpose.</p> <p>The development of the New Urban Agenda has not been a single process but has involved participation of all relevant actors including key land actors, women's and grassroots women's organizations and stakeholders. The process includes substantial contribution in the different issue papers, policy units, regional meetings and constant advocacy and information sharing with partners, allies and the society at large. This reaffirms global commitment to sustainable urban development in an integrated and coordinated manner at global, regional, national, sub-national and local level.</p> <p>This special session will therefore bring together a variety of actors from all over the world to discuss key urban land challenges and opportunities in addition to taking stock of achievements in entrenching core messaging on equal rights, access and control to land within the context of the New Urban Agenda. The Session will also attempt to identify and agree on specific actions and/or recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.</p>
<p>Indicate the commitments or effective implementation actions of the New Urban Agenda related to this Special Session</p>	<p>This panel will discuss the centrality of land in the New Urban Agenda, and the importance of ensuring secure land rights for all and sustainable land use as key goals for its implementation. Some of the key provisions include the following:</p> <p>Paragraph 29 of the draft Quito implementation plan of the New Urban Agenda pledges to <i>'promote increased security of tenure for all, recognizing the plurality of tenure types, and to develop fit-for-purpose, and age and gender responsive solutions within the continuum of land and property rights, with particular attention to women's land security of tenure as key to their empowerment'</i>.</p> <p>Paragraph 43 states the need to <i>'support territorial systems that integrate urban and rural functions into the national and subnational spatial frameworks and the systems of cities and human settlements, promoting sustainable management of land and natural resources, ensuring reliable supply and value chains that connect urban and rural supply and demand to foster equitable regional development across the urban-rural continuum and fill the social and economic gaps.'</i></p> <p>Paragraph 137 further states <i>'We will promote capacity development programs on the use of legal land-based revenue and financing tools as well as on real estate market functioning for policymakers and local public officials focusing on the legal and economic foundations of value capture, including quantification, capturing, and distribution of land value increments'</i>.</p> <p>The discussion during this event will elaborate upon these commitments and others to generate innovative strategies for providing financial, technical, and legal support in order to</p>



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	<p>secure land rights for all. In addition, access to land was a central issue set forward by the Housing Policy Unit, which Habitat for Humanity International and the IDB co-chaired during the Habitat III process.</p>
<p>Indicate related SDGs, targets or indicators</p>	<p>The panel will examine the links of the NUA with SDGs through a land rights perspective. Especially, in particular targets 1.4, 5.a, 11.1 and 11.3 and indicators ‘1.4.2: Proportion of the adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure’, ‘5.a.1: a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure and ‘11.3.1: Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate’).</p> <p>Other agreed international instruments to be examined will be Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and Resolution GC23-17 by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, Resolution 42/146 by the UN General Assembly on realization of the right to adequate housing, Resolution 2004/28 on prohibition of forced evictions by the Commission on Human Rights and the Africa’s Land Policy Initiative’s Framework & Guidelines.</p>
<p>Indicate expected outcomes for the special session (50 words max)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewed commitments to address the land dimension in the process of urbanization by reaffirming the centrality of security of tenure for all and ending inequality in tenure rights, especially from a gender perspective, as key to sustainable urbanization. • Improved knowledge on the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. • Strengthened capacity of land stakeholders in addressing land issues in the context of the New Urban Agenda.
<p>Describe innovative monitoring of the expected outcomes for the special session. E.g. relevant indicators. (100 words max)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII). • Through the UN-Habitat’s City Prosperity Initiative (CPI). • Through the development of human rights indicators at local level. • Through the SDI’s Know Your City platform. • Through partnerships within the Global Land Tool Network. • Through the implementation of the VGGTs at national and local levels. • Within the short term, participants to the Special Session can establish a common communication channel where everyone can share its own experiences, good practices and monitoring mechanisms in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and provide feedback for the NUA framework for implementation.
<p>Guiding questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is needed in addressing land issues for the NUA to be a game changer? • How urban land management contributes to the



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	<p>implementation of the New Urban Agenda?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key implementation challenges and opportunities for urban land management including from a gender perspective. • Who are the main actors in urban land management? And what are their key roles? How to ensure women's groups and grassroots women's organizations participate fully in the urban land management? • How best can urban land management issues be addressed? What are the critical innovations or potential solutions needed? What specific actions can be put in place in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in relation to urban land management aspects? • How can the SDGs, VGGTs and other frameworks be used to support the New Urban Agenda including with regards to the urban and rural nexus?
<p>Indicate any necessary facility and equipment</p>	<p>Projector, screen and laptop Table (for registration and sharing of publications)</p>
<p>Comments: N/A</p>	