SLoCaT Habitat III Strategy

About Habitat III

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October 2016. The Habitat III Conference intended outcome is the New Urban Agenda, which is expected to represent a global commitment to sustainable urbanization.

Habitat III will be one of the first United Nations global summits after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence to shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

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Maria de los Angeles Duarte (Ecuador)

Habitat III Bureau
Co-chair
Maryse Gautier (France)

Habitat III Bureau Member States
Chad, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Senegal, Slovakia and UAE

Habitat III Secretariat
(located in Ford Foundation)
Secretary General of Habitat III (Dr. Joan Clos)
Coordinator of Habitat III (Ana Moreno)

Figure 1: Structure of Habitat III organization - Main Actors
Habitat III is a formal intergovernmental process with a negotiated outcome document, which is expected to be known as the New Urban Agenda. The Zero Draft of the Habitat III outcome document, developed by the Co-Chairs and the Habitat III Bureau, is expected to be available on the 6th May 2016.

From April – July 2016 a number of informal meetings and consultations will take place in New York. Final preparations for Habitat III will be made at the 3rd Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom3) from 25-27th July in Surabaya, Indonesia. (Accreditation application deadline is 2nd May 2016).

And finally the Habitat III conference itself will be in Quito, Ecuador 17-20 October 2016.

SLoCaT Objectives for Habitat III

The overall objective of the SLoCaT Partnership is to integrate sustainable transport in global policies on sustainable development and climate change.

SLoCaT’s specific objectives for Habitat III are:

1. Illustrate the central role of sustainable transport in enabling sustainable urban development;

2. Communicate progress made in past years in realizing sustainable urban transport, both in terms of sustainable development and climate change;

3. Acknowledgement in the New Urban Agenda (the Habitat III outcome document) of the critical role of transport in realizing sustainable urban development and inclusion of key recommendations on policy, innovation, finance and institutions and highlighting the role national governments (i.e. those signing the NUA) need to play.

Approach

Sustainable urban transport has come a long way since the time of the Habitat I conference in 1976 in Vancouver, Canada. There is growing consensus on the Avoid-Shift-Improve (A-S-I) approach that can improve urban access while increasing social, environmental and economic sustainability. All parts of the A-S-I approach (technological, institutional, policy) have been tested at scale in both the developed and developing world and the number of sustainable transport initiatives focusing on cities has multiplied in recent years.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Transport and Habitat I and Habitat II</th>
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<td>Previous Habitat Conferences in 1976 (Vancouver) and 1996 (Istanbul) both resulted in a</td>
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relatively short overall statement or declaration backed up by a longer document:

- Habitat I: [Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements](#) and the [Vancouver Action Plan: 64 Recommendations](#)
- Habitat II: [Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements](#) and [the Habitat Agenda](#) Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action (in short the Habitat Agenda)

Transport is not mentioned in the Vancouver Declaration but has a short section (less than 1 page) in the Vancouver Action Plan. Transport is mentioned once in the Istanbul Declaration and, again, has a short section in the Habitat (II) Agenda.

The overall messages on transport in both Habitat I and II outcome documents are similar: focus on passenger transport only; transport is key for economic and social development; transport has negative impacts (pollution, congestion, safety); it is important to link urban planning to transport planning; public transport as well as walking and cycling should be promoted; and the use of private cars should be (more) carefully managed.

To realize its Habitat III related objectives SLoCaT will work not only with the transport community but also with a much wider range of stakeholders including but not limited to the energy, social services, water and sanitation sectors. Equally it is important to work with stakeholders from government at the local, regional, national and international levels, as well as with private sector, civil society and international development stakeholders.

It will be in SLoCaT’s interest that discussions at Habitat III do not only focus on the overall urban development agenda but also go in depth into the respective sectors that will enable sustainable urban development. This would require a better balance in attention between cross cutting themes and individual sectors than was expressed in the [issues papers](#) and [policy papers](#) underpinning the development of the New Urban Agenda.

SLoCaT’s concern is that prioritizing cross cutting and integrated approaches over specific sector-based approaches will contribute to a New Urban Agenda that is strong on generalities and weak on specifics.\(^2\)

SLoCaT is calling for a Habitat III outcome with ambitious targets and roadmap that will enable urban transport to make its contribution to the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This would be helped by a Habitat III process and a New Urban Agenda (the Habitat III outcome document) that makes more explicit efforts to link general discussions on governance, planning, finance, etc. to the specific circumstances of different sectors that constitute, or enable, urban development, including transport.

To aid in the development of an approach that integrates sustainable development and climate change considerations in the transport sector SLoCaT supports the development of a common global framework on sustainable, low carbon and resilient transport. Urban mobility transformation is an integral part of such a common framework. The common global framework needs to stimulate common actions and steer all actors in the same direction whilst still allowing for different local circumstances and preferences.

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\(^2\)The [guidelines](#) for developing the National Reports for Habitat suggest that only 540 out of 25,000 words are to be used to describe improvements in access to sustainable means of transport.
SLoCaT will be channeling its Habitat III outreach activities largely through the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate (PPMC). The members of the SLoCaT Partnership decided at the recent annual meeting that SLoCaT activity in 2016 and beyond should emphasize the convergence between the sustainable development and climate change agendas.

SLoCaT has initiated discussions with the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) (see box below) on how the transport and mobility sector can be represented in a visible manner that cuts across the different Partner Constituent Groups that form the GAP. Developing a partnership with GAP could be a win-win situation: GAP would benefit from an in-depth perspective from transport, a key urban sector in the New Urban Agenda, and SLoCaT would benefit from GAP’s role as an intermediary between civil society and the negotiating parties on the New Urban Agenda.

### The General Assembly of Partners (GAP)

The General Assembly of Partners (GAP) is a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign that will carry out its work until the end of the Habitat III Conference in October 2016. GAP aims to support stakeholder engagement and contributions to the conference. It consists of 14 Partner Constituent Groups (PCGs) which include members of the United Nations’ Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The GAP requests recognition of the following efforts by the member states:

1. Fostering engagement in an inclusive dialogue to develop common positions on key principles and thematic areas to be articulated in the New Urban Agenda that build on The Future We Want, The City We Need and the future Framework for Post 2015 Development and consider inputs provided by the Partner Constituent Groups, Urban Thinkers Campuses, thematic, regional and other relevant meetings
2. Proposing a set of actionable recommendations supported by evidence and knowledge, exemplary urban solutions and experiences related to sustainable urbanization generated by practitioners from all backgrounds
3. Advocating for and publicizing the outcomes and collective positions that emerge within GAP to the Habitat III Conference and associated programs and processes via all available channels

### Key Components of SLoCaT Habitat III Strategy

#### A. Knowledge Management

1) Documenting transport components in relevant Habitat III documentation

SLoCaT will also review relevant Habitat III documents from a transport perspective. This includes: national, regional, and global reports; Habitat III issues papers and policy papers and the member state and stakeholder comments on these documents (see table). A matrix summarizing results will be available online and for download from the SLoCaT website.

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3 See [http://www.slocat.net/sites/default/files/habitat_iii_issue_papers_-_slocat_partnership_comments_-_2015-07-30_0.pdf](http://www.slocat.net/sites/default/files/habitat_iii_issue_papers_-_slocat_partnership_comments_-_2015-07-30_0.pdf) for initial comments from SLoCaT members on the Habitat III issues papers
from early May 2016. A report will be available by late May in time for the Civil Society oriented informal consultations on the New Urban Agenda in New York on 6-7 June, 2016

2) Documenting progress on transport and equity

SLoCaT is conducting research on transport and equity, which aims to document the manner in which unequal provision of and access to transport generates or reinforces economic and social inequity. This research also focuses on how the implementation of more sustainable transport can help to reduce these inequities. It is envisaged that this research will result by June 2016 in an agenda for further action by SLoCaT, its members and other organizations. Initial results of the research, to be presented at PrepCom 3 in July in Surabaya, can help to shape the transport component of the New Urban Agenda as well as the poverty component of Habitat III. Likewise, results of this research would also be of relevance to the Habitat III event in Quito itself.

3) Documenting progress in realizing sustainable urban transport

A small working group, of volunteer SLoCaT members, in SLoCaT drafted a paper on sustainable urban transport, which included some initial messages on sustainable urban transport and Habitat III. The paper has been submitted (4th April 2016) for publication in the Natural Resources Forum – A UN Sustainable Development Journal entitled: "Delivering urban transport for global sustainable urban development - key messages for Habitat III from the sustainable transport community". The paper is currently being peer reviewed and should be published in the summer.

B. Key Messages

SLoCaT discussed draft Habitat III messages at the March 10th 2016 PPMC stakeholder meeting in Paris. Following a detailed analysis of the documents produced so far by the Habitat III process (see Section 1 above) and after sharing with SLoCaT members, a set of clear, easily digestible messages on sustainable urban mobility for Habitat III has been prepared.

They include:
- 5 Key Messages (what needs to be done);
- 5 Specific Requirements for inclusion of sustainable mobility in the New Urban Agenda (how to do it); and
- 5 Warning Signs of unsustainable urban mobility.

These messages have been distributed in the 3rd week of April 2016 to a significant number of the actors that are involved in preparing the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda expected on the 6th May 2016. This includes Habitat III Bureau Members, Policy Unit

\[\text{\footnotesize \textsuperscript{4}This would be one manner in which a sectoral issue like transport could be better integrated with the overall Habitat III agenda. The current Policy Paper Framework on the right for the city and to cities for all includes some reference to mobility but does not go into detail.}\]
Leaders, the Habitat III Secretariat and their expert advisors. We have also sent this to those who will be involved in the negotiation of the text (Permanent Representatives to the UN and the Stakeholder Group Leaders of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP). The messages are also available for distribution during the “Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings” taking place 25–29 April at the UN Headquarters in NY.

These Key Messages are also a tool for SLoCaT Members who are encouraged to use these messages in any discussions they may have with any negotiators or actors that can influence the Habitat III process that they have contact with in the next months.

The SLoCaT messaging will be re-considered after the publication of the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda in May 2016.

To dissemination the messages will make use of the #WeAreTransport hash tag, which was introduced by the PPMC last year for COP21 and which has been quite effective in bringing together the sustainable transport community in a common outreach effort on sustainable, low carbon transport.

C. Review of negotiating texts

1) Zero Draft New Urban Agenda

The first Zero Draft version of the Habitat III outcome document itself, the expected New Urban Agenda, is scheduled to be available on Friday 6th May. The SLoCaT secretariat will provide a commentary/analysis of the sustainable transport aspects by the 13th May.

SLoCaT Secretariat will then continuously and closely follow the development of the negotiating text over the subsequent months, and inform the SLoCaT members on it.

2) Inter-sessional process

From April – July 2016 (prior to PrepCom3, Surabaya, Indonesia) there will be a number of informal meetings and consultations that will take place in New York.

SLoCaT will track all meetings to ensure we remain informed about the status of the negotiations (content and process) as well as to promote our messages. Our strategy will be reviewed in light of the progress in the negotiations.

25-29 April Open Ended Informal Consultative Meetings (Agenda) (deadline for registration 22nd April 2016)

| 16-17 May | Informal hearings with Local Authorities Associations |
| 18-20 May | Informal Intergovernmental Meetings |
| 6-7 June | Informal meetings with stakeholders – (focus on Civil Society) |
| 8-10 June | Informal intergovernmental meetings |

29 June -1 July Informal intergovernmental meetings
Once further details are available on the June 6-7 meeting SLoCaT will decide on how to best engage in this consultation event.

D. Events in Support of Habitat III

SLoCaT is preparing to be well represented at the 3rd Preparation Committee meeting (PrepCom3) in Surabaya, Indonesia (July 25-27) as well as at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador (17-20 October 2016).

1. Transport Day Surabaya - Quito

SLoCaT is planning two Transport Days events on transport at PrepCom3 and Habitat III (and a third one linked to COP22 in Marrakesh), modeled on the annual event organized during recent COP meetings on climate change.

The two Transport Days (planned as a half day) will have linked agendas. They will be an opportunity for a large and varied number of transport stakeholders to raise awareness of their activities and importantly launch new initiatives.

2. Side events Prep Com 3 and Habitat III

SLoCaT is actively encouraging its members and partners to apply for side events during the Prep Com 3 and Habitat III conference itself.

In addition to the activities of our Partners and other transport stakeholder SLoCaT will make active use of all possibilities to organize and participate in side events and to use other complementary channels to raise the collective voice of sustainable transport.

3. SLoCaT Members at Habitat III

The following SLoCaT Members have informed us of plans for the following activities:
- **European Cycling Federation** is planning a training activity during Quito – details to follow.
- **ICLEI** is planning to organize an “EcoMobility Alliance Workshop Quito 2016” - exact dates to be confirmed.
- **EMBARQ** activities planned – details to follow.
- **Health Bridge** activities planned – details to follow.
- **Wuppertal Institute** is leading a working group of SLoCaT Members to come up with a Think Piece on Urban Mobility in the Context of the New Urban Agenda. They are planning to release this Think Piece in a side event in Quito. (Contact: Oliver Lah)

To maximize synergies, impact and publicity of transport related activities we ask SLoCaT members attending the Surabaya PrepCom3 and HABITAT III to share their plans with the SLoCaT secretariat (Talya Enriquez Romano talya.enriquezromano@slocatpartnership.org)

### 4. Transport events prior to Habitat III Conference in October, 2016

The expected New Urban Agenda has the potential to accelerate efforts on sustainable urban transport, if it contains effective and inclusive language on transport and mobility. However, many global transport stakeholders will not be in a position to take part in Habitat III in October, nor in the official consultations in the months preceding the event, including the third PrepCom in Surabaya, Indonesia in July 2016.

Thus, in order to help inform and mobilize the international transport community on key links between sustainable transport and mobility and the Habitat III conference, the SLoCaT Partnership will organize and take part in a series of events to discuss the contribution of transport to the New Global Urban Agenda at national and regional levels. An overview of these events is maintained at: [http://www.ppmc-transport.org/global-regional-transport-events-in-2016](http://www.ppmc-transport.org/global-regional-transport-events-in-2016).

### E. Outreach

As in the case of COP21, SLoCaT will work actively with its 96 members to ensure that the voice of sustainable transport is heard loud and clear leading up to and through the course of the Habitat III process. SLoCaT will conduct outreach on Habitat III in several different channels:

- SLoCaT’s main Habitat III outreach activities will be through the restructured PPMC website, where a special Habitat III section has been created ([http://www.ppmc-transport.org/habitat-3-and-transport](http://www.ppmc-transport.org/habitat-3-and-transport));
- SLoCaT will have an active presence on Twitter, making use of #WeAreTransport in combination with #Habitat3 hashtag to highlight the presence and impact of the sustainable transport community;
- SLoCaT also intends to partner with other online platforms that have extensive Habitat III coverage such as [http://citiscope.org](http://citiscope.org). As in the case of the cooperation with GAP, this could be a win-win situation, with SLoCaT providing substantive
content on transport and the New Urban Agenda, and Citiscope providing outreach to a wide range of stakeholders linked to Habitat III;

- An interview with Cornie Huizenga on transport in Habitat III will be included in the May edition of: www.thinkingcities.com magazine
- During the 3rd PrepCom and the Habitat III conference itself SLoCaT will also look at the possibilities of having a booth to interact with participants.