

**CCCRdg Issue Paper\_Campaigning for secure urban public space and ambient air quality (Urban Action) as a contribution, Habitat III PrepCom3 Urban Action - Climate Change Centre Reading (CCCRdg)**

**KEY WORDS**

#FutureofPlaces #COP21 #Habitat3 #NewUrbanAgenda #PublicSpace #WUC #TheFutureWeWant #TheCityWeNeed #UrbanSDG #UrbanAction #UrbanThinkers #Youngplacemakers #ClimateAction

To the preparatory committee Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Habitat III – Quito 2016, (participation of Non-governmental organizations and major groups)

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Reading, UK 31/07/2015

**Dear the Habitat III Secretariat**

Please find below Climate Change Centre Reading 's (CCCRdg) comments on Habitat III Issue Papers pre PrepCom3 regarding – Issue papers;

**1 – Inclusive cities (a.o. Pro Poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing)**

**6 – Urban Governance**

8 – Urban and Spatial Planning and Design

**11 – Public Space**

**17 – Cities and climate change and disaster risk management**

21 – Transport and Mobility

**OVERVIEW Issue Papers 1, 6, 11 and 17**

Youth conclusions and inclusion and resilience in the New Urban Agenda based on three years project with placemaking and climate change coverage. Why? The youth is our future and their need for protective shelter in a changing climate, first and foremost. This requires multidisciplinary climate action across multilevel jurisdictional boundaries...

**Campaigning for secure urban public space and ambient air quality  
YOUTH DISTRICT LEARNING (YDL) - WORLDS GREATEST PLACEMAKING PROJECT\*\*\*\*\***

From adequate to protective shelter for all via all street districts. From safe spaces to secure places via Human District Learning (HDL) of everyone who lives in urban areas, of any gender and age. From sustainable human settlements to urban auto-resilience HDL. From a future which is not set to a more hopeful local governance future. From a broken world, in disadvantage to saving the planet. From symphony to symmetry – Protect la sierra can be measured. This will avoid Urban Collapse!

In order to make sure that the “Road to Quito” Habitat III and beyond is both paved with good intentions and, more importantly, with concrete solutions, Climate Change Centre Reading (CCCRdg) has embarked on and joined a number of initiatives to mobilize support for actions that take place at the subnational level, and to demonstrate that a top-down approach must be complemented by the bottom-up approach to preparing public spaces considering climate action.

## FIGURES AND KEY FACTS Issue Papers 1, 6, 11 and 17

Thousands of urban roads have some of the worst levels of air pollution all over the planet – annual EU limits for Nitrogen Dioxide had already been reached by mid-January 2015!

Air pollution affects lung development in children and has many negative health effects, especially for, and those living or working near roads and those with asthma.

A recent study estimated that nearly 100,000 premature deaths related to air pollution could be avoided annually in Brazil, China, the EU, India, Mexico and the US by 2030 through energy efficiency measures in the transport, buildings and industrial sectors (UNEP 2014 Emission Gap Report).

There are solutions to air pollution but non-drivers have been left behind. Join us to call for action on air pollution. There are also general calls for better public transport and reducing reliance on automobiles. It's time, time to act on our car culture, how to give back some of our common street space back to the citizens and also promote urban walkable neighbourhoods.

A democratic Europe might come about in the articulation between the large urban districts-become-cities out of control that needs to downscale into multiple multilevel human and accessible youth districts that are manageable by its local government "*The Aristotelian dictum that asserts that unity is not the aim of the city because the city is pluralism*".

Perhaps it's so all citizens have to be separated from ethnic groups, languages, cultures and ideologies for true inclusiveness will ever take place?

There is an urgent need to bridge knowledge and capacity gaps in relation to crucial urban and territorial challenges such as climate change, protection and security, disaster resilience, ecosystem connectivity, green infrastructure, food security, health, diet and nutrition.

Indicators of risk information, including data on vulnerability and exposure to shocks and stressors are essential for bridging disaster resilience. Disaster loss data, risk assessments and climate change projections, for instance, are fundamental tools for guiding plans and investments and identifying opportunities for transformative action and change. Though recognized as a global priority, these are not yet universally available in all cities.

Public space and the buildings that surround and define it need to be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Social sustainability requires security, equity and justice; economic sustainability benefits from affordable capital and operating budgets; environmental sustainability addresses ecological and health issues. These include clean air, water and soil, green micro-climates and the mitigation and adaptation to the Urban Heat Island Effect and Climate Change. Effective use should be made of green technologies and systems. Architecture and urban design that is adaptable and appreciated is cared for and sustained for a longer time.

### Urban narratives

**Air pollution** causes millions of premature deaths every year and flooding, monster typhoons, droughts and **wild-fires** that are completely out of control, regional impacts of **climate extreme** related hazards are already affecting many millions of people, both in mega cities and rural areas. This humanitarian crisis affects the young/youth population who have done least to create the problem the most, and left unchecked would affect us all, right now we are failing future generations.

All over the world people are already putting into practice real green solutions: public renewable energy, **green** infrastructure (e.g. parks, greening of pedestrian corridors, conscious planting of trees) and auto-resilient land-use planning also mitigates summer temperature and reduces air conditioning

*need, public transport and non-motorized means of urban mobility and networks of inter-connected public spaces that are distinct from vehicular traffic and promote accessibility and walkable neighbourhoods, creation millions of new, unionised sustainable jobs provides health care and financial security for their survival, and it cleans our air and it saves lives.. It will also require direct engagement with the issue of land value and land-value “capture” as a means of financing and maintaining inclusive and accessible public spaces.. but it needs to happen faster, at scale and with the next generation at its centre.*

*With such solutions already in flow, we can leave the age of fossil fuels behind. Some choices we can each make on our own. But some, we as a society of anthropogenic impact on the **environment** only can make in togethernessship ☺!!!!*

***In heart and in spirit** of hopefulness, it’s important to act on the wave youth bulge to build bridges. We must build bridges to the youth to include them to take part in the movement for health, increase the quality of life of urban dwellers by regulating micro-climate, improving air quality and reducing noise and for a sustainable future. We must reach out to our world leadership, we must address local authorities and subnational government’s local minds and capture the mayors and policy maker’s hearts.*

*'Together, we are more powerful and have more **resilience** than they could possibly imagine. Whatever happens in Paris and Quito won’t kick in until 2020, we can, and we will, bridge the better sustainable **energy future** from here. A more just, more equitable, fair and better world for us all, who wants the fight for the climate to continue.'*

**Reading, United Kingdom, July 31, 2015:**



***“Consider climate change in every action”***



Draft Abstract - The 2015 Future of Places Conference  
RE: Why ignoring the need for green placemaking in cities is fatal

## **Campaigning for public space and ambient air quality WORLDS GREATEST PLACEMAKING PROJECT\*\*\*\*\***

One conclusion from the two conferences in the series is that the way we choose to travel between spaces, places, cities and urban environments is as linked to places as anything else. We are therefore pleased to present our paper on how a Car-Free Day will have an impact on public space and businesses. There will be many positive benefits as a result of cleaner air and a reduction in congestion.

The following cities across the world have successfully held car-free days; in Indonesia, Brussels, Dubai, 埔里無車日 (Puli), Bristol and Vancouver etc.

Climate Change Centre Reading is investigating whether a car-free day will improve an urban development to make the link between climate change and the switch to zero carbon fuels. This can be a trending tool in urban regeneration and new developments (the air is our urban common!).

How

"By developing a transport infrastructure which supports more low to zero carbon travel options for people", "By developing infrastructure appropriately given the changing climate, reallocating space for public transport and cycling and introducing smarter ways to manage congestion and speed, e.g. with social media and best practice road layouts"

As we learned from FoPI, pedestrians and cyclists first gained popularity in Colombia; Ciclovías (literal translation: bikeway) are "city streets that are closed to motorised traffic for a few hours a day, usually on Sundays/holidays," By restricting motorised traffic, large recreational spaces are created where physical, cultural social and educational activities can take place.

As part of the Monthly Car-Free Work-Day initiative all motorized vehicles, excluding public transport, emergency services, council vehicles and other limited exception, will be off the road for the day.

Placemaking can indeed become a role-model to slow down global warming and to share dynamism and hope.

## **KEY DRIVERS FOR ACTION Issue Papers 1, 6, 11 and 17**

### Why the children have to play at home, while the car can occupy the street or the square?

Focusing on children allows us also to lay the groundwork for the construction of a city more equitable and inclusive intercepting needs and aspirations of those inhabitants who, as children, are not able to fully use the city as it is today.

In the past, children used to play in the streets; today they are deprived of the opportunity to use the city and to increase their autonomy and their environmental skills. In our cities, children play and walk only inside 'places for children' and under strict adults' control. Nevertheless, often children show the tendency to make the whole city playable and walkable autonomously.

Children are possibly the most disadvantaged group, with very little possibility of recognition for their citizenship and their 'right to the city'. For their development they need to defy pre-defined functions, whereas in the modern city almost every forms pretends to follow a pre-defined (or arbitrary assigned) function. It is quite probable that the diffused hostility and the effective expulsion of children from the public spaces of modern cities is also due to their inability to use the places according only to their designed function.

We can see their tendency to 'disobey' as a form of opposition they put up against those spaces and those streets, which are not capable to give an adequate answer to their need of autonomy and freedom. However, unlike many other groups of inhabitants, children lack the capability to organize themselves and therefore urban policies aiming at improving children's urban rights of accessibility and movement have to deal with that issue.

Contemporary city is clearly a car-friendly city, and the car is the main adversary of children's play in the streets (due to security issues related to moving cars) and in the squares (due to the occupation of space related to parked cars). The effects of traffic congestion on urban environment (road accidents; air, noise and aesthetic pollution; waste of time in traffic and, in particular, privatization of public spaces and soil consumption) cause a significant reduction of the urban quality of life, especially for those people who cannot or do not want to drive a car that cannot fully exercise their fundamental urban right to access and to use the public spaces and the streets.

So children, with their play, can help the contemporary city to get rid of that excess of private, moving and standing cars. Doing so, children can help all the citizens to recover their public spaces for sociality and community life. However, we need, in the first place, to help the children do that, also recognizing also at a city level and formally, their right to play (Tonucci, 2002).

### Reduce vulnerability in urban corridors and mega-city-regions, noted that by 2100, "86 per cent of the world's population will be living in cities."

- Mapping imbalances and try to quickly correct general urban difficulties like violence, drugs and prostitution, crime, negative spaces and dangerous pockets by renewing places for people with constructive use of conflict
- Establish placemaking nurseries, see other models treat children as experts, role play let them be placivists to claim the space the need, let the children be our young placemakers
- Put young people in the driver's seat, so they drive change - Let children design their life relationship - Youth-centered design and civic innovation = creative confidence



- Urban Action on Air Pollution for immediate health & Near-Term Climate Benefits Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) - International call for a monthly Car-Free Work-Day Planet

Without finance, even the best-laid plans will never come to fruition and could ignore the longer-term impacts from climate change on more immediate investment decisions, causing a vicious cycle of risk generation. Awareness of the inter-connected nature of risk and opportunities for transformation change help municipal leaders and investors make more informed and sustainable policy and investment decisions.

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**Climate Change Centre  
Reading (CCCRdg)**

Draft Abstract - The 2015 Future of Places Conference  
RE: Why ignoring the need for green spaces and public places in cities is fatal

**PLACEMAKING INDICATORS TO REDUCE IMBALANCES (draft).**  
**Comment to Issue Paper 11 UN Conf. on Housing and Sustainable Urban  
Development – Habitat 3;**

Set up set of indicators for sectorial public space commitments (energy, street lighting, transport, waste management, building and construction, urban and land planning, green procurement, water resource management, forest management, resilient an low carbon agriculture, public outreach policy)

Comment to size of green space in an urban environment;

Another way with indicators to measure spaces / places in percentage,

We know a good measurement to a healthy city is about 50% green space.

Work with imbalances in city indicators as green space. One way is to quickly sense an imbalance and then try to correct it.

E.g. streets take up 80% of our common realm. Between green spaces and streets there is an imbalance. Reduction of the difference is a path for direct action.

PM needs to grow a stronger case to help delay climate change, also suitable together with new sustainable key theme 6 BIO-DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH.

Recommendations to avoid heat island urban effects in micro climates

Other important indicators are;

1 Albedo Enhancement / Shade  
(lighter-colored roofs and pavement)

2 Sensible Heat Reduction  
(hot gases from tailpipes and chimneys)

3 Cool Micro-climates  
(trees/vegetation to shade, cool the air, etc.)

Due to future emissions, gases, air pollution, acid rains and raise in storms conditions etc, these indicators can give military guidance for protective public shelter in an urban environment, even planning for underground public spaces.

**For Release 10AM (UTC) 01/07/2015**

## PLATFORMS AND PROJECTS Issue Papers 1, 6, 11 and 17

There is an established knowledge that there is increasing change in weather events as a direct result of frequent climate change related hazards. We need to moderate the urban micro-climate and prepare urban public shelters to protect our population for these hazards.

Accessibility needs identified to save and secure children and youth, especially the most vulnerable, Protective Shelters in every open public space/places and street districts and arenas needs to have;

1 Climate Storm/Flood/Rain/Fire urban auto-resilience

(Epidemic and Pandemic, Insect Infestation, Drought, **Extreme Temperature**, Wildfire, Earthquake, Mass Movement, Volcano, Flood)

2 Sensible lighting

3 First aid emergency equipment

4 Access to fresh water

5 Climate / Disaster protection and sanitation

(against natural disasters and hazards, which are being exacerbated by climate change)

6 Climate / Disaster response and risk reduction plans / Distance informatics and Inter-connectivity between open spaces\* SDG 6.6 by 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems due to loss or degradation

[National governments are the lead actors in the global climate response. Coherence and integration of disaster responses, disaster risk management and climate change plans and institutional mechanisms should be continuously monitored and assessed in the context of sustainable development]\*\*

7 Trustful and reliable settings (community social cohesion and equity)

Indicators of risk information, including data on vulnerability and exposure to shocks and stressors is essential for bridging disaster resilience. Disaster loss data, risk assessments and climate change projections, for instance, are fundamental tools for guiding plans and investments and identifying opportunities for transformative action and change. Though recognized as a global priority, these are not yet universally available in all cities. Demographic ITC helps people to the right place of open public spaces = Disaster Risk reduction

\* Facilitating connectivity and zero carbon mobility through the improvement of transportation networks and communication between urban and rural areas to allow universal benefit and access to quality protective and secure urban public space – it would be good to have some reference here to coherence and integration between humanitarian actors, development actors and city authorities, so it's clear to readers there are issues with coherence and coordination amongst these response actors.

\*\* – it would be good to have some reference to the role that city authorities have in disaster response, particularly in terms of coordinating interventions and ensuring emergency assistance is informed by existing local data, local knowledge and expertise, and contributes to restoring and strengthening city systems.

City authorities also have a role to play in ensuring that recovery incorporates measures to improve disaster resilience.

- When disaggregated buildings are responsible for most of the urban emissions and need to be identified and focused upon. Tackling the emissions that emanate from buildings has the following dimensions:

- o Most buildings use high carbon materials (cement, bricks, steel, glass, aluminum etc). Most of the current building stock is poorly designed from a climate perspective.

All new buildings need to be built to passive design principles to reduce their energy consumption.



Draft Abstract - The 2015 Future of Places Conference  
RE: Why ignoring the need for green spaces and public places in cities is fatal

**PLACEMAKING (PM) MITIGATION AND ADAPTION (draft).**  
**Follow Up Mechanism: SDG 11.7 & Public Space in the New Urban Agenda;**

Many of us don't like to include climate change in PM. Even though PM itself is not one of the 17 SDGs, but under goal 11 which is "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (SDG 11).

***By 2030, provide universal access to protective, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces / places and provide for human district learning, particular for woman and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.***

PM needs to grow a stronger case to help delay climate change, also suitable together with new sustainable key theme 6 BIO-DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH.

PM guidelines and recommendations are now strong to become decision making tools to form and shape net/sustainable cities. Big data can keep urban environment on top. As you know the Paris negotiations goes hand in hand with establishing 17 new SDGs, where PM showing good qualities to be a tool for imbalances, regularly revised and especially at 12/12/20 that is five years after COP21 when each and every nations agreed iDNCs being implemented into law, also revise cycles of commitment.

Unknown, unpredictable problems with up to 10 years lags in atmospheric adjustment and heat/emission feedback from oceans all caused from human activities and unactions together with irreversible force feedings have already taken us beyond limits of what we need to survive, the so called crucial tipping points of world environment boundaries. PM can help prevent, restore and rescue the climate system and slow widespread impacts further with it's powerful, playful and smart urban understanding to be an urban city solution.

Placemaking's new role in complex, social political and governance issues can embrace and empower CLEAN AIR, WATER, SOIL RENEWABLES FOR EVERY TECH COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Placemaking can indeed become a role-model to slow down global warming and to share dynamism and hope.

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Children has climate and human rights in urban corridors, mega-city-regions as well in lower density cities and rural areas

Climate justice "The vulnerability of poor regions to climate change is an injustice. Climate is a human rights issue. We are making people's lives worse through our inaction".

Constructive use of conflict – Defy rules change landscape

Citizens' involvement. Enhancement of the health of Citizens

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