

## **CCCRdg Issue Paper\_Campaigning for Transport and climate change 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 UrbanSDG #TheFutureWeWant #TheCityWeNeed #UrbanAction #UrbanThinkers #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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### **Dear the Habitat III Secretariat**

Please find below Climate Change Centre Reading´s (CCCRdg) comments on Habitat III Issue Papers pre PrepCom3 regarding – City Action on Air Pollution for immediate health & Near-Term Climate Benefits Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) – 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 8, 11, 17 and 21**

Connecting communities

Facilitating connectivity and net carbon mobility through the improvement of transportation networks and communication between urban and rural areas to allow universal benefit and access to quality public spaces / places, which tend to be concentrated in urban areas due to population density and economies of scale.

### **Campaigning for public space and ambient air quality (Urban Action) Transport and climate change\*\*\*\*\***

*Due to Anthropocene science it is possible to predict future scenarios for public spaces as part of the sharing paradigm.*

Because of the many changes in our weather conditions caused by Climate change we have little choice but to adapt to avoid the unpredictable unknown. As global population grows and numbers of refugees increase, migrants are moving into nearby megacities where urban development interfere with rapid changes greater part of the public space, our public-realm natural resources becoming an equity that we need to share in **Togethernesship\***; to avoid social segregation and exclusion. A minimum of half the

land in urban areas must be allocated to public space, our urban commons. Risk Reduction and Public Emergency - Evacuation & Disaster Sheltering plans are needed for every city. This requires an urgent agenda item - why "We Should Make Every Effort" To Depopulate the Planet.

Public Spaces need to take forefront and in the key messages for The Charter of Public Space and INU the Public Space Toolkit stresses the importance of mobilizing civil society into a safe pathway, Net Spatial Development and Public Spaces.

Future virtual public spaces/places will play larger role in our developing society. In order to minimize the use of natural resources, so that we stay in balance and true to our planetary boundaries, we can manage future modelling pathway directions like scalability and shareability. ("It's totally 1.6% chance right now, that we reach six degree rise in temperature."~Johan Rockstroem)

One new scheme is the global divestment movement, changing our way of looking at fossil fuel investments, leading to a slow cutting down of emission producing activities (deep decarbonisation of our energy systems). This will bind us to new climate change legislation for 85 years. The world is determined and in agreement to combat three important human areas; Poverty, Economic growth (within Post-Carbon Economy) and Food security



Ms Mary Robinson, newly-appointed UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, stressed the link between climate and human rights: 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".

## **FIGURES AND KEY FACTS Issue Papers 8, 11, 17 and 21**

1

Megacities - The recognition of Public Spaces is to decrease poverty by giving the land back to the community. Sustainable Development Goals Social-, Environmental- and Climate justice together with a heavy focus on planetary boundaries, the choice of building materials, methods and transports/communications will have impact when planning for places; this will create new opportunities and establish an equitable economy, sharing "post-carbon" economy. We argue that a reinvention and revival of sharing in our cities could enhance equity, rebuild community and dramatically cut resource use, taking us back to the beginning:

*"The earliest cities developed in a number of places, from Mesopotamia to Asia to the Americas and were always about sharing, with their public spaces serving as focal places of exchange, encounter and entertainment. One of the largest with around 50,000 inhabitants at its peak was Mohenjo-daro, in present day Sindh Province, Pakistan. It existed from about 2600 BCE, and had a population of 50,000 or more. It had a marketplace, a shared well, a communal housing structure and public baths."~Julian Agyeman*

2

Since the millennium we are looking into new methods of transport and communication, people's quality of life and health is taking a bigger part in our lives. Keeping our environment safe, sustainable and healthy through monitoring is key.

If in the urban planning development for public spaces, with regards to implications of a warming planet are not taken care of now the cost of repairing insufficient temporary measures and remodeling implements later will be significant higher. The industry must recognise that Placemaking can be an excellent entry point in dealing with climate change for the well-being of urban dwellers, in which healthy creative activities truly have value. From a community engagement perspective a town area in sustainable development like in some slum dweller cities, has a unique opportunity to grab and hold on to when it comes to role modelling an urban Eco-evolution. Think differently and your city's future can be sustainable and its value would grow and attract much attention. This is an Eco-opportunity to attract investments and interest. The challenge is global but the solutions are local, through regions, businesses, the future of public places requires long term shared commitments.

### **Partnerships in the sustainable urban development agenda**

The success of sustainability of great Placemaking is that it showcases what conditions and capabilities need to be met in order to plan and develop green sustainable projects. Future public spaces arena can remove obstacles, so that the Post-Carbon Economy becomes mainstream in rapidly urbanizing cities, self-promotes market mechanisms to facilitate compliance with environmental laws and thus the development of a sharing "low carbon" economy. Partnerships between key players and influencers are of utmost importance- especially given the urgency of the rapid changes in land use and in weather conditions- bridging the gaps between project financing, expertise and technical assistance. (like urban bio-energy plus carbon capture and sequestration plants (CCS) which raises very serious issues, because it combines the twin challenges of large-scale biomass production on the one side and the large-scale storage of CO<sub>2</sub> on the other hand).

Balanced and mixed use of our public space between integrated interest groups; people, bikes, public transport and cars is a kind of damage control, keeping the new agenda safe and sustainable. Especially regarding the cars' use of the public realm, which is still 80% of street space (if you design mixed use streets you design a healthy city). This high percentage for car use needs to drop dramatically to balance green space and cope with future challenges. For instance if urban neighborhoods could interact and agree (Empowered interconnection) to regular car-free days on a working day (see next paragraph), for example, even/odd area zones or on regular dates life in our citizen communities would improve considerably. At the moment 1000 projects are taking place globally to recover heart values from the past, lost due to rapid industrialization and dwellernization. For the first time, we can actually monitor and shape urban encounters into our own future. For example walkability through corridors inside commercial space could enhance outdoor environmental planning.

For increased mixed use of space to happen we need public space indicators that could help measure and monitor the urban common. The Charter of Public Space and INU the Public Space Toolkit and principles are excellent in giving it form and shape. A public space/place ICT -filter for Sustainability, with which you can monitor and compare GIS data etc., like traffic information systems, but for "**Public Places Connected..**" with added safeguarding indicators – Monitoring is key

Smart sensors can track, identify and analyse non-environmental development and generate healthy urban statistics for a greener and healthier pathway.

Planners, architects and designers work together to create a turn-key energy efficiency and distributed generation planning program to be implemented by retail groups. Their work with committed stakeholders ensures a move away from fossil fuels and dirty energy continues to gain momentum.

3

Principle issues to Public Space/Sustainable Development Goals focus on indicators and metrics. United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, here is a quick summary of four general outcomes to watch.

### **I "Technical proofing"**

Many details are being disputed, and it's not certain that they'll be worked out by September, like the role of national sovereignty within SDG targets (i.e., whether countries can decide themselves what targets to adopt), and the desire for an open source, open democratic process to decide indicators. "Technical proofing" process that can change the already politically-agreed proposal of the SDG (OWG) to ensure that targets are legally sound, easy to understand and do not contradict existing international agreements. The process of building a robust measurement framework for the SDGs starts with **measurable targets**.

### **II #POST2015 - Planetary is changing the development game.**

The concept of "planetary" within the Post-2015 development agenda represents a paradigm shift in **local governance** for sustainable development. With their inclusive agenda, the SDGs will have to be implemented in all countries. The SDG process has been much more inclusive, through negotiating an intergovernmental political consensus and by directly engaging with regional actors. Differentiation, when Intention is good, but it needs to upgrade to selecting the best option between multiple choices. How does planetary fit with the more established principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)?

### **III Technical development of indicators takes the SDGs out of an inclusive process?**

The indicators chosen to track the Public Space goals and SDGs will influence what development actions take place on the ground. The choice of indicators, while technical, has political consequences and includes inherent value judgements, like indicator measured

represents a political negotiation between the ideal (i.e., "quality") and the practical (i.e., "improved/unimproved"). Indicator development could be steered by both the intergovernmental process and broad, regionally-balanced engagement, with "**financial support**" to ensure participation of representatives from developing country statistical offices. Indicators are both technical and political.

Takeaways via Financing for Sustainable Development Debate:

- A transformation of finance is needed to put the world on a sustainable growth path
- Inclusive capitalism: How must the financial system evolve in order to support the sustainable development agenda and how can the Addis Ababa FfD Conference help?
- Infrastructure finance: Practical options to close the gap
- Financial leadership in the age of sustainable development
- Climate finance: How can the financial community support the Paris climate negotiations?
- Social partnerships: How global partnerships can support sustainable development
- The road to Addis Ababa and beyond.

### **IIII Building national statistical capacity will be a huge challenge**

An enormous effort will be required to increase the capacity of every national statistics agency. There are many other sources of statistics that could be used to measure progress, outside of official statistics, which may be innovative and more appropriate in the need to rely on existing indicators. There may be other indicators that we have not even designed yet. The Public Space goals and SDGs will require huge global monitoring and reporting efforts, the current negotiations could change the planet.

4

Let's help make a **Monthly Car-Free Work-Day** a global reality! 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. Car emissions are a major contributor to air pollution, which affects people's quality of life and health.

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. Perhaps this could be combined with a "Monthly Public Transport Day"? A regular Car-Free Day is the opportunity to make motorists more aware of the environmental impact of pollution and allow better use of public space. Government, it's Time to Act!

### **Background**

#### **Ambient Air Quality**

Air quality is important for our health, quality of life and the environment. Air pollution is harmful to human health, plants and animals, and also corrodes materials and buildings.

- Perhaps a call for a combined day of 'public transportation' to combat the health effects of air pollution!

We should visualise Mega-Cities using Green Urban Statistics based on people numbers and healthy choices rather than numbers of cars and policies. The link between climate change and placemaking can be crucial when it comes to **switching to post-carbon fuels**.

Green is the new infrastructure

## **KEY DRIVERS FOR ACTION Issue Papers 8, 11, 17 and 21**

### **Local transport**

An effective transport system is fundamental to building sustainable and thriving local communities. The challenge is to minimise transport's contribution to GreenHouse Gas emissions, through reducing the need to travel, encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport and alternative energy sources, and reducing congestion

- **Develop a transport infrastructure which supports more post-carbon travel options for people**

By developing a friendly pedestrian/cycling infrastructure such as bridges, and premier cycle routes. By supporting electrical charging stations for electric vehicles and introducing more cycle hire

- **Encourage non-car travel for all sectors of the population, through targeted advice, incentives and enforcement**

By promoting and helping to develop personalised travel planning, introducing incentive schemes like a monthly car-free work-day and increasing enforcement on parking and bus lanes

- **Reduce energy use and 'embodied energy' in transport infrastructure**

By better control of lighting and use of low energy lighting. Reducing unnecessary lighting of street furniture

- **Manage transport infrastructure and services to prepare for climate change**

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 and divest from fossil fuels

- **Reduce the air pollution from vehicles**

By supporting relevant technology and car-pooling schemes, expanding park and ride system and supporting charging sites for electric vehicles

The "monthly car-free work-day" will promote various green project solutions and can also be a testing facility for monitoring and analysing local community for the council.

A car-free work-day will lead to a change in behaviour, enabling the community to work towards becoming a Net Impact Society.

An international monthly Car-Free Day which could be an astonishing example of traffic development and public realm. The world has great potential to embrace the sustainable pathway, and Car-Free Days can via placemaking become a role-model to slow down global warming and to share dynamism and hope to honour a successful climate change agreement taking place in Paris December 2015 (the air is our urban common).

On behalf of the Climate Change Centre Reading (CCCRdg), we would like to ask you for your consideration of our proposed project to sponsor/drive the Planet's bid for a "Monthly Car-Free Work-Day".

## **PLATFORMS AND PROJECTS Issue Papers 8, 11, 17 and 21**

**Highlighting the third Wednesday of every month through the year as Planet's Monthly Car-Free Work-Days, 20/5, 17/6, 15/7 etc.**

International call for a monthly Car-Free Work-Day Planet -

[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Changemakers\\_MONTHLY\\_CARFREE\\_WORKDAY\\_PLANET/?nnvRnjb](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Changemakers_MONTHLY_CARFREE_WORKDAY_PLANET/?nnvRnjb)

This is an event that has been held in cities around the world, with areas being closed off to cars thus encouraging people to use more sustainable forms of transport, such as walking, cycling or public transport. The event challenges people to:

- Spend one day without using their car
- Observe the difference this makes to their locality
- Reflect on how car use can be reduced permanently

This will help us to achieve our aims of reducing air pollution, developing sustainability and increasing the Planet's green credentials through:

- Encouraging people to find alternatives to car use
- Reducing emissions / pollution
- Raising awareness

A Car-Free Work-Day has the potential to improve the quality of life on Earth through a reduction in traffic, and therefore noise and pollution, and also make people more aware of how their own actions impact on the environment.

It's important to strive for community usage of the streets in order to preserve its heritage qualities but also as a sustainable landmark for the future.

The main aim is to bring together businesses, the local community, the Government and those who want to learn about Net Impact Placemaking, in order to create collaborative momentum to reduce CO2 in urban environments, find new solutions to commuting, increase remote working and develop sustainability in their regions, and beyond.

- There are very good reasons to hold community street events in a traffic-free street:
- Making use of the space that a car-free day provide~ Boris Johnson
- Streets are open and 'owned' by everyone and so very accessible
- Communities normally suffering from traffic can be opened up
- Neighbourhood community centres can be revitalized by traffic-free events
- They provide new sites for local street markets which are very popular

Once the traffic is cleared the space opens new possibilities for community activities, particularly in areas needing regeneration - their image can be improved. Communities of different ethnic origins sometimes use streets in different ways, drawing on their own culture that is one reason why we also want Culture as a goal in the #POST2015 Development Agenda, this is another subject.

5

Urban farming has many great values as part of sharing cities eco-system why ignoring the need for green infrastructure in cities is fatal

CCCRdg would like to see a **Note on Urban Farming** which is a global movement in urban agricultural development, from urban gardening and green roofs to vertical and rooftop farming #greenspaces #biodiversity #airpollution #natureincities #cityfootprint #vfua

See this article

<http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/david-thorpe/338111/urban-agriculture-next-big-thing-cities>

A good example is from KwaMashu, Durban, South Africa, you can find lots of facts via Google on ""urban+farming" agriculture Durban the poor"

CCCRdg find the complexity challenging and really interesting in this example, <http://www.agdevjournal.com/volume-3-issue-2/314-urban-agriculture-in-kwamashu-durban.html?catid=124%3Aopen-call-papers>

### **Abstract**

Urban agriculture in South Africa has historically been labelled as an illegal activity. The problems caused by this labelling have been compounded by the traditional planning system in South Africa, which does not recognize urban agriculture as a part of the land use in the urban landscape.

Local knowledge own "Place information" from above experienced, we need to connect locally for shared info on farming/guarding and urban composting, of food waste solutions as a sustainable alternative to landfill.

Consequence

Economic Freedom FightersEFF: Claims;

*"This land grab is part of our provincial programme to claim land for our members. This is not only happening in Ballito but all over the province."*

"Our members from that area do not have places to build so we encouraged them to look for land and go occupy and start to build their homes. They are going to erect their houses and once they have been there for 48 hours they cannot legally be removed. If the government wants to remove them they must go and accommodate them somewhere else,"

*"If they even try to move us we will meet them in court,"*

New movements are time consuming, we are out of time and we need to tackle the solutions with difficult decisions, population targets, ditch meat consumption, degrowth, "ecological economy" buffer for the unknown, war aspects, plastic pollution relation/contribution to sea temperatures (oceans asthma), regional net carbon show case study, energy justice, climate and human rights, anti-austerity, placemaking, consumption targets, urban farming, green roofs and walls, time efficiency, Global AirQuality. "NO Climate Change plan without Sustainable Development Goals"~Climate Change Centre Reading (CCCRdg)

Work within your regions and share to contribute globally. "Consider Climate Change in every action"~Climate Change Reading UK

Through acting now YOU can actually delay some of the Climate change effects that global warming and it's change in weather will carry out in the future (Environment Leadership).

Your city is a future city; please feel free to share this with your public space fellows



**Sharing a human caused economy** – where we share as much as possible, from our whole infrastructure to jobs, this happens in the Anthropocene room between public space and cyberspace.

**Togethernessship** - All about inspiration and agreement, being truly inclusive and Safeguarding the future. The complex nature of our environment makes it hard to focus on preventing GreenHouse Gases, which are directly related to global warming. The downside of the problem is that everything is interlinked and needs to be backtracked <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backcasting>, but we have the time scale which is rapidly shrinking, so an agreement at #COP21 in Paris, in December is probably a must.

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



***"Consider climate change in every action"***