

EXPERTS GROUP MEETING
THE ROLE OF INTERMEDIATE CITIES IN STRENGTHENING
URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES TOWARDS THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Montería, 27-28 October 2015

#urbanrurallinkages

DRAFT FINAL REPORT

With the collaboration of:



Agencia Andaluza de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
CONSEJERÍA DE IGUALDAD Y POLÍTICAS SOCIALES



ALCALDÍA DE MONTERÍA
PROGRESO
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1. Introduction

The EGM on the role of intermediate cities in strengthening urban-rural linkages was held on the 27-28 October, 2015 in Montería, Colombia with the support of the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation (AACID), and the collaboration of UNCRD and the Montería Mayor's Office. Over 20 experts from Countries such as Ecuador, Zimbabwe, China, Kenya, Canada, Spain, Italy, South Africa, India, Australia, Brazil, Japan and Colombia, representing international cooperation organisations, universities, national and local governments, gathered to discuss and share their experiences and lessons on strengthening urban-rural linkages through intermediate cities.

General Objective

The EGM aimed at reviewing the main outcomes and lessons learnt from both peer experiences and from UN-Habitat's engagement to date with a view to better define UN-Habitat's role and enhance its approach and impact on promoting urban-rural linkages and systems of intermediate cities. This is based on the acknowledgment of a renewed focus on the role of urban-rural linkages in sustainable urbanisation and the contribution of intermediate cities in promoting these linkages. In addition there is a general need for knowledge on the dynamics of small and intermediate cities. This lack of information makes these cities and towns a missing link in understanding the dynamic continuum of urban-rural interactions.

The EGM and its outcomes are aimed at building on the prominence of the urban-rural linkages theme during the 25th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and positioning the topic as a thematic priority focus area within UN-Habitat's work and during the Habitat III Conference preparatory process. The EGM aimed at building on the dialogue during the Habitat III Prepcom and 25th Governing Council, as well as beginning the process of implementing Resolution SP/GC/25/L.9¹; "strengthening the capacity of rural service centres, and small, intermediate and secondary towns to attract populations, increase investments, create jobs and reduce reliance on primate cities, as a strategy to promote decentralized growth."

Specific objectives of the EGM were:

1. To document and disseminate inspiring experiences, tools, practices and strategies from current experiences with:
 - the promotion of urban/rural linkages
 - the development of a system of intermediate cities
 - the role of systems of intermediate cities in promoting urban-rural linkages.

This will form the basis of a synthesis of trends, policies, tools, innovations and practices that could be promoted by UN-Habitat and development organizations, including through the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

2. To develop a "roadmap" for the development of the UN Habitat agenda on urban-rural linkages as well as discussion of the creation of indicators to monitor approaches to operationalizing urban-rural linkages to form productive and resilient urban and rural places.
3. To develop a policy paper regarding the role of systems of intermediate cities in contributing to the linkages between urban and rural areas. The policy paper would work particularly to

¹ <https://papersmart.unon.org/habitatgc25/sites/papersmart.unon.org/habitatgc25/files/K1501234.pdf>

highlight key themes, actors and contexts in which systems of intermediate cities can contribute to the development of urban-rural linkages.

4. To advance knowledge and debate on the dynamics of intermediate cities and their role in strengthening urban-rural linkages.

2. Background

In 2008 the World reached a milestone when more than three billion people, half the global population, lived in urban areas. The World urban population is expected to increase to 72 per cent by 2050, from 3.6 billion in 2011 to 6.3 billion in 2050 and virtually all of the expected growth in the world population will be concentrated in the urban areas of the less developed regions, whose population is projected to increase from 2.7 billion in 2011 to 5.1 billion in 2050 (UNDESA, 2011)². Growth is particularly more in small and secondary cities (less than 500,000 inhabitants), which accounted for half of the world urban population in 2011 and were hosting 56.8% of African urban population and 49.7% of Asian urban population.

Despite high international levels of urbanization, small and intermediate cities have suffered numerous developmental challenges as opportunities and provision of services traditionally have favoured large agglomerations. The focus on the growth of larger urban areas has made attracting investment, creating jobs, meeting the housing demand, and providing access to key infrastructure and basic services an increasing challenge in intermediate towns and rural areas. Furthermore, in some instances rural areas are becoming depopulated due to rural to urban migration, which often leads to the degradation of previously productive landscapes.

This over concentration of economic output in large cities increases the vulnerability of national economies. Countries where urban systems appear to be more balanced and efficient are those where there is a wide geographic spread and hierarchy of cities, and there are high levels of connectivity, competition, and trade between them. The development of a system of strong intermediate cities, therefore, offers not only the opportunity to strengthen the capacity of intermediate cities but also foster links between urban and rural areas that will ultimately create a more sustainable pattern of national spatial growth. It is important then for governments to actively build links between intermediate cities in the form of a system of cities, as well as strengthen the links between these cities and their rural areas.

Rural-Urban Linkages

The increased flow of knowledge, economic activities and information between urban and rural areas has blurred the lines of what is traditionally urban and what is rural. In this respect, rural populations are becoming increasingly urbanized with virtual connections playing a defining role in influencing political, social, religious and cultural views³. At the same time, urban populations are taking up activities that are considered rural, like agriculture and livestock keeping. The interdependencies between urban and rural areas, their flows and functions are demonstrated through the economic dynamics, social-cultural links and environmental synergies that occur across the urban-rural continuum. These include financial remittances, access to food, migration, prevention and reduction of food loss and food waste, ecosystem services, goods, social services, transport, employment, energy

² UN DESA, "World Urbanization Prospects" (2011). <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/world-urbanization-prospects-the-2011-revision.html>

³ Rodriguez, C.J. (Ed.) (2014). The new urban: Towards progressive secondary cities. (pp. 41-44)Asian Development Dialogue.

and markets. While the specific context and priorities of these flows, interdependencies and synergies may differ they are a reality in both developing and developed countries.

The Important Role of Intermediate Cities

Cultivating and strengthening links between intermediate cities and their rural areas is crucial in managing their sustainable urbanization. It will assist in attracting investment and jobs and create a more stable economic environment for incoming migrants. Strengthening capacity will enable intermediate cities and their surrounding regions to provide housing and basic services required to accommodate population growth as a result of urban-rural migration. The opportunity for intermediate cities to plan faster, simpler and better in order to incorporate urban-rural migrants is important not only for increasing their own competitiveness, but to also reduce the pressure on primary cities brought about by migration.

Renewed Focus on connecting Urban Rural Linkages and Role of Intermediate Cities

There is renewed interest by urban researchers, actors and development partners on re-focusing planning across the whole spectrum of urban-rural continuum. The approach does not view urban and rural as a dichotomy but integrates the two. It also bridges the separation between urban areas in order to form a “system” of intermediate cities. This is evident in the urban strategies of international development organizations. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) asserts that as urban and rural economies are becoming more interdependent, and it’s imperative that they need to be better connected to each other to generate positive dynamics of sustainable development. They also feel that as the world gears towards the post -2015 development agenda; there is need for a shared global agenda can that encourages attention to rural-urban inequalities and the persisting prevalence of poverty in rural areas. Such an agenda should include focusing on addressing rural marginalization; promoting investment in the rural sector by creating an enabling environment for increasing rural productivity and job creation; and improving rural-urban connectivity by facilitating linkages among rural and urban economies through: better infrastructure for transportation and communication.⁴

The European Union stresses that a truly integrated approach to development must go beyond intra-city policy coordination and traditional rural issues; through integration with surrounding areas, both urban and rural. This should encompass more efficient land use and planning, better provision of services (e.g. public transport, health) in small and intermediate cities and better management of natural resources. Oxfam that has a wealth of experience working in rural areas also recognizes that cities are the focus of change for rural, local, national and global development agendas and is re-engaging its work in middle-income countries through urban programming.⁵

Cities alliance in its recently commissioned publication on management of secondary cities, indicates that as the world continues with the urban transition, more and more people are living in small and medium sized cities. The role of these cities in the national economy will have a significant influence on the future social and economic development of national and larger geographical regions and can contribute significantly in reducing poverty in their hinterlands.⁶

4 IFAD (2014) IFAD Post-2015 Policy Brief 1 - Leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development.

5 Rodriguez, C.J. (Ed.) (2014). The new urban: Towards progressive secondary cities. (pp. 41-44)Asian Development Dialogue.

6 Roberts (2014), Managing Systems of Secondary Cities. Cities Alliance/UNOPS, Brussels.

Conclusions

With increasing urbanization, greater mobility and connectivity, the linkages between urban, peri-urban and rural areas will intensify. The role of intermediate cities and towns is integral as they frequently provide a bridge between rural dwellers and urban centres, strengthening the economic opportunities, providing markets and access to basic services. Understanding and strengthening the links between these cities and towns and their rural areas has become of paramount importance in order to foster sustainable, equitable, and prosperous territorial development.

In order for urban and rural areas to be sustainable, the current discourse of a political, social and geographical dichotomy must evolve to that of collaborative development and functional linkages along the continuum of human settlements: between urban and rural areas and between intermediate cities. Considering the on-going rapid urbanization, inequality and poverty, there is renewed interest in delivering complementary and mutually reinforcing rural, peri-urban and urban areas as an integral part of both the Post 2015 development agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

UN-HABITAT RATIONALE: Systems of Intermediate Cities to Strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages towards the New Urban Agenda

The global urban geography is changing. Cities and towns with over 100,000 inhabitants are anticipated to expand outwards by 170 percent by 2030 (Angel, Parent et al., 2010), growth that will drastically affect the surrounding rural and peri-urban areas. The geographic expansion of cities into rural areas often results in the reclassification of rural villages and small towns to urban annexes. This expansion appropriates prime agricultural land as a result of low density expansion, green zones and blue corridors that maintain ecosystem health and connectivity, disrupts rural livelihoods and threatens the environment through increased carbon emissions, pollution and energy use. Moreover, given the global trend of economic growth in cities and towns, urban areas tend to draw the majority of domestic and international resources (public and private). This can have adverse effects on universal access to resources, services and opportunities, and warp the equitable distribution of economic and other benefits observed in the urbanization process.

Despite the infringement on rural areas caused by urban growth, urban and rural areas depend on each other. Urban centres depend on rural areas and the rural sector for a range of goods and services, notably food, clean water, environmental services, and raw materials among others. Rural areas in turn typically depend on urban areas for access to services, employment opportunities, and markets. Urban-rural linkages can thus cover a range of complementary functions and flows of people, capital, goods, employment, information, ecosystem services and technology between rural and urban areas. Balanced outcomes across urban and rural areas are a vital objective of sustainable development. Rather than competing for scarce resources, the discourse needs to evolve towards understanding the synergies that can be obtained from sustainable, balanced investments and managing trade-offs to achieve a shared future.

The potential opportunities and gains from urbanization are well understood and the essential role of urbanization in the economic and social progress of countries is clear. There is evidence, however, that suggests an indirect relationship between urbanization and productivity, competitiveness, and prosperity. While the opportunity and potential is certainly there, it has been suggested that there is a need for government to recognize that urbanization will not directly correlate with productivity and prosperity and that to achieve urbanization as well as productivity “requires intervening carefully in

the urbanization process, so as to improve and not undermine its voluntary nature”⁷. It is necessary, therefore, to actively facilitate the growth of cities and planning of territories that will incubate and grow the conditions that are required for productive and prosperous urban growth.

Achieving sustainable development can be maximized if we achieve (a) a definite departure from the political, social and geographical dichotomy between urban and rural urban areas and a better understanding of the continuum of space between the rural and urban development. For UN-Habitat, both the urban-rural linkages agenda and the promotion of systems of intermediate cities work to promote positive urbanization that will increase productivity and prosperity and not deter it. Disparities in spatial development form the crux of why strong urban-rural linkages and systems of intermediate cities are essential in distributing equal opportunities and benefits of the urbanization process. Both agendas promote complementarities and networks of places, rather than segregation and will aim to highlight the differences and comparative advantages of places in order to enhance linkages.

Existing mandates and Commitments

The Habitat Agenda firmly established the precepts of the urban-rural continuum. The agenda states that, “policies and programmes for the sustainable development of rural areas that integrate rural regions into the national economy require strong local and national institutions for the planning and management of human settlements that place emphasis on rural-urban linkages and treat villages and cities as two ends of a human settlements continuum.” A number of resolutions have advanced the Habitat Agenda including HSP/GC/17/10⁸, requesting for “urban-rural interdependence”; HSP/GC/19/109 requesting for “dissemination of good practices and policies on mutually beneficial urban-rural development relationships” and most recently Resolution SP/GC/25/L.9¹⁰ that calls for “strengthening the capacity of rural service centres, and small, intermediate and secondary towns to attract populations, increase investments, create jobs and reduce reliance on primate cities, as a strategy to promote decentralized growth.” Further the resolution requested for “development of tools and dissemination of good practices to promote urban rural linkages through investments in market towns and in the intermediate cities through integrated regional and territorial planning to strengthen development corridors”. In this year’s Governing Council meeting, UN-Habitat and its partners held a high level dialogue on “Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization for Sustainable Development.

In ‘The Future We Want’, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Member States ‘commit[ed] to work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility.’ The OWG on SDGs also identified rural-urban linkages as transformative. These were explicitly addressed under a food and agriculture-related target to increase investment in rural infrastructure and a cities-related target to ‘support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.’

The commitment to the growth of prosperous intermediate cities and systems of cities is reflected in the Report of the Executive Director on the Dialogue on the Special Theme for the 25th Session of the

7 Turok, Ivan and McGranahan, Gordon (2013). “Urbanization and Economic Growth: The Arguments and Evidence for Africa and Asia,” *Environment and Urbanization*, 25(2): 465-482.

8 http://mirror.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/9688_1_593495.pdf

9 http://mirror.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/9658_1_593465.pdf

10 <https://papersmart.unon.org/habitatgc25/sites/papersmart.unon.org.habitatgc25/files/K1501234.pdf>

Governing Council:¹¹ “balanced mobility...reduces the focus on primary cities by encouraging better planning of secondary, intermediate, and small cities. With the appropriate cooperation mechanisms between tiers of government, good financial models, participatory planning approaches, and effective regulatory and legal frameworks, secondary cities can also provide adequate housing, infrastructure, services and access to employment, especially for youth and women.”

Intergovernmental discussions within the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals towards the Post 2015 Agenda and towards Habitat III have further confirmed the reinvigorated will of the international community to address urban and rural development in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner.

In this context, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Andalusia Agency for International Development Cooperation (AACID), convened an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Systems of Intermediate Cities to Strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages towards the New Urban Agenda” on October, 26 and 27 in Montería (Colombia).

3. Communiqué

"The Role of Intermediate Cities in Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages towards the New Urban Agenda"

27-28 October 2015, Montería, Colombia

Background

The Habitat Agenda in Para 43 (i) committed to: “Promote the development of more balanced and sustainable human settlements by encouraging productive investments, job creation and social infrastructure development in small and medium-sized cities, towns and villages”; in Para 76. (m) the agenda commits to: “promote comprehensive rural development through such measures as equal access to land, land improvement, economic diversification, the development of small and medium-scale cities in rural areas and, where appropriate, indigenous land settlements.” Para 165. (b) seeks to: “take appropriate measures to improve the living and working conditions in regional urban centres, small towns and rural service centres;” and Para 169 advocates for: “an integrated approach to promote balanced and mutually supportive urban-rural development. Through among others provision of: an appropriate legal, fiscal and organizational framework that is suitable for strengthening the networks of small and medium sized settlements in rural areas.”

In Sep 2015, 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the **post-2015 development agenda**, Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) as its framework. In particular, Goal 11 seeks to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,” with Target 11.a seeking to “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.”

In 2015 UN-Habitat Governing Council enacted resolution HSP/GC/25/L.9 that seeks to **strengthen the capacity of small and intermediate towns**. The resolution “Invites Governments to promote the reduction of disparity along the rural-urban continuum through, inter alia, inclusive public and private investments in infrastructure and services across the rural service centres as well as of small intermediate and secondary towns to strengthen linkages as appropriate, and promote sustainable and balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;” it also “invites Governments to support strengthening the capacity of rural service

11 <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/English-Dialogue-on-the-special-theme-for-the-twenty-fifth-session-of-the.pdf>

centres, and small, intermediate and secondary towns to attract populations, increase investments, create jobs and reduce reliance on primate cities, as a strategy to promote decentralized growth.”

The resolution further “requests the Executive Director to **develop tools and disseminate good practices to promote urban rural linkages** through investments in market towns and in the intermediate towns through integrated regional and territorial planning to strengthen development corridors;” and also “invites member States, with the assistance of UN-Habitat, as requested and in line with its work programme and budget to initiate or enhance programmes and projects at national or sub-national level to strengthen the capacity of rural service centres, small and intermediate towns to improve the access of rural and peri-urban inhabitants to sustainable urban basic services, including water, sanitation, transportation and energy, as well as access to social and economic services such as health, education, banking, retail and market services.

Communiqué

1. UN- Habitat, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), *Andalucia Agency for Development International Cooperation*, and Monteria City Council collaborated to organize the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "The Role of Intermediate Cities in Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages towards the New Urban Agenda";
2. The EGM took place from 27 to 28 October 2015 in Monteria, Colombia and brought together over 20 international and national participants from both developing and developed countries, with expertise in a variety of fields, representing academia, International Development and Inter-governmental Organizations, Development Finance Institutions, government and local authorities, the private sector and NGOs;
3. The overall objective of the EGM was to exchange practices and experiences on how to strengthen urban-rural linkages through small and intermediate cities, with particular focus on post-conflict situation;
4. More specific goals of the EGM included promoting urban-rural linkages and highlighting the importance of the system of small and intermediate cities as critical space for enhancing urban-rural linkages;
5. WE appreciate the sponsorship of the Andalucia Agency for Development International Cooperation, and the hosting by Monteria City Council with support from UN-Habitat and UNCRD;
6. WE took note of the recent development and endorsement of processes, such as the one embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, City Region Food Systems knowledge platform, and , and the Colombia “Agropolis” territorial framework;
7. WE underscore that small and intermediate cities are a key locus of operationalizing urban-rural linkages.
8. WE acknowledge the critical role of technology (including Information and Communication) and knowledge exchange in strengthening urban and rural areas;
9. WE appreciate the role of partnership collaboration between all spheres of governments, and stakeholders in all sectors to ensure that alignment and integration are supporting urban-rural linkages;

10. WE highlight the negative impacts of climate change, conflicts, weak decentralization and global economic instability in realizing the effective and inclusive urban-rural linkages;
11. WE also recognize the challenges facing small and intermediate cities in achieving inclusive and aligned territorial development, including through ensuring and enhancing social inclusion, access to infrastructure and services (both virtual and physical), access food and natural resources, financing and resourcing, and improved institutional and governance systems;
12. WE take note of the diversity in definitions of concepts, such as urban rural linkages, systems of small and intermediate cities;
13. WE recognise the importance of territorial approaches and contexts that consider urban, peri-urban and rural areas as part of the same systems;
14. WE further recognize that people living in urban and rural areas share similar social concerns and economic aspirations, such as the need for sustainable livelihoods, adequate food and nutrition, environment and natural resources management, and peace and security;
15. WE therefore suggest that the following principles could support sustainable urban and rural linkages: equity, accessibility, affordability, governance, participation, inclusiveness, resilience, and people centred development;
16. WE make the following recommendations to support the effort of strengthening urban-rural linkages:
 - Develop principles, roadmap and policy papers articulating a new narrative on urban-rural linkages;
 - Develop and sharing inspiring good practices to exchange across cities and regions;
 - Strengthen the capacity of actors in small and intermediate cities and rural communities to promote:
 - good governance and management through multi-sectoral and multi-scale approaches;
 - leadership and long-term vision, strategy and plans for the city and region;
 - Developing tools, approaches, indicators to support the role of small and intermediate cities to enhance the development of both urban and rural areas;
 - Strengthening dialogue with partners to enhance intervention at country level in order to operationalize urban-rural linkages;
 - Improving information and knowledge on the small and intermediate cities – e.g. documenting proven successful experiences, collecting data on the sector jointly with other partners and promoting and assisting governments on consumer information;
 - Developing and mainstreaming a community of practices, and networks on urban rural linkages;

- Monitoring and assessing interventions at country level, at various stages of development/implementation;
- Publishing the papers prepared for the EGM in the Regional Development Dialogue, a Journal published by UNCRD, for wider dissemination.

17. Moving ahead,

- WE recommend that the EGM and its outcomes should be taken as contribution to Habitat III processes, particularly to the relevant policy units, regional and thematic meetings to ensure that the issue of urban-rural linkages and small and intermediate cities will be included in the outcome document of Habitat III Conference in October 2016;
 - WE call for the outcomes of this EGM to inform the deliberations of the group setting the indicators for the SDGs, in particular the indicator for integrated urban, peri-urban and rural planning (11.a);
 - WE urge that the recommendations of the EGM form part of a proposed UN-Habitat position paper and corresponding guidelines on promoting urban-rural linkages.
 - WE invite interested partners to sustain continued dialogues, develop and share knowledge, develop and implement projects on urban rural linkages and small and intermediate cities;
 - WE decide to develop a network of experts and concerned partners based on the participants of the Expert Group Meeting and invite interested partners to join and link with existing networks.
- Montería, Colombia, 28 October 2015

4. Welcoming Session and Introduction Remarks



-Edgar Cataño, Habitat Programme Manager, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

-Remy Sietchiping, Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, UN-Habitat.

-Francisco Gómez Díaz, Andalucía Agency for Development International Cooperation.

-Chikako Takase, Director, United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD).

-Carlos Eduardo Correa, Mayor, Monteria, Colombia Official Opening and Presentation. Participants' introduction round.

- Mr. Edgar Cataño, head of UN-Habitat in Colombia opened the welcoming session declaring his appreciation to the Mayor of Monteria, to all participants present, to the Andalusian Agency for Development International Cooperation and especially to Mr. Remy Sietchiping for his valuable support and direction throughout the process. In his words, "... this is a pivotal moment for UN-Habitat [...] The discussions on the urban-rural linkages are very relevant, especially for Colombia, where this knowledge is expected to be applied to cities in a country entering a period of post-conflict". This methodology should continue being an inclusive, open and participatory model that helps to bridge the existing territorial gaps as Montería stands as an example of proper bridge-building between the urban and the rural, in this context, said Mr. Cataño, we expect this session to contribute not only to the municipality but to the whole country.
- In his opening remarks, Mr. Sietchiping welcomed the participants, underscoring the opportunity presented to take a step forward in issues such as the one addressed by this Expert Group Meeting towards a new urban agenda. He expressed a warm appreciation to the Mayor of Monteria for its presence and highlighted the relevance of middle-sized cities in the

context of post-conflict processes, keeping in mind environmental considerations and the 22 Habitat III issues papers under discussion towards the New Urban Agenda to be decided in Quito in 2016, of which one focuses on Urban-Rural Linkages.

- He pointed out that strengthening the urban-rural linkages is more relevant than ever as those linkages are fading due to the impact of urbanization and urban sprawl. This is along the New Urban Agenda discussions, touching on climate change and other dynamic issues. Important agencies and organizations such as FAO, UNCRD and others were taking part in these discussions in order to build an inclusive urban future, working hand in hand and willing to contribute and give their inputs, at a moment when the crucial role of resilience for urban development is duly acknowledged. Finally, he went on to commend all participants and ask for their active participation during the EGM. He offered all the required support from the UN-Habitat office in Nairobi and Spain to strengthen the theme on urban-rural linkages.
- Ms. Takase, highlighted the important role of middle-sized cities in shaping the new urban agenda. After thanking the Mayor of Monteria, UN-Habitat colleagues and the Andalusia Cooperation Agency for their support, she explained how the UNCRD Nagoya Development Centre (NDC) has focussed its efforts on sustainable urban development through activities such as Expert Group Meetings and other knowledge management consultations and initiatives dealing with topics such as sustainable transport and its impact on rural development among others. She mentioned that the EGM was being held at a time when in September 2015 during the Sustainable Summit, member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals of which one is aimed at making cities more inclusive, equitable and sustainable. Ms. Takase closed her intervention wishing participants a fruitful discussion and dialogue on regional development that was being hosted in Monteria, a very important midsize city.
- Mr. Carlos Correa, Mayor of Monteria and host of the EGM took the floor to express his appreciation to UN-Habitat, and the participants including the various units within the Town Hall present at the meeting, (mobility, transport, development and others). The Mayor went on to present a case study of his city - Monteria and to elaborate on the role of middle-size cities in the development of urban, peri-urban and rural areas. He stated that Colombia is a country of regions, composed of 30 Departments as its main sub-national entities. Historically, the country has paid well-deserved attention to the five more relevant cities: Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Barranquilla and Bucaramanga. In the recent years, the Country's economic growth strategies, have put to the fore the role of smaller municipalities such as Montería, which in this case, with an area of 330.000 square hectares and a population of half a million inhabitants, has just 1.3% of its area urbanized and hosts an increasing 80% of its population in very populated urban areas. According to the Mayor, this urban concentration is aggravated due to the presence of armed groups (guerrilla and paramilitary forces) in the rural areas and most recently, also a territory disputed by drug trafficking mafias leaving, resulting to more than 85.000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- In recent years, violence levels have decreased transforming the city into an urban hub that receives IDPs and migrants, with attempts to integrate them into local life by providing services and infrastructure solutions. The Sinú River divides the urban area into two clearly distinguishable parts that years ago divided the city leaving the left-hand area of the river marginalised with sparsely serviced areas. As it was proposed back then, the aim was to unify the city, making it more equitable and inclusive irrespective of the side of the river. With one of the most fertile valleys in the world, the local economy of the Sinú Valley, is based on

agriculture and cattle keeping, but not agro industry. Historically, regional economic activity was based on the River. Once roads and ways were developed, the river lost its prominent position, turning into a separation axis between marginalized peoples and the rest of the population. The origin of the river hosts a hydroelectric station which helps to control flooding during the rainy season.

- The Mayor spelt-out the long-term vision of the city that revolves around the creation of jobs, ending informal employment; increasing connectivity for ecotourism and public investment. This is geared at increasing awareness of inhabitants of Monteria to change their attitude towards the public space and respect for the environment. To this end, a program on sustainable and competitive cities financed by FINDETER and the IDB, called "**Monteria 2032**" is focusing on the recovery of traditional markets around the river and the recovery of public space. It is planned to start with a large ecological park around the river (Parque Ronda Sur) which is planned to benefit the poorest areas of the city located in the south. Likewise, the Mayor pointed out that the city had embarked on infrastructure investments including the construction of a pedestrian bridge and rehabilitation of gardens and public space. Other interventions include large housing projects such as "*Urbanization Glory*" on urban facilities and the "*school of coexistence*" - an educational project for the communities affected by violence; These projects are aimed at improving the livelihoods of the communities and preventing the formation of ghettos and increased exclusion.
- On Sustainable Mobility, the Mayor of Monteria explained that 12% of short trips are made by bikes, in spite of not having adequate infrastructure for non-motorised transport. The importance of such infrastructure has its potential for change through promoting a green economy. He also highlighted that reduction of poverty and increase in employment rate as a result of infrastructure and housing improvement in recent years has been evident, through the Agrópolis project, executed with the support of FINDETER. Highlighting an important point on the Peace Process, the Mayor underscored the big challenge the process has experienced in resettling former combatants and civilians mobilized by violence once they migrate to the urban areas and it is here where the urban-rural link is so important. "How do people who work in the field, want to continue to work in the field in an urban setting?" and "how to we connect the urban and rural areas so that people do not have to live in the city can efficiently commute to work? He posed. The Mayor challenged the participants to explore environmental sustainability from within the city.

"[...] the big challenge this peace process in Colombia will bring is resettling former combatants and civilians mobilized by violence once they migrate to urban areas." Carlos Correa, Mayor of Monteria.

5. Thematic Sessions

5.1. Session 1: Urban-Rural Linkages:

Experiences in Enhancing the Role of Small and Intermediate Cities in Enhancing Rural Urban Linkages

-*Remy Sietchiping, Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, UN-Habitat. The Role of Small and Intermediate Towns in Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization.*

-*Sarfaraz Alam, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University, India. Rural-Urban Linkages and Shifting Livelihood Strategies in Rural India: A Case Study.*

-Innocent Chirisa, Senior Lecturer University of Zimbabwe, Department of Rural & Urban Planning, Zimbabwe. Ruralised Urban Areas vis-à-vis Urbanised Rural Areas in Zimbabwe: Implications for Spatial Planning.

Discussants:

-Li Sun, Post-doctoral researcher, Peking University–Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy.

-Anaclaudia Rossbach, Regional Adviser – Latin America and Caribbean Cities Alliance

Plenary Discussions

Moderator: Chikako Takase, Director, United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD).

Session Rapporteur: Jackson Kago, Consultant, UN-Habitat.

Ms. Takase introduced the thematic sessions underscoring the need for regional development to specifically address the needs at the local level and problems that affect people at the local level, as well as integrating the three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, and participatory planning. As she pointed out, “there is need of a planning approach that can transcend sectors as well as administrative boundaries where a region is defined according to the issues being addressed and there are different scales in both governance and issues being tackled, with various forms of interactions between and at different scales amplifying the concept of urban-rural linkages.” She recalled on following up with lessons learned and on paying particular attention to water pollution, desertification, and water security as key elements to integrated planning, at different scales, adding that some countries are threatened by extinction and outward migration as a result of climate change and violence; implying that planning should incorporate disaster management. She also urged participants to take note of the underlying inequalities holistically and transversally”

- Mr. Sietchiping pointed out the role of medium and small cities within the framework of rural-urban linkages. As the pattern of population growth takes the form of dominance and concentration in urban areas, sometimes when tragedy strikes and the disaster response is not managed properly, the end product is favelas, slums, and informal settlements. In that sense, he posed a question about “how to invest better to prevent the emergence of favelas in small towns and rationalise the renewed focus on these cities?”. His answer pointed to the fact that since cities is where most of the inhabitants live, development should pay particular attention to urban areas, recognize product flows, mobility and the importance of the environment to strengthen these ties, recognizing and addressing highly-conflicting issues such as food security and governance.
- According to Sietchiping, all factors should interrelate horizontally for proper development. He emphasised the need for regional planning from the local to the supranational level and noted that in intermediate cities the mayors have more roles to play and the ability to transform the lives of the people living in these cities. No human being, wherever they live should be marginalised, and the citizens should be empowered wherever they are so that development reaches everyone. The region in this sense, stresses Sietchiping, “is not only an administrative term, but also a functional area, and it is important to identify those elements that can strengthen the ties between rural and urban and the market in an efficient way to strengthen these ties in an inclusive way to train people in the transition to urban formations. “That is why we need to have a network of secondary cities, identifying where one can see their identity DNA and try to diversify by means of a polycentric system, enhancing resilience and elasticity,

addressing the role of natural disasters and post-conflict scenarios by cultural and social cohesion means." In small villages and towns, social fabric and familiarity are important because in a local scale, you become networked, and that network in turn generates the care of others especially in the context of post- conflict resilience scenarios.

“beyond the limits of the administration, different governance scales should be enabled to support rural-urban linkages according to the issues being addressed, and bearing people’s inequality holistically and transversally”

Chikako Takase

- Mr. Chirisa started explaining the concept of ruralized urban areas vis-à-vis urbanized rural Areas in Zimbabwe by mentioning that the total population of Zimbabwe is only 13 million located in ten provinces whose towns are mostly medium and small in terms of space, an evidence of how the country suffers from the duality of urban and rural planning. Rural "districts" are constructed according to specific levels of rural planning: home village, ward, district, province, and country, whereas urban planning works at levels: starting from home, neighborhood, ward, city, state, and country.
- Referring to the historic background of Zimbabwe, Mr. Chirisa explained how racist policies during the colonial period were effective isolating European settler settlements and how the land reforms that emerged in 1982 took 10 years for Europeans to stop buying and selling land. During ten years whites bought most of the land leading to an economy that did not involve the whole population. Interventions by the government have not fully overcome poverty and the division of land between European settlers and the native population. After independence, one of the consequences was that urban areas that were not prepared to receive increasing migration of people resulted in informal settlements.
- Zimbabwe's constitution incorporates a number of rights that did not exist before, but governance must be articulated from a local government. In the context of Zimbabwe, the lack of financial resources leads to a deterioration in cities far above other cities like Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Monteria. Defining rural or urban areas is often challenging, since the economies are based on products. Suitable industries operating in rural areas make it harder to distinguish between urban and rural areas. The extraction of water from natural sources as opposed to a water pipe, the use of bathrooms in the new settlements, usually at the outskirts of the city, and the use of wood as a source of energy are all big issues that make it hard to distinguish urban and rural. There has been some progress but the capital, Harare, remains a paradigm of the urban-rural area.
- After a general overview of the current urban trend in China, Ms. Li highlighted three points: first, how can sustainability goals combine with urban reality such as Monteria’s green incentives through encouraging bicycles use and how can this be used as a tool adapted to the local economy? Secondly, where do we need to focus in terms of importance in intermediate cities? And thirdly, what is potential and what is to be pushed, such as economic factors and mobility? In trying to answer to those questions, Ms. Li described the way intermediate cities are an emerging concept of great strength for the future as long as people are placed at the center of the debate. In her words: “Things change a lot if you work with people and not for people”, a local example is empowering people to move to new housing in the urban areas in Monteria.

“Things change a lot if you work with people and not for people”

Li Sun

- Ms. Rossbach describing three fundamental points and many lessons learned from Monteria referred to the fact that we cannot see what is behind, but we need to encourage the work of medium-sized cities as those cities have limitations in terms of human capacity, tax collection and implementation of national policies. Changing the culture and mentality is often a long-term process where capabilities cannot be overloaded, nor could all the weight lie on whether intermediate cities are prepared or not. There is need for institutional and legal reforms to support these cities.
- According to her presentation, lessons from Brazil showed that slums and informal settlements in cities generate many problems, but simultaneously, these slums also offer great opportunities for many people. According to a census, from 1960 to 2010, when Brazil went from 50 to 95% of urbanization, these phenomenal urbanization trends improved regional equity, access to the labour market, access to education, health services for women, and citizen participation.
- In this sense, favelas created problems but also created opportunities. The migration flows are changing, so in her view, we must be prepared for all kinds of cities and emerging challenges. Cities that have been able to provide adequate services for people involved in a rural to urban exodus are reaping the benefits as is the case of Monteria, providing services to 100% of the population in an urban area with 12% of illegal titles. In the case of Brazil, thanks to the law 388, a very progressive law that is in place; where illegal settlements are recognized as legitimate and for whom the city must provide services. Comparing to Monteria, Ms. Rossbach said that, the Mayor would have not been able to address all these challenges, since Colombia did not have an institutional reform that would allow for using these legal tools. In that regard, and thanks to this institutional base, she asserts that Colombia is much more advanced than Brazil. There are available credit resources which allow access to health care, etc. Because there is an open financial window, high technical capacity among workers, university graduates with academic quality and the overall technical capacity of the entire administration gets greatly enhanced and coordinated.
- Commenting on Zimbabwe, she pointed out that it is an extreme and difficult example, but just as Monteria is an intermediate city, she believes it could be managed through a comprehensive approach and real citizen participation. In both cases, housing, infrastructure and basic services are pivotal in overcoming poverty and enhancing urban-rural linkages. In addition there is need for a strong economic growth engine to revitalize these intermediate cities.

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5.2. Session 2: A. Key Cross-Cutting Themes: Food Systems, Partnerships and Investments

-Thomas Forster, City Region Food Systems (CRFS) Representative. Enhancing city region food systems through strengthening rural urban linkages.

-Paolo Veneri, Regional Policy Division – Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD. Rural-urban partnerships for economic development: rationale, geographies and governance approaches.

-David Suttie, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD. Inclusive economic development and investment, markets, infrastructure and finance in both urban and rural areas.

Discussants:

-Guido Santini, Technical Advisor - Food for the Cities & Programme Coordinator – City Region Food Systems assessment.

-Maruxa Cardama, Executive Coordinator and Co-founder, Communitas.

-Joseph Nasr, Associate, Centre for Urban Studies and Food Security, Canada.

Plenary Discussions

Moderator: Edgar Cataño, Habitat Programme Manager, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC).

Session Rapporteur: Sara Thabit, Consultant, UN-Habitat Colombia.

- Mr. Foster started his presentation by referring to the way emerging food system strategies effectively link urban and rural interests and help consolidate instruments and plans for whole city regions. Specific plans should address food safety, quality of food, and resources for food production in the city region. Horizontal and vertical integration in a multi-actor dialogue are useful in strengthening rural-urban linkages through city-region food systems. In this sense, whereas there is a plurality of food systems, there is a global one as well, and consequent tensions between them. He defended a multi-actor, multi-sector coalition aimed at changing the narrative of urban-rural. To elaborate, he went on to explain that within a city region food system is about production, processing, marketing, and consumption. It combines urban and rural interests that are geared at affordable food supply. In this framework, their supply varies around the world, but it is always present in both rural and urban spaces. Rural-urban partnerships are fundamental in strengthening City Region Food Systems. These partnerships should be characterized by flexibility, involvement of relevant stakeholders - inclusiveness, and should take place at different scales and levels. The rural spaces in-between are the most interesting ones, just as the river that connects cities and rural areas. He singled out in particular that rural regions close to the cities experience higher growth because of more interaction with the city.

“rural regions close to the cities experience higher growth because of more interaction with the city.”

Thomas Forster

- According to Mr. Veneri, we should move from a global narrative to a global action. We should do a mapping of the cities' where we work, understanding and analyzing all aspects that are part of the food system. It is critical, however, to develop a policy strategy as issues come along, and many issues are common to all systems. One example mentioned is asking how to get a language agreeable at a global level that countries and cities can sign on to agreements voluntarily?. There is a great interest of mayors in agriculture as on inclusive urban-rural linkages in regard to the impact they gave on the global food system and most especially concerning the impact in local foods producers. According to Mr. Veneri, the World is not only being fed right now by small farm food producers, but it will keep on being fed by them in the future. In that sense, he posed a very relevant question about how the climate adaptation agenda plays out for the development of a sustainable food system?
- In explaining how urbanization processes and agricultural markets need to be better understood in Africa, Mr. Suttie recommended enhanced cooperation with different actors, such that no one is left behind. In that sense, urbanization has its advantages but many are in danger of being left behind due to existing rural-urban gaps. Extending on the issue, Mr. Suttie mentioned that many poor people are still unable to gain access to improved basic services. Urbanization, if inclusive, however, can develop advantages and growth patterns which

produce sustainable and economic development. Increase in smallholders' income creates demand for non-food goods, leading to improved market opportunities and subsequently to create significant jobs within food systems, especially for women and youth.

- "Food systems are a strategic link between rural and urban areas and generate income for urbanization processes," says Mr. Suttie; with capital-intensive resources and larger food markets stimulating the net food buyers. The productivity and income growth on farm-holders contribute to security in rural areas, whereas intermediate cities contribute to the flow of products between rural and urban areas within the context of food systems. Rural transformations, in his sense, profoundly affect urbanization although they are mutually supportive as rural and urban are linked by agricultural value and food systems.
- The majority of food produced in rural areas is by small scaled holders, narrowing rural-urban gaps across key development indicators that are fundamental to sustainability. The spread of cities and peri-urban areas make it more difficult to distinguish between urban and rural areas as boundaries become blurred and interdependencies become even greater. Urbanisation offers as an opportunity to change urban and rural areas creating jobs, improving the connectivity, adopting integrated territorial and city-region food system approaches and strengthening and improving inclusiveness of value chains.

"Food systems are a strategic link between rural and urban areas and generate income for urbanization processes". David Suttie

- According to with Mr. Santini, focus on smallholders is important as they play a key role in urban-rural ties. Food waste is also a key factor in the food chain and FAO could contribute in that regard. Also important is the point of managing resources to maintain sustainable production, especially concerning water resources. How can FAO/IFAD have greater management to improve rural-urban ties and stimulate a new way to emphasize them, integrating horizontally and vertically from the institutional framework for the different scales? FAO is currently trying to define what these models could be.
- Talking via Skype, Ms. Cardama first wanted to address the dichotomy of a rural and urban and try to go beyond it since urbanization should be a hub for human development. In order to elaborate on that point, she mentioned that what has happened so far in the last 20 years. Rural-urban linkages go past urban centers to encompass rural areas. We need some narrative, to put these notions oriented to concrete plans where politicians and human resources, social agendas, and services have a stake. Also, we need to reflect as a community on how to strengthen rural-urban linkages through an integrated approach. Do we have a contemporary concept of what is urban and rural, beyond the mass agglomeration?. In that sense, she argues that spatial planning is essential in defining urban-rural linkages and in getting institutions to articulate those linkages and create sustainable models beyond such dichotomies. She also mentioned the need to explore possible indicators to measure urban-rural linkages, including their integration in National Urban Policies.
- Mr. Nasr pointed out that rural-urban conflicts existing around some intermediate cities is an example of contextual differences between various intermediate cities like Monteria; thus it is necessary to take this into consideration.. The scale of the intermediate is worth to be recognized. To distinguish between the role of intermediate municipalities, intermediate cities,

and large metropolitan areas, for instance, Mr. Nasr pointed out that Monteria is an intermediate city surrounded by rural areas and furthermore, the question would be: how large metropolitan areas would interact, relate or affect it? While discussing the influence of the city region and food systems in intermediate cities, he noted that there is not one single umbrella in the contrast between central government's emphasis on infrastructural development versus food systems development. City food systems don't necessarily put agriculture at the center and it is worth seeing how to counterbalance this trend.

- Ms. Contin opened the plenary discussions by mentioning the possibility of a metropolitan agricultural revolution. In her view, given that 3 Billion people live in remote areas as invisible people, we have to encourage people to stay in their territories within their rural area, and to live as a part of the metropolitan region in order to manage the situation of rural-urban transition. In that regard, the metropolitan city does not necessarily mean radial growth but a strategic one, a matrix or network growth with a balance between green and gray infrastructure. "This new idea of settlements planned and composed of very accurate architectural approach works like a metropolitan acupuncture". In the absence of planned expansion of cities, informal settlements will emerge. An example is in Mozambique, where, Pemba's rapid growth was characterized by informality for many ways. In this sense, it is relevant to face the problem of informality, because it leads to urban vulnerability. In Cabo Delgado, the situation has worsened as there is climate change vulnerability too. We have to define a territorial vision in order to coordinate these interventions.

5.3. Session 3: B. Approaches To Urban – Rural Linkages

-Antonella Contin, Poltecnico di Milano School of Architecture and Society Department of Architecture and Urban. Green Metropolises of The XXI Century: The Correct Scale of Sustainability.

-Christine Platt, Honorary Vice-president & Immediate past president of the Commonwealth Association of Planners Strengthening Urban – Rural Linkages through Territory and spatial planning for balanced urban and rural development.

-Luis Fernando Ulloa, Vice President, Sustainability, Findeter, Colombia Programa Agropolis in Monteia

Discussants:

-Xing Quan Zhang, Senior Advisor, United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

-Innocent Chirisa, Senior Lecturer University of Zimbabwe, Department of Rural & Urban Planning, Zimbabwe.

Plenary Discussions

Moderator: Jackson Kago, Consultant UN-Habitat.

Session Rapporteur: Sara Thabit, Consultant, UN-Habitat Colombia.

- Ms. Contin explained the methodology of the "metro-matrix model" in planning of city regions, with emphasis to the protection open spaces through a balance between green and gray infrastructure to create a symbiotic harmony in a linear system for instance, which guarantee the continuity of the existing infrastructural and ecological network. Adaptive systems should be put in place in urban and rural areas in order to have food access, with a positive feedback from urban to rural too, and along inventive systems able to develop the economy and infrastructure. An idea would be to develop a network or systems of villages and towns with

emerging clusters as different productive centers able to transform informal situations while connecting clusters in rural environments. When working on a local scale, Ms. Contin explained, the archipelago scale is also a good strategy to provide water and to invent a new typology of housing, adapted to the characteristics of these border areas.

- According to Ms. Platt, the rural-urban linkages refer to the management of resources and the survival of the people. In her words, “[w]e are in the urban century, which does not mean that rural activities are finished”. Rural areas have changed significantly with the process of urbanization. Such de-population of rural areas is not a zero-sum game, urban and rural is seen (in the twentieth century) as a dichotomy, but understood as not real. Sharing the experience of South Africa, Ms. Platt explains that there are meaningful changes such as the new constitution and an integrated planning system in the context of industrial decentralization that did not make a distinction between urban and rural. Integration and inclusion in this sense is key, but not necessarily economic or governance integration, but primarily a political and racial integration movement.
- There are critical mobility issues and basic service aspects around territorial integration. It is difficult to set boundaries and definitions of urban and rural, especially when taking into account the people. “instead we should try to categorize and understand those ties and links of continuity.” According to her view, urban-rural is not a dichotomy but a continuous loop, irreducible and with resources always inter-linked such as illustrated in the newly adopted International Guidelines on Urban Planning and Territorial Planning; a major milestone with sufficient capacity to adapt to different contextual situations.
- Mr. Ulloa started by explaining how Findeter acts as Development Bank revolving around two programs: first, the Sustainable and Competitive Cities Program, and through the “Emblematic cities in Colombia” initiative. Such investments improve the financial district and then generate more profitable investments in the city with strategic and sustainable development considerations in mind along with a long-term city planning spanning a period of 10-15 years. A third project is called “Diamond Agriculture” with a regional perspective, that is focused on improving the region’s competitiveness by covering 11 areas, which in total account for more than 14 Million inhabitants and about 22% of GDP in Colombia.
- Within the network of cities in Colombia, there are three large tracts of land currently disconnected but with high agricultural potential says, Mr. Ulloa. The phenomena of climate variability in the territory generates a lower efficiency rate in agricultural processes, for which a study called Agrópolis, was conducted to map out areas of influence and their interconnectivity, advancing beyond the physical into the digital technology accessibility to target the global market. Monteria Corridor was identified to host an Agrotec a step away from traditional ways to create an agribusiness. An Agrotec entails logistic areas, villas, metropolitan areas for agriculture and to modernize and industrialize the sector. Water catchments acts as territorial axes and rural settlements where ecotourism can be developed vis a vis eco-agriculture, and contact with the river. The key building blocks for this transformation are building trust and governance, training communities to become entrepreneurs, achieving development in the agricultural sector and going further in improving the livelihoods of the communities.
- Mr. Zhang explained the importance of skills and contextual analysis in modelling rural-urban approaches, and how different approaches can be difficult to understand if we look at the new

settlements for sustainability. Reviewing the different presentations, Mr. Zhang commented on previous presentations by mentioning how Luis presented valuable examples that emphasize agriculture, whereas Christine dealt with continuity to define urbanization and urban-rural transition.

- In his view modernization does not always mean development and the development of cities is usually linked to poverty reduction, whereas leadership and governance are key to development. It is difficult to understand the different layers and approaches we've seen in the panel and the ability to identify opportunities using net planning. New approaches and new challenges embodied in international documents are critical to face a new operating approaches and go beyond blind spots or isolated territories presenting an opportunity for poverty reduction. In summary, he asserted that intermediate cities are essential for that purpose.
- As Mr. Chirisa pointed out, beyond this metropolitanism / regionalism presented by Ms. Platt, or the “agropolism” of Mr. Ulloa, the important thing is to break the barriers between urban and rural areas and to develop new narratives, break the existing prejudices. “Antonella mentioned green infrastructure and how to manage the connectivity problem”, but he wondered how different it was or how intertwined was this view with the idea of green stripes, the economic footprint and the idea of protecting open spaces. “It is solid academically but has a very lineal model.” In his view, here again, the issue of political will and people’s involvement comes up as relevant.
- “Ms. Platt mentioned relevant aspects that as a matter of convergence of an integrated approach.” Mr. Chirisa, however, posed a quick question regarding the urban-rural dichotomy. For the poor is there rural or urban?, and for the rich does the same apply?, which brings planetary urbanism, planet slum?. In this sense, the international guidelines for planning and the new urban agenda have a remarkable link that should be strengthened, and he emphasised that investing in a city can generate a better economy which in turn could generate more resources to invest and reinvest linking green and gray areas, rivers and other goods. These objectives can only be achieved through the strength of commitment and political will.

5.4. Session 4: C. Regional Perspectives

-Li Sun, Post-doctoral researcher, Peking University–Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy. Urban-Rural Linkages Perspectives for Latin America Region, Examining urban-rural linkages in China's New Urbanization.

-David Simon, Director, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Small Cities and Towns in Africa: Insights into Adaptation Challenges and Potentials

-Maria del Pilar Tellez, Metropolitan Area of Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Discussants:

-Francisco Gómez Díaz, Andalusia Agency for Development International Cooperation

-Antonella Contin, Poltecnico di Milano School of Architecture and Society Department of Architecture and Urban.

Plenary Discussions

Moderator: Christine Platt, Honorary Vice-president & Immediate past president of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

- David Simon started his presentation on regional perspectives by mentioning a tradition of development that looks at urban dynamics in medium and small cities in Africa where climatic fluctuation affects the poorest the most. The key point of the urban system lies in the existent interaction between different centers dealing with urban hierarchies at all levels. For example on issues related to agriculture, information technologies has ensured that rural producers are no longer isolated and many producers are able to use the internet for market information or to get together to share a vehicle, making a more fluid practice. He cited for example the effect of mobile money transfer in linking rural and urban areas by enhancing remittances. “Technology is shaping the nature of urban-rural interactions.” He mentioned that traditionally, the most educated people in small groups are the most vulnerable to migrate to larger centers.

“Technology is shaping the nature of urban-rural interactions”

David Simon

- Challenges facing cities in South Africa revolve around different constraints, in particular for semi-urban areas where intersecting probabilities of floods, draughts or epidemics as a result of reliance on agriculture, poses very significant consequences to industry and technology as a result of infrastructure damage in case of disasters that potentially accelerates the spread of urbanization of displaced populations. Resilience has to be in the mind of planning, for economic development and government has to play a key role. Small and intermediate cities have a role in adaptation to climate change and reducing vulnerability.
- Ms. Li while presenting the Chinese case study explained the process of urbanization in China, which in its second phase (1978-2000) replaced the system of collective communes to establish special economic zones in coastal cities, and with this, freedom of migration and urbanization was unleashed. According to her, during the third phase (2000-2013), only the state could return the rural to urban land, today, in the fourth stage, a reform of the urban-rural development points towards the integration of migrants with large gaps in social security coverage. Migration and family breakdown have negative impacts on people who stay in rural areas such as children, women and the elderly.
- Referring to the different types of cities in China, either divided into municipalities, special administrative and county level authorities, Li elaborated on 4 types of cities that exist in order of their size. Between 1980 and 2014 population in urban areas rose from 19% to 55%. With a strong link between urban and rural linkages with historical reasons. During the first phase from 1947 to 1977, people lived together in the fields and worked together (common rural). The second stage (market driven phase), started in 1978 with the reform and the following *opening up* policy of Deng Xiaoping. The third phase, a land-driven urban-rural tension, identified between 2000 and 2013 that was characterised by 2/3 of social movements as a result of land possession. Ms. Li singled out some of the key underlying issues of rural-urban migrants being marginalised and left behind in the process of urbanisation, signifying the high cost of migration. This led to creation of urban villages that were an alternative to affordable housing.
- Ms. Tellez opened her presentation explaining how metropolitan areas, in terms of the land management system in Colombia, are a public entity, a supra body that pulls together several municipalities. In Colombia regional development is based on a plan of metropolitan

- development and strategic metropolitan planning based on sustainability which functions also as a transport authority and also articulates the metropolitan model of social housing. The urban environment has some imbalances, especially in the form of “clutter” and in processes such as housing occupation, development of multiple economic activities and high levels of consumption, densification, and pollution.
- The areas covered by the metropolitan area are the metropolitan knowledge, entailing all the consequences of metropolisation, information systems, research on metropolitan phenomena and the ability to collect knowledge from the ordinary citizens, addressing collaboration, alliances and contributions, citizen participation and collaborative governance. Land use planning becomes important including issues of mobility and transport, the environment. The urban-rural integration paradigm shift ensures how not to neglect the rural planning and integration in metropolitan areas and how to deal with the issue of post-conflict scenarios.
 - While presenting three different cases of planning, Mr. Gómez described how a designing a process beforehand could achieve objectives which focus on equitable distribution of wealth, social as well as territorial approaches seeking social justice. Commenting on the case of China on policies to keep people in rural areas, he posed the question of: “How can planning maintain the farmers in rural areas? Planning in all areas by the State comes not only from the people, but that is an approach that tries to fix the rural population to migration processes. The challenge is to understand how farmers live and improve their lives. Imposition of egalitarian models between urban and rural areas creates a contradiction since life in the rural areas is not the same as life in the city. As it is the case in China, sometimes the decision is so hierarchical by the State that there is no room for citizen participation.
 - In Spain, conflicts arise since when a mayor considers to joins a metropolitan area and endorses it, he thinks they are losing autonomy as they have no awareness of collaborative competitiveness. The only one that has worked, thanks to the team that made the process bottom up is the case of Seville where the dialogue with the mayors at the local level allowed them to understand that the metropolitan area is a breakthrough for those who planned and who are the true actors. Mr. Gomez closed his presentation by saying that when the public raises its demands and these transcend beyond political parties agenda, the goal is usually achieved.
 - Ms. Contin, while commenting in regard to the presentation of Ms. Li, said that it’s most relevant as it pushed the participants to consider the notion of hierarchy and went on to ask presenters about the role interaction between the larger cities and the intermediate cities and the strong tradition of production and connection which is crucial to make cities competitive. Cities in Africa for example and in other developing countries do not have adequate communication technologies to develop and they face instability due to climate change and vulnerable economies; obliging us to take those factors into account, and to produce a landscape using stable agriculture, dealing with planning, democracy, and control.
 - Mr. Simon said that interaction occurs in all directions within the hierarchy of cities. The intermediate city has to be the gate for strategic point of change. Offering opportunities to meet, interact, trade, compete and acquire technology.

5.5. Key Note Presentation of the Role of Systems of Intermediate Cities in Strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages.

-Debolina Kundu, Associate Professor at the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, India. Emerging Perspectives on Urban-Rural Linkages in the context of Asian Urbanization.

-Brian Roberts, Emeritus Professor at the University of Canberra and Director of the company Urban Frontiers based in Brisbane Australia. Rural urbanization and the Development of Small and Intermediate Towns.

-Claudia Hoshino, Coordinator, United Nations Centre for Regional Development – UNCRD, Latin America and the Caribbean Office. Region Administrativa y de Planificacion Especial (RAPE)

-Edgar Cataño, Habitat Programme Manager, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), Colombia Urban Regional Integration Programme in Colombia

-Cesar Mauricio Salcedo, Department of National Planning, Colombia,



Discussants:

-Christine Platt, Honorary Vice-president & Immediate past president of the Commonwealth Association of Planners.

-Antonella Contin, Poltecnico di Milano School of Architecture and Society Department of Architecture and Urban.

Plenary Discussions.

Moderator: **Remy Sietchiping**, Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, UN-Habitat.

Session Rapporteur: **Carolina Romero Zuluaga**, Consultant, UN-Habitat Colombia.

- Ms. Kundu started her presentation asserting the well-known fact, and is that 53% of the world population lives in Asia. Population growth has been modest, well below levels in Latin America. In recent years, however, there has been a significant break on growth rate except in China. UN expects the rate of urbanization in the coming years to increase. In this context where increased population in cities of one million or more inhabitants shows a clear trend towards development in intermediate cities. Globally, she explains, there is a tendency towards a decline in the projected population, and this trends also encompasses Asia. Cities of 300,000 to a Million inhabitants show a stable trend over time. After looking at the patterns of urbanization, studies of socioeconomic status and poverty through a set of 20 indicators, the rural-urban growth during the 90s and structural change in urban development between the 70s and 90s, revealed a similar pattern today.
- The next period of 2005-2030 has no definite clear trends and is not correlated with the growth of the 70s to 90s. Small developing countries are expected to organize even more in the future, to the point that the average GDP growth in 2010 will have a positive impact on growth of countries in the years to come. Smaller countries with rapid growth have not had a strategy for the development of services. In rural towns, the Chinese government is establishing a link

between urban and rural policies, and land reform to curb migration from villages which includes incentives to small villages. Similar actions in Bangladesh and India where the government seeks to strengthen these ties by strengthening the resources of small villages' conversely, to promote inclusive development.

- Rapid urbanization since the 50's and the slowdown means that small and less developed countries of Asia have their growth in urban centers and need to promote urban bonds that define these settlements as an equal part of the same route settlement. When you look at integration, a more comprehensive approach is needed from a policy perspective to serve a more inclusive setting. Policies to encourage urban rural linkages have included: Pro-rural policies and growth of small towns, anti-poverty programmes, rural employment programmes and inclusive development strategies. Also public policies promoting urban-rural development of agricultural productivity, non-agricultural work in rural areas and access to markets and financial services for farmers.
- Mr. Alam, made a presentation showing the shifting livelihoods in the Indian plains of the river Ganges, and went on to address the strong impact of rural-urban linkages in rural India. He used the example of interaction between small village towns and a large city in Varanasi, India. The growth of the linkages generated development opportunities, and was a mechanism for strengthening of the local economies. Those links try to create positive change and the dependence of the population between rural and urban areas has increased.
- Changes in the patterns of rural agriculture from emergence of new technologies, reduced dependence on labour, use of chemicals and pesticides, increased farmers dependency on subsidies and consequently triggered changes in the types of products produced and also changes in the destination of production due to governmental momentum and circumstances, that generated new jobs, diversification of products and occupations. When one location, however, does not meet the minimum income, it triggers the generation and search for new parallel activities. What has been happening is that all these changes have been promoted by the government, indicating that government action is not only important for the development of urban and rural linkages but also key for the development of economic models and increasing dependence between rural to urban, from trade, medical services, and tertiary sector goods. The shifting dynamics include a shift from traditional occupations, shift in livelihood options and breaking of the caste system. Some of the drivers of livelihood shift include market force changes, distance from villages and connectivity. The benefits that come to urban areas in this sense are mostly about improving services, improving the markets for the farmers, with consequences such as increase inland prices The city has benefited equally by having vegetables, fresh flowers and fresh milk among others from the rural areas.
- In terms of challenges, the cost of products in the village has risen sharply and traditional inhabitants have less purchasing power. This situation is also eroding the traditional sense of community. There is need for infrastructure betterment; improving roads is not only an urban but also an urban-rural requirement which allows direct access of rural producers and women to the market. Mr. Alam closed by saying that in that sense, Government policies must be bidirectional, strengthening links for the benefit of all and reinforcing the urban rural connections as witnessed in the increased connectivity between Varanasi and surrounding villages that has brought prosperity to the village and in particular has benefited the land, the work of farmers and shepherds. He recommended that there should be improvement in roads,

farm and non-farm support, access to markets, quality control, support to rural markets and gender based support.

- Addressing the phenomena of rural urbanization and development in small and intermediate towns, Mr. Roberts explained how such process has to do with rural livelihoods, related to the expansion and progressive limitation of the urban limits. According to his presentation, a study by the European Commission shows that small and medium-size cities can be part of an association scheme. There are four types of patterns that emerge as a result of the processes of occupation, such as linear villages along the tracks; peoples arising along an axis; growth clusters and the satellite suburban growth. The resulting pattern is that there are different types of rural development, or “rurbanization”, generally growth along an avenue or development around a cluster and after enhanced space along coastlines. There are also networks of intermediate cities, usually in interlinked with supply chains, which are a new phenomenon. He gave an example of how production of the Airbus A380 encompassed a chain of cities involved in the production.

The new geography of rural urbanization develops median income. There is much leakage of funds arriving in larger venues where much of the investment is going because the economies of small and intermediate cities are weak. In that sense, a good question is how to develop local banks in small towns? Regarding actions towards a New Urban Agenda and towards Habitat III, Mr. Roberts believes that stronger administrative support for decentralization, decentralized fiscal management and strategic infrastructure to address the lack of competitiveness of local industries is able to support value chains, large amounts of leaked funds flushing resources to regions and other mechanisms to share resources, such as in Netherland's network of medium-sized cities. He recommended for stronger administrative support and physical decentralisation and capacity building of strategic infrastructure. Governance systems should be transparent, accountable and open to the public.

- Ms. Hoshino thinks that the Colombian case is particular; in 2011, an organic law of territorial planning with novel mechanisms of multilevel coordination changed the royalty distribution scheme becoming a mission of cities and a coordination of development policies and planning. Colombia is a country of urbanised areas; the main challenge is transport infrastructure and how it links the various levels of planning given the multiple relationships and interdependencies. We must raise awareness about this important perspective on enhancing urban-rural linkages.
- On the other hand, according to Ms. Hoshino’s presentation, there has been an articulate account about the total dispersion between municipalities in Colombia where they do not share any regional vision not coordinate between development and territorial plans to avoid deeper levels of conflict in the territory. “We have however, made progress in terms of institutions in formal and informal settings and there is a commitment to form a network of cities in the region that are working together and not necessarily fully interrelated. The challenge is to have a territorial model with rural areas, cities and a number of connectivity corridors and to develop scenarios for climate change; the functionality of the region and its ecological structure.
- Mr. Salcedo opened his presentation explaining how Colombia has a historic association with administrative and political divisions of the country, and how this creates flexibility for implementation, but also a number of difficulties and negative consequences around the

associative schemes. Regulations means the territories behave autonomous, and, therefore, the national government should facilitate and promote perhaps the actual usefulness of these associative models of these metropolitan areas and the coordination with public policies so that activities concentrated in capital cities help to close the gap between urban and rural.

- The current peace process in Colombia and post-conflict scenario will demand a territorial understanding of peace but also generate a pressure to intermediate sized cities that in turn are expected to generate metropolisation. Partnership arrangements exist mostly in metropolitan areas with a large regulatory support. Consequently, National Government agencies often do not recognize the importance of these territorial associations as a tool to achieve regional development. Models of communication and clear participation is another necessary tool, the association schemes were built with little public support, and the legitimacy of the model lies in the importance of public participation that is not perpetuated. Schemes and associative phenomena should be more inclusive within the territory and not from subordination to a city center but instead promote complementarity of development.

6. Wrap-Up Session and Way Forward.



6.1. Contribution from the Rapporteurs and General Discussions

Synthesizing key concepts/principles/frameworks from the paper presentations and translating into themes for the “way forward”.

Identifying remaining gaps and challenges - identification of areas for improvement.

Recommendations and ways forward for the development of systems of intermediate cities.

-Chikako Takase, Director, UNCRD.

Roundtable Discussions.

Moderator: Remy Sietchiping, Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, UN-Habitat.

Session Rapporteur : Jackson Kago, Consultant UN-Habitat.

- Mr. Kago opened the wrap up by stressing that more knowledge on rural-urban linkages focussing on developing models that strengthen these links and functional partnerships. Also, medium and small cities have a great role in solving and dealing with poverty problems. The issue of governance is fundamental and it can play a great role especially in the post-conflict context. In this sense, investing in infrastructure, housing, and land development is key because housing is a poverty reduction engine that needs to be reinforced by economic development through agriculture related industries, urban agriculture, infrastructure development and by evaluating and planning effective food systems in the context of the city and rural links. There is a need to draw the food supply chain, waste and other services by

involvement through an inclusive system, to develop a global language that can be applied to rural-urban developments and close the rural-urban gaps, building stronger rural-urban linkages, peri-urban area and value chain and to nurture and protect the emergence and action on gender issues. For this, links with academia and the creation of indicators and other measurements in line with the SDGs most relevant.

- According to Mr. Santini, the EGM had been of a very intense discussion, but had not distinguished the gaps so there is need to develop a narrative regarding rural and urban linkages, such as tools for operationalisation and implementing rural-urban linkages. There is a need to deconstruct, disassemble what those links are, and try to categorize and classify them as a strategy to better understand the theme. Any tools of observation, measurement and monitoring of the impact of policies and interventions should emphasize rural-urban linkages as supported by the role of technology. According to his opinion, governance is an important point, and we need an inventory of mechanisms and tools that can serve to strengthen these links, looking beyond the territory and the city limits towards a system of cities and clusters (city clusters). Categorize what is meant by rural-urban linkages will help to move from the urban dichotomy body and better define the components that make up the urban-rural links.
- There is a recognized difficulty in defining what an intermediate city is, and there is a need to find a definition. There is also need to move beyond definitions to implementation. The role of this city could be the point of contact between the rural and urban scale, the connection point between the environments and the recognition of the interdependence of interrelated cities with the provision of services such as food and water. This should be in such a way that takes into consideration the scale of governance and the interactions between large and medium cities as a way to have a comprehensive approach that includes governance and management systems capable of collecting information and promoting inclusive policies with actors and people. There should include vertical integration and alignment with national level policies. Consequently, we have the obligation to recommend best practices but they should be realistic and people-centred. Leaders of intermediate cities need to address and defend the diversity of intermediate cities in terms of capacity, with the support of regional banks and development agencies in a climate of collaboration rather than competition. Key issues like food security should be integrated for instance the smallholder agriculture in shaping small and intermediate cities.
- Mr. Sietchiping expressed gratitude to the City of Monteria, to its authorities for making the Expert Group Meeting a success. He also thanked the Andalusian Cooperation for their collaboration with UN-Habitat through support to EGMs. He underscored the why intermediate cities were important actors in vertical, horizontal and at all levels collaboration. While emphasizing the risks and problems that may occur due to climate change, post-conflict, weak decentralization, global economic instability and other challenges and opportunities posed to small and medium-sized cities, specific definitions of small towns, rural urban linkages, etc should make a clear recognition of peoples living in both rural and urban areas in a system of peace, equity, sustainability and security.
- Key recommendations included the development of a roadmap with a clear policy and a narrative; sharing best practices; strengthening the capacity of rural communities and supporting actors to promote a long-term vision that strengthens stakeholder dialogue and its link to national and all level interventions. UN-HABITAT will develop a position paper to

determine lines of work and take these integration policies in intermediate cities like Cuenca Ecuador 2016 to further improve measurement through indicators in the target SDG and appeal to the EGM to report group discussions and to establish indicators for SDG.

7. Closing Session

- **Chikako:** They were two very productive days; I appreciate the efforts of everyone for coming. I thank the Mayor of Monteria for their hospitality, colleagues of UN-Habitat for making this go ahead and Cooperation of Andalusia collaboration and make it happen.
- **Remy:** This is a step along the way. Very enriching experience, very happy with the support and collaboration of all. Many of us had not heard about Monteria, and that was also one of the objectives of the meeting. Useful to develop partnerships, alliances and to strengthen existing ones. Think of what we can learn, think about tomorrow and the ability to learn new things.
- **Edgar:** Colombia was an important starting point to talk about intermediate cities currently all in a post-conflict context. Thanks Remy, Madrid team so that these efforts can have an impact on urban policy for the average citizen to understand these concepts. We hope that the Colombian cities continue to grow, in a context of peace.
- **Mayor Luis Eduardo Correa:** Thanks to UN-Habitat, I hope that the knowledge we left here can contribute to the development of intermediate cities around the world to build better cities. A great knowledge for me as a person and as mayor.

8. Annexes



8.1. Annex 1: Final List of Participants



ANACLÁUDIA ROSSBACH

Cities Alliance Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Barbados

Anacláudia Rossbach from São Paulo, Brazil is Master in Political Economics and despite starting her professional life as an external auditor, she has been working in the last 15 years in the housing field, as a researcher, public sector staff, non-governmental organization founder, external advisor for governments, taking assignments for the World Bank, universities and non-profit think tanks.

She worked most part of her professional life in Brazil, but also participated in a diverse and large number of international endeavours, projects, knowledge exchange activities, conferences, etc. During her professional life, she had the opportunity to provide support and advice for key stakeholders from the urban sector from Brazil and also from a broad range of countries, such as the Philippines, China, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Egypt, Namibia, Bolivia and Peru.

She is a co-founder of the Slum Dwellers International – SDI affiliated in Brazil,

Interação and held the position of Executive Director for 10 years, supporting community organization in slums from São Paulo and Recife, furthermore she also supported its expansion to Bolivia and the founding of the local affiliated in this country.

She worked as consultant for World Bank on housing and metropolitan governance, through technical assistance and knowledge products. At the national level in Brazil she worked closely to the Ministry of Cities (2005 – 13) advising and actively participating on historic and major reforms of the housing sector in the country, which the Growth Acceleration Program (slum upgrading), the subsidies program "My House, My Life" and the National Housing Plan, including contributing to the overall programmatic and regulatory framework of these programmes and capacity building initiatives through long distance learning modalities.

In Brazil, she also supported the State Government of Rio on establishing a new governance management for the metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro and policy papers to support the long term vision plan São Paulo 2040. Additionally, as a consultant for the World Bank she was part of a technical assistance team on low income housing and slum upgrading for policy reforms in the Philippines during the period of 2012-14. In 2014 she was appointed as the Cities Alliance Regional Advisor for the Latin America and Caribbean, where she is now responsible for designing the organization’s strategy for the region as well as to manage projects and partnership.



ANTONELLA CONTIN

Assistant Professor, Politecnico di Milano, School of Architecture and Society
Department of Architecture and Urban Study, Milan, Italy

Ph.D. Architect is Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture and Society at the Politecnico di Milano. She is the Group Coordinator of the Laboratory Measures and Scales of the contemporary city at Department of architecture and urban studies. She is scientific and full organizational responsible of International Seminars, in particular related to the new sustainable model of the urban growth, smart sensitive city, new technologies and urban design mapping.



CESAR MAURICIO SALCEDO COLORADO

Departamento Nacional de Planeación, Bogotá, Colombia

Philosopher, specialist in Public Policy Analysis, Master candidate in Public Policy, with experience in the public sector in the design and implementation of Social Safety Nets and tools for territorial intervention. He has been an advisor to the National Agency for Overcoming Extreme Poverty ANSPE, from the National Network of Social Protection: Together and the Presidential Agency for Social Action and the International Cooperation-Social Action, where he led processes design and implementation of processes of public policy with a territorial approach. He is currently consultant for the Territorial Sustainable Development of the National Planning Department where he coordinates the issues related to regional integration and territorial partnership in the context of the Organic Law of land Management.

CHRISTINE PLATT

Honorary Vice-president and Immediate past president of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, Durban, South Africa

Honorary Vice-presidents & Immediate past president of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, and past president of the South African Planning Institute. She is also a principal at Christine Platt Consulting, based in Durban, South Africa. As CAP President, Christine has led Commonwealth-wide initiatives building capacity within the planning profession, supporting leadership among young planners, and developing a State of Commonwealth Cities Report. Platt completed her B.A. (Economics) at the University of Natal, Durban, in 1976, and her MTRP (UND) in 1979.

DAVID SUTTIE

Policy and Research Adviser, Global Engagement and Research Division, Strategy and Knowledge Department – IFAD, Edinburg, Scotland



David Suttie has worked for the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) since 2010, mostly as a Researcher and Policy Advisor focusing on the areas of rural youth employment, migration, rural-urban linkages and family farming. Previously he worked at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nation (FAO), where he co-authored publications and policy briefs related to gender dimensions of rural employment. He has also been employed as a Lecturer in Rural Development and, before that, as a Capacity Building Officer working with migrants on the Thai-Myanmar border. He holds postgraduate degrees in Development Economics, Sustainable Development and Rural Change, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

DEBOLINA KUNDU

Associate Professor at National Institute of Urban Affairs (NCUA), New Delhi, India

Mrs Debolina has about 20 years of professional experience in the field of development studies. She has a Ph.D degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been a doctoral fellow with the ICSSR and post-doctoral fellow at the Local Government Initiative, Hungary. She has previously been engaged as a consultant with several national and international organizations, such as Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, UNDP, UNESCAP, KfW Germany, GIZ, Urban Institute, Washington etc. on issues of urban development, governance and social exclusion. Recently, she was the coordinator of JNNURM Reform Appraisal for eight states. At present, she is in charge of the Data Centre and HUDCO Chair activities at NIUA and is coordinating a project on 'Internal Migration in India'. She is also working as an urban specialist for the ADB Knowledge Hub for South Asia. She is the editor of the journal Environment and Urbanization, Asia. She has a large number of articles published in books and journals of international and national repute with Sage, Oxford and other leading academic publishers.



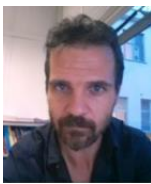
FRANCISCO GÓMEZ DÍAZ

Architect and Coordinator, Cooperation Programs in Cuba, Regional Ministry of Development and Housing, Andalusia Government, Cordoba, Spain

Born in Linares (Jaén) 1956, he graduated in Architecture at School of Architecture in Seville in 1982, where he obtained his Master Thesis in Architecture and Historic Heritage, (IAPH-US, 1998) and his PhD in 2007 with the research study: From Forestier to Sert: City and Architecture in Havana from 1925 to 1960. Chair Professor in Project Studio Design at ETSAS Seville, he has also been invited professor at many universities and architectural associations around the globe, especially in Europe, Hispanic America, Asia and Africa.

Expert in Cuban architecture, he is author of several books and articles in international magazines. He is Heritage Coordinator for the Cooperation towards Development Program in Cuba of the Regional Government of Andalusia, Heritage Development Technical Advisor for Cuba at Spanish International Cooperation Agency and Technical Advisor for the Historian Office of La Havana. He is also member of the patronage of the Contemporary Architecture Foundation in Spain.

His works have been awarded with several important prizes: Medal of the City of Trinidad (Cuba); Prize at the Havana Architectural Biennale (1999); Prize at the Holguín Architectural Biennale (2006); XII Félix Hernández Prize as the best building in Córdoba for the Restoration of the Sala Capitular at Orive, in Cordoba (2011), and PAYS MED 2nd Prize, Mediterranean Landscape Prize for the Guadaira Riverside Park in Seville (2011), or XIII 2nd Prize for the Old People Health Care in Baena (2013).



GUIDO SANTINI

Technical Advisor of the FAO "Food for the Cities" Initiative

Mr. Santini provides through FAO support to cities to address issues related to urbanization and food security. In particular, the work of the Initiative focuses on areas such as food supply, agriculture and urban and peri-urban forestry, nutrition education, school gardens, waste management and reuse of waste water, etc. Within the framework of the Initiative, Guido is the coordinator of a programme which provides support to cities to reinforce city region food system at and strengthen urban-rural linkages.

Guido has a MSc in tropical and subtropical agriculture that obtained in Italy (University of Florence) and Portugal (Technical University of Lisbon). His work experience includes 15 years of experience in the field of international development cooperation within the United Nations system (FAO and UNDP) and research institutions.

This encompasses a range of programme/project design and management, policy support and research activities in the area of agricultural, rural and urban

development, food security, natural resources management with experience in countries in Europe Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America. In particular, Guido had the chance to conduct long-term assignments in Europe (Albania) and Sub-Saharan Africa (Mozambique, Kenya and Uganda).



INNOCENT CHIRISA

Senior Lecturer, University of Zimbabwe, Dept of Rural & Urban Planning, Harare, Zimbabwe

Peri-urban housing is the chief focus of his research. He is responsible for teaching Environmental Planning and Management and has a keen interest in urban and peri-urban dynamics. He is currently focusing on environmental systems dynamics with respect to land-use, ecology, water and energy. He holds a DPhil in Social Sciences.

JOSEPH NASR

Associate, Centre for Urban Studies and Food Security, Toronto, Canada

Dr. Joe Nasr is an independent scholar, lecturer and consultant, with a 1997 doctorate in urban and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania. His interests cover an array of contemporary and historical urban planning issues. He has been working on urban agriculture and food issues globally for over two decades, as reflected in two courses he teaches – on Urban Food Security and Understanding Urban Agriculture – as part of Ryerson University’s Food Security Certificate. Other recent activities as Associate of Ryerson’s Centre for Studies in Food Security include mentoring Ryerson architecture students working on design issues related to food and agriculture; advising the Rye’s HomeGrown project; and co-curating the exhibit “Carrot City: Designing for Urban Agriculture”, first shown in Winter 2009 in Toronto. This exhibit has now traveled to over 20 cities in 9 countries, and has been turned into a book and a website with over 110 case studies from around the world. Within Toronto, Joe is immersed in the local urban agriculture movement; he co-authored an influential report on “Scaling up Urban Agriculture in Toronto”, helped organize the GrowTO initiative, which has led to the endorsement by the Toronto City Council of an Urban Agriculture Action Plan, to which he contributed.



LI SUN

Post-doctoral researcher, Peking University–Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy, Beijing, China

Li Sun is a research fellow at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. Li received her PhD degree in Sociology with magna cum laude from Bielefeld University, Germany. She focuses on the interrelated issues of China’s urbanization including topics such as rural-urban migrate workers, housing and property rights, poverty alleviation, and social welfare of Chinese citizens. Li also serves as consultant for World Bank, OECD, UN, and China Development Bank.

LOUIS ROGER MANGA

Director General, MATEUR, Cameroon

Financial Economist, graduate in Business Administration

Long experience with Urban Planning and Development in installation and management, technical, financial urban development projects, joint development projects (State, Donors, regional and local authorities, populations, etc.). Expertise in land affairs: Identification and Evaluation, Negotiation, land regularization,

Some other experiences: Nylon in Douala area restructuring, creation of the new towns of South West Yaounde and the North of Douala, relaunching the housing mass production in Cameroon

He is currently: Director of MAETUR (Mission of Development and Facilities of Urban Rural lands) in Cameroon.



LUIS FERNANDO ULLOA VERGARA

Project Vice-President, FINDETER, Bogotá, Colombia

Civil Engineer, with a master degree in Construction. With more than 20 years of working experience in water supply and sanitation sector, as Acueducto de Bogotá and Triple A in Soledad manager. Sustainability Manager in Findeter (Colombia development bank), accountable for the design and application of Integrated Territorial Development products, construction and development of policies, and operation of Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) programs. Responsible of the “Ciudades Sostenibles y Competitivas” (Sustainable and Competitive Cities) and “Ciudades Emblemáticas” (Emblematic Cities) platforms in six (8) and ten (10) cities respectively, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Supervisor of the environmental and climate change studies. Part of the group who design financial instruments and environmental credit lines. Formulated the “Diamante Caribe” (Caribe Diamond) project aiming to improve Colombia’s competitiveness. Collaborated in conjunction with national and local government entities and multilateral banks on the formulation and implementation of policies and programs while enhancing the business management.



MUHAMMAD JUMA

Architect and Planner

Architect, and planner from Zanzibar, I work as Director of Urban and Rural Planning since 2011. Before that, I was assistance Director General of Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA), and a head of conservation and planning of Zanzibar World Heritage Site. From 2009-2011, I have worked as an in-house consultant of UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris, on the domain of Heritage and Urban conservation in African continent. With UNESCO, I have been engaged intensively on the issue of culture, and particularly, promotion of cultural heritage in Africa.

PEDRO AMARAL

Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil

Pedro Amaral is Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais-Brazil and research associate at the GeoDa Center for Geospatial Analysis and Computation (Arizona State University-USA). He holds a Ph.D. in Land Economy from the University of Cambridge. He is co-editor of the journals Spatial Economic Analysis and Regional Studies, Regional Science. Dr. Amaral is president of the Latin America Division of the Regional Studies Association and deputy secretary of the Brazilian National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Urban and Regional Planning (ANPUR). He has experience in Regional and Urban Economics, mainly in the application of spatial econometric methods and multivariate analysis on studies of regional and urban disparities.

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PAOLO VENERI

Economist at Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, France

Paolo Veneri is an economist at the Regional Statistics Unit of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He has ten years of experience in research on urban and regional issues, including urban-rural linkages, spatial organization of cities, well-being in regions and cities, regional resilience after natural disasters and inclusive growth. He is the main author of the OECD report "Rural-urban partnerships: an integrated approach to economic development". He holds a PhD in Economics from the Marche Polytechnic University (Italy) and experiences as academic research fellows at the Autònoma University of Barcelona (Spain) and the Free University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands).

SARFARAZ ALAM

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Science Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Mr Sarfaraz is Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography, Faculty of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. He has Ph. D. in Political Geography from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His major research interests include social and political geography. He has been actively studying the changing socio-economic conditions of villages surrounding the city of Varanasi. As a part of the course curriculum, he has been involved in the socio-economic surveys of villages with post-graduate students of the Department of Geography since 2006. Presently, Dr. Alam is working on the issue of neo-urban processes and emerging social geography of Varanasi city.



THOMAS FORSTER

Collaborative Contact point, City Region Food Systems (CRFS)/ New School, New York, USA

Thomas Forster has worked for over 30 years with government and non-governmental agencies to address policy changes to strengthen urban and rural linkages in food systems, especially in relation to sustainable agriculture, urban food and nutrition security, and institutional food service. Mr. Forster worked to secure national US legislative and administrative changes affecting public procurement in US school districts, leveling the field for small to medium scale farmers and processors. He has been an invited expert on urban rural linkages and food security in multiple campaigns and initiatives. Since 2013 he has been part of a team facilitating creation of a new international knowledge and policy platform as part of an effort to raise the profile of "city region food systems" (CRFS). (www.cityregionfoodsystems.org). He is a senior fellow for city region landscapes at EcoAgriculture Partners in Washington DC, and led a technical team that drafted the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact launched in October, 2015. Thomas teaches food policy and governance in the Food Studies Program of the New School for Public Engagement and lives with his family in New York.

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