

# UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## United Nations Human Settlements Programme Office in Spain (Madrid)

UN-Habitat in Spain is composed of an Office in Madrid and an attached Sub office in Barcelona. Madrid Office aims to provide added value to the overall work of UN-Habitat in its liaison relations with Spain in jointly selected areas of collaboration. Barce-

on all initiatives financed by Spanish partners and on the implementation of UN-Habitat's mandate. It aims at fostering partnerships and institutional representation to mainstream urban sustainable development, through effective communication, advocacy

- Promotes institutional representation and liaises with the Spanish partners and other Habitat Agenda partners.

- Strengthens general awareness and knowledge on sustainable urbanization and supports participation on the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Global Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in line with the corporate communication strategy of the organization.

- Strengthens existing partnerships, promotes new strategic collaborations and supports fundraising efforts.

- Supports UN-Habitat in the design, implementation and follow-up of initiatives funded by Spanish partners in order to ensure coherence and synergies of these efforts.

## ANNUAL REPORT

### July 2013 - May 2014

Barcelona sub-office is composed of two programs; the GWOPA secretariat (Global Water Operator Partnerships Alliances) and the CRPP Office (City Resilience Profiling Programme).

Madrid Office acts as the UN-Habitat Liaison Office in Spain and follows up

and knowledge management activities. It also promotes policy dialogue on sustainable urban development and influences the global post 2015 Agenda within the United Nations Group in Spain. Based on the foregoing, this Office:

## STRATEGIC AREAS

Fully aligned with the UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, the UN-Habitat Office in Spain (Madrid) strengthens awareness and knowledge on the relevance and coherence of UN-Habitat's mandate in Spain, soundness of expertise and efficiency in project delivery:

- 1 LIAISON AND INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION;
- 2 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND FOSTERING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA TOWARDS HABITAT III;
- 3 IMPLEMENTATION OF AND SUPPORT TO OPERATIONAL TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES;
- 4 FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION.

## 1) LIAISON AND INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION WITH SPANISH PARTNERS

### REPRESENTATION, INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND ESTABLISHMENT IN SPAIN:

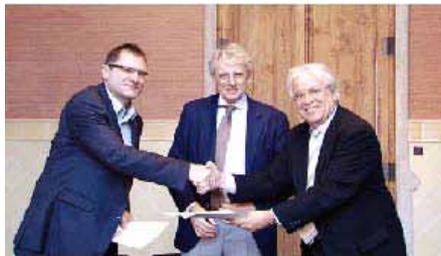
- Regular meetings with Ministries: the General Secretariat for International Cooperation for Development (SGCID-MAEC), the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AECID), the Directorate General of International Organizations (MAEC), the General Directorate of Planning (Ministry of Development) and other regional and local governmental partners.
- Follow up on Agreements between UN Habitat and Spain (i.e.: Steering Committees, elaboration and signature of Agreements, regulatory issues, etc...).
- Elaboration, monitoring and updating of UN-Habitat Spain general and strategic documents (Annual reports, assessments, etc. ...).
- Request and follow up on Staff Credentials and related issues; Franchise and tax exemption processes; Administrative, fiscal protocol procedures, and other management procedures of the establishment of UN Habitat offices in Spain.
- UN Security Group in Spain: participation and follow up on requirements.
- Liaison with UN- Habitat Headquarters in all issues related to the management of the outpost staff and country offices.

### ELABORATION AND FOLLOW UP ON COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS:

In addition to monitoring existing agreements between UN-Habitat and

Spanish partners, during the period considered in this report, this Office has elaborated, supported and / or signed:

- Amendment and Extension Agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Development and the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Madrid, June 11, 2013.
- AECID contributions and other collaboration agreements (i.e. Barcelona City Council).
- Collaboration Agreement between Tom-Tom and UN-Habitat; Barcelona, November 29, 2013 .



- Letter of Intention between UN-Habitat and Metropolis; Madrid, March 18, 2014.
- Memorandum of Understanding between UN-Habitat and the Lleida University (Cátedra Unesco de Ciudades Intermedias, Urbanización y Desarrollo - CIMES). Pending on signature.
- Memorandum of Understanding between UN-Habitat and the Andalusia Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AACID). Pending on signature.
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). Pending on signature.

### UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WORKING GROUP IN SPAIN:

- Regular participation in the **UN Working Group in Spain**, strengthening coordination mechanisms along with the UN system, proposing issues of sustainable urban development and the New Urban Agenda within the Work Plan of this group and actively proposing effective and strategic UN Habitat partners relations to this group.
- Influencing the global post-2015 development agenda through advocacy activities and the participation in meetings (e.g. Panel “MDG Fund: a global pioneer experience of the alliance between the Spanish Cooperation and the UN”. December 20, 2013) and other related events (e.g. United Nations Day. Madrid, October 24, 2013).



- Support to the “UN on track” radio programme that aims to promote a better public understanding of the United Nations mandate and support the broadcast of objectives and priorities of their Programmes. In the context of the World Habitat Day 2013, a special programme was conducted on Mobility and Cities, with the participation of Eduardo Moreno, UN-Habitat Chief Executive of the Research Division and Building Capacity<sup>1</sup>.
- Effective participation in other activities organized by other UN agencies (e.g. Tourism Investment and Business Forum for Africa – Investur by the UNWTO; Madrid, January 23, 2014, etc.).

<sup>1</sup>Podcast available at: <http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/audios/programa/naciones-unidas-marcha-onu-ante-una-humanidad-urbana-05-10-13/2046187>

## 2) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND FOSTERING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA TOWARDS HABITAT III

### SUPPORT TO THE PREPARATORY PROCESS TOWARDS HABITAT III IN SPAIN:

- Support to the **Spain Habitat Committee**: A meeting of around 60 participants was celebrated on the New Urban Agenda and on the Spanish feuille de route towards **HABITAT III** (Madrid, October 7, 2013). Organized by the Ministry of Development of Spain, the meeting aimed to present key elements of the Roadmap such as the World Urban Campaign, the National Urban Forums, the VII World Urban Forum and the preparatory process of the Habitat III National Report, among others.



VII World Urban Forum



- Support to the Spanish delegation and organization of side events and networking (11) of the Spanish delegation to the VII World Urban Forum; Medellin (Colombia) from 5 to 11 April 2014. (i.e. Events organized by the Ministry of Development).



### INSTITUTIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNICATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE NEW URBAN AGENDA:

- **2013 World Habitat Day** (Madrid, 7 October 2013). The seminar “Rethinking urban mobility” was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Development and was attended by academics, ministry representatives and local governments. The exposition of the IX International Urban Best Practices Call for proposals (2012) was also presented. Other activities were supported (i.e. School of Architects of Catalonia).

- Support to “**Biblioteca Ciudades para un Futuro más Sostenible**” (CF + S) for the dissemination of best practices on Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM), the UN-Habitat Office supported the Best Practices Local Leadership Programme facilitating the translation into Spanish of the database<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup><http://habitat.aq.upm.es>

- **Strengthening awareness and knowledge on sustainable urbanization** at the global level through interviews with UN- Habitat senior officials while on mission to Spain <sup>2</sup> (i.e: El País, Radio Nacional de España, Ciudad Sostenible, June 2014, etc...)



- Elaboration of a database (1500 contacts) of the Habitat Agenda partners in Spain, and weekly dissemination of UN Habitat activities through newsletters.



#### FOSTERING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA:

- **“The New Urban Agenda in Latin America: Balance and Perspectives”** in collaboration with the SEGIB and with the participation of UN-Habitat ROLAC, ECLAC and EAFIT (Colombia); Madrid, March 19, 2014 .
- Roundtable “Cities for Life. Equity in Urban Development”, Cátedra Medellín-Barcelona, College of Architects of Catalonia ; Barcelona, March 3, 2014 .

- Conference “The city as a place of equal opportunity, a space for dialogue focused on the right to the city, and the full enjoyment and access to goods and services by women, in an environment free of violence” organized by AECID Madrid, March 6, 2014 .

- IX Meeting “Unión de Ciudades y Capitales Iberoamericanas” - UCCI: **“The role of capital cities in the present and future of Latin American Cooperation”**; Madrid, November 21, 2013 .

- “Andalusia Agreement for Solidarity” held by the Andalusian Agency for Development Cooperation (AACID); Seville, October 18, 2013.

- II Congress on “Child Friendly Cities: Facing poverty and vulnerability “; Madrid, 25 and 26 November 2013.

- Forum “Alternative Sustainability” organized by the Alternatives Foundation; Madrid, December 3, 2013.

- Support of the Competition “Best Practices - City to City Barcelona FAD Award 2014” (www.citytocity.fad.cat).



<sup>1</sup>EL PAIS: [http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/04/01/planeta\\_futuro/1396374564\\_468216.html](http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/04/01/planeta_futuro/1396374564_468216.html); RADIO NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA: <http://www.rtve.es/alcanta/audios/hora-america/hora-america-elkin-velasquez-director-regional-onu-habitat-para-america-latina-caribe-19-03-14/2457569/>

### 3) IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES



EGM "Towards Effective National Urban Policies"

#### PROJECT "KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: TOWARDS A NEW URBAN AGENDA" (J094)

##### EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS



**"Planning City Extensions: Public and Private Space for expanding cities"; Barcelona, September 16-18, 2013.** 53 international and national experts discussed new approaches on extension cities urban planning. As a result, a consensed communiqué was widely distributed among partners related to the field.



**"Towards Effective National Urban Policies: Lessons from current Practices", Madrid, March 17-18, 2014.** 58 experts representing national and regional governments, international organizations and academic institutions participated in this meeting, organized with the aim was to share recent experiences

and best practices on National Urban Policies, and develop a comprehensive "roadmap" to serve as a strategy in the implementation of urban policies at the national level.

**"Fostering Sustainable Urban Mobility Solutions"; Barcelona, April 24-25, 2014.** 66 international experts led a discussion on the new global agenda on sustainable urban mobility taking into account, among others, the experience of Barcelona in the implementation of innovative urban mobility solutions in areas such as public transport, infrastructure and urban planning, mobility smart cities, urban mobility management and clean vehicles. A communiqué on urban electric mobility was developed.



**"Urban Safety Monitor"; Barcelona, 15-16 Mayo.** This Expert group meeting will promote a global initiative, the Urban Safety Monitor, which will facilitate the formulation of public policies and strengthen the accountability of local governments through monitoring and analysis of security indicators in several cities.



**"Innovative Financing Instruments for Local Authorities"; Barcelona, 24-25 June 2014.** International experts will discuss a better understanding of the key elements and specific processes that local authorities need to effectively use different financing mechanisms to implement plans for city extension and implement urban development projects.

**CITY-CITY INITIATIVE WITHIN THE PROJECT “IDENTIFICATION OF BEST PRACTICES, PUBLIC POLICY AND LOCAL LAW FACILITATOR FOR PROVISION OF BASIC URBAN SERVICES” (A121).**

**5 joint programming workshops; 6 City to City Partnerships established and 5 agreements to elaborate joint local urban development plans:**

- Cochabamba (Bolivia) - Murcia and Bilbao (Spain).
- Tarija (Bolivia) – Palencia, Alcobendas, Azuqueca de Henares, Sant Cugat del Valles and Diputación de Jaén (Spain).



- Cuenca (Ecuador) -Valencia-Córdoba-Parla (Spain).
- Santa Tecla y Ciudad Delgado (El Salvador) - Rivas Vacia Madrid, Zaragoza, Valladolid and Avilés (Spain).
- Manizales (Colombia) – Valencia, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, San Sebastián de los Reyes (Spain).



**5 technical assistance initiatives from Spanish to Latin-american cities (Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia) and 7 internship programmes in Spain:**

- 2 technicians from Cochabamba (Bolivia) in Bilbao, October 22-24, 2013 (Water and Sanitation).
- 2 technicians from Cochabamba (Bolivia) in Murcia, October 23-25, 2013.
- Workshop “Accessibility and rehabilitation of architectural and urban heritage”, for technicians from Tarija (Bolivia), organized by Palencia City Council, October ,3 -11 2013.



- 5 technicians from Cuenca (Ecuador) in Parla, Valencia and Cordoba, September 23-27, 2013



- 3 technicians from City of Santa Tecla Delgado (El Salvador) in Avilés (Spain), 21 to 26 October 2013.
- 1 mayor councilor and 3 technicians from Ciudad Delgado and Santa Tecla (El Salvador) in Valladolid , June 12 – 28, 2013



- 2 technicians from Manizales (Colombia) in Valencia and Santa Coloma de Gramenet, September 23 -27, 2013 (land use plans and recovery of the historical center).



**6 technical advisory consultancies in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Colombia and Cuba.**



**Final seminar: presentation of Results. Madrid, December 16-17, 2013:** The workshop was attended by 30 institutions including latin american partners FEMP, UCLG and AECID. It created a space for exchange and knowledge sharing among key actors, and promoted collective reflection on decentralized cooperation analyzing challenges of urban sustainability and formulas from the experience developed during the project. It was also a great opportunity to strengthen work networks.



Presentation of Results - City to City final Workshop

## OTHER TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

- International meeting “**Promising Practices for effective dialogue and sustainable urban development with a gender perspective**”, jointly coordinated by UN- Habitat and the European Network of Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COST); Madrid, January 20-21, 2014. Attended by 50 experts from over 20 countries, and served to launch a GENDER HUB (networking group to advise on global urban development issues from a gender perspective). In addition, different networks were articulated on issues such as planning and gender research, urban transport, security, urban economy, services and facilities and accessibility.



Gender Hub launch



GOLD III

- Support to preparatory meetings and Steering Committee of the Third Global Report on Decentralization and GOLD-III “**The management of basic services at the local level**” of UCLG (El Salvador , May 6-7, 2013 ; Uruguay, May 27 - 28; and Spain, July 4-5 2013).

- Follow up of the Agreement between the Ministry of Development and the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean - ROLAC: Steering Committees.

- Organization and support to UN-Habitat missions in Spain (i.e. Ms. Kibaro, DED UN Habitat, at the World Cities Summit Mayors ; Bilbao June 12-16, 2013 ).



- Support and facilitation of the Spanish delegation in events and activities of UN-Habitat (i.e. Inter - Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Latin American Cities, New York, December 11, 2013, etc. . ).



GOLD III Uruguay

## 4) FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- Joint meeting between UN-Habitat and several companies signatories of the **Spanish Global Compact Network**. Madrid, March 19, 2014.

- Development of specific funding proposals and follow-up meetings with representatives of the decentralized cooperation Agencies (Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation (AACID), Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation (AEXCID), Basque Agency for Cooperation development,...), to search for joint collaboration actions and fundraising.

- Database on the Spanish private sector elaborated, with special emphasis on companies with high corporate social commitment and interest in UN-Habitat areas of work



**WORLD  
URBAN  
CAMPAIGN**



**United Nations  
Global Compact**

*Note: Specific reports, minutes and pictures of all activities mentioned in this report are available upon request.*



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