



THE FIRST
EGYPT
URBAN
FORUM
2015



The First Egypt Urban Forum 2015

“My City My Responsibility”

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FOREWORD

The platform provided by the Egyptian Urban Forum offered an unprecedented opportunity for collaboration amongst the many factions invested in the shaping of the urban landscape. The challenges that confront us in the urban sphere are numerous, and we can no longer presume that we, as government entities, can deal with them without the contribution of all the other stakeholders that are directly impacted by our work. The boom in the urban population over the last few decades has resulted in unplanned city extensions and a deterioration of public services and infrastructure. This made us believe in the necessity to work on even more inclusive policies that bring everyone to the drawing table. Bringing more people into the loop is a way of ensuring the efficiency of managing urbanization as well as facilitating the implementation of cities' strategic plans.

The forum helped add momentum to the paradigm shift that is currently underway in urban politics, moving away from a direct pursuit of economic capital and focusing more on social capital. Social networks are a valuable asset in any community, and the strengthening of local governments and local actors combined with inclusive policies is the basis of social cohesion. The forum helped cement the idea that cities, when managed in an inclusive and engaging manner, will not only ensure the wellbeing of their citizens but will also be an investment for all parties concerned.

While the Government is keen to reinvigorate the urban sphere, we know that the transition from theory to practice is not always as smooth as we would like; and adopting an engaging transitional process, that it is not

overwhelming to the different parties, is a prudent way to overcome the challenge.

While this forum comes within the preparations for Habitat III, it was also an acknowledgement of the government's eagerness to engage with all parties, and of our eagerness to listen to other voices with regards to all aspects of urban development, including planning, governance housing, urban economy and service delivery. We look forward to adopting it as a regular platform for dialogue among all the relevant stakeholders on Egypt's sustainable urbanization.



Dr. Mostafa Madbouli
*Minister of Housing, Utilities
and Urban Communities*



Dr. Laila Iskandar

Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

The Egypt Urban Forum was a landmark event which captured the vibrant voices of a dynamic audience preoccupied with issues surrounding growing cities and the potential for inclusive urban renewal. Urban challenges were candidly presented by young urbanists, as well as seasoned practitioners, thinkers, researchers and policy makers. The Forum expanded its reach to social entrepreneurs, artists, journalists, community actors.

This eclectic gathering creatively engaged in rethinking 'Informality' of urban settlements. Their discourse shifted from the human tragedy of slum dwellers' housing travesty to a discussion of communities' rich resources to design the future of their neighborhoods. The pre-revolution plan to vacate the city of Cairo from its majority slum dwellers and relocate them to desert areas, opening up investment opportunities for high rise office complexes and high end residential and business districts shifted to approaches which sought to invest in people's asset base, their livelihoods and their collective actions.

Policy makers came together with young urban planners, architects, community mobilisers, national and international specialists to explore how to give informal settlement dwellers voice as well as agency to occupy a central place in the life of the vibrant city. They addressed land titling issues, transport initiatives, redesigning public spaces for community use, SME and livelihood upgrading, service improvements in local schools and clinics, mobilizing and financing NGOs to implement development initiatives, among others.

The Forum candidly discussed reform of public policies which had previously supported forced evictions, relocations to desert locations for undetermined periods of time with no written guarantees of subsequent rehousing situations. Discussions centered on the shift to new policies, which sought to address limited capacities of local level authorities in areas of urban management. Participatory approaches to imagining how upgrading of informal settlements might occur given the huge diversity in urban settings opened up highly engaging conversations around that topic.

It was a real pleasure to meet with a community of practitioners who are changing the urban renewal map of Egypt by working closely with communities, by departing from the conventional spatial approach to urban development and who are unafraid to break with traditional norms of the profession. It is heartening to see this young and budding cadre take its place in the national and international discourse on the future of cities and to see them bring the voices of local people to shape these cities.

Every day more and more people move into cities around the world making the 21st century the urban century. Egypt is at the forefront of this urbanization. Not only is Cairo one of the world's largest megacities, but also 43% of the country's population lives in urban areas. We know that urbanization can be a strong economic driver, but it also poses a number of challenges such as congestion, overcrowding, insufficient provision of basic services, scarce public space. UN Habitat has been working to support the Egyptian government in addressing these challenges and to harness the positive impact of urbanization.

In 2015, UN Habitat worked side by side with the Ministry of Housing to launch the first ever Egypt Urban Forum, under the title of "My City, My Responsibility." More than 600 participants and 120 panelists and moderators from across Egypt, Cairo, Giza, Upper Egypt, North and South Sinai, Ismailia, Tanta, Alexandria attended the forum, as well as participants and guests from 10 countries across the world. The forum was the result of a year-long consultative process with civil society, academia, practitioners and the government. It was also the outcome of an outreach to local actors in all Egyptian governorates to bring their voices to the national level.

The lively discussions during the 28 sessions of the forum culminated in a final declaration calling for recommendations and policy changes. These recommendations included "a housing strategy to ensure the right to appropriate housing of every citizen is met, adopting policies to encourage and incentivize use of renewable energy and sustainable urbanization, putting forth the

strategies and tools to promote non-motorized transport and reduce the dependence on private vehicles, reforming the appropriate legislation for stronger protection of historical sites and Egyptian Heritage, and revamping the legislative framework to implement the sustainable urbanization principles as laid out in the constitution."

Registration to the forum was free of charge which offered to the public a rare opportunity to engage with high level government officials including ministers, governors, and chairmen of technical agencies. To my mind, the true success of the EUF was in creating an opportunity for rich and complex dialogue between all relevant stakeholders. The forum really enabled the full participation and engagement of attendees who were able to voice their opinion. This is what transformational change is about.

We will look forward to building on this momentum, and will work with the government to ensure that the EUF is held every two years.



Mrs. Rania Hedeya
UN-Habitat Egypt Manager

REPORT METHODOLOGY

This report was prepared through the use of primary and secondary sources. Primary sources included videos of the sessions, corresponding English audio translations, and Power Point presentations provided by panelists. These sources were mainly used to summarize and analyze the panelists' points. Secondary sources such as news articles, research publications, and rapporteurs' notes were used to verify some of the statistics and facts presented by panelists, as well as to elaborate on some of the panelist's points to provide further context for the reader. The background section at the beginning of each session was based on the concept notes prepared by UN-Habitat for distribution at the EUF.

To ensure the panelist's points were accurately summarized, UN-Habitat sent all panelists and moderators their points to review and confirm. Although many panelists reviewed and provided feedback, there were also many who did not. It is possible that some of the panelists and moderators did not receive the e-mail request to review their points as they may have changed their e-mails. We apologize to all panelists and moderators who did not receive the e-mail.

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PART 1
EU F OVERVIEW

- **Executive Summary**
- **The Cairo Declaration 16 June 2015**
- **The Egypt Urban Forum at a Glance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the first time in Egypt, the widest range of urban stakeholders from different backgrounds and mandates were given the opportunity to share ideas, experience, knowledge and expertise about how to promote a better urban development. Beyond a traditional conference, the EUF was designed as a dynamic platform allowing a meaningful dialogue and an active participation of all Egyptian stakeholders in raising the challenges of sustainable urbanization. Participants were invited to join the global conversation on urban policies and to voice their interest in bottom up reforms in the effort to tailor urban development paradigms to their own context and their own needs, at their own pace. While it was primarily a national event, the EUF invited international guests to share their experience and discuss potential cases that best fit the Egyptian context. Finally, the EUF was an important milestone in the preparation of the global conference, Habitat III, and the dialogue on the post 2015 Agenda.

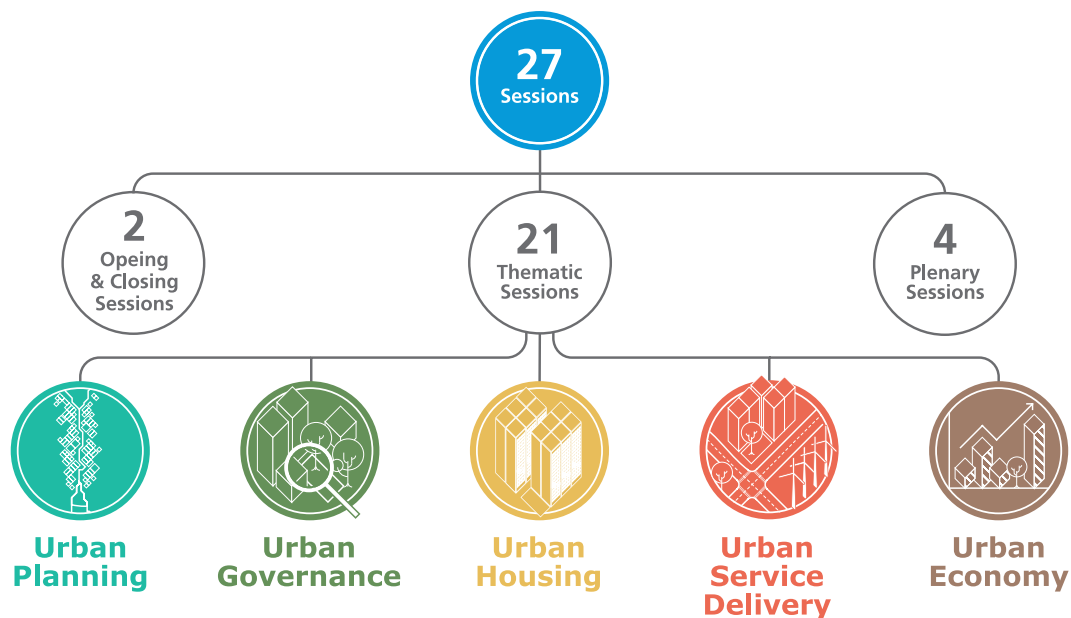
The EUF was composed of twenty-seven sessions. There were twenty-one thematic sessions, divided into five themes with four sessions per theme, and an extra session on the topic of information technologies. The five themes were: (i) urban planning; (ii) urban governance; (iii) urban housing; (iv) urban service delivery; and (v) urban economy.

The forum also included four plenary sessions with a focus on national, regional, international and cross-cutting issues. An opening and closing session completed the tally.

In addition, on-site exhibitions featured artistic work from cultural institutions and individual artists on the themes of the city and the urban fabric, as well as successful and innovative practices by urban stakeholders at global, national and sub-national levels. An additional side event presented the World Urban Campaign of UN-HABITAT. A special 10Tooba publication on “Mapping the Parallel Urban Practices” was produced for the EUF and shared with all participants. Finally, the EUF included field visits to urban sites in and around Cairo to examine themes such as public space, informality, governance, inclusion, and service delivery.

The EUF was a three-day event that took place on June 14-15, 2015 and hosted up to 700 participants, with Arabic and English as the working languages. The EUF brought together government officials and public employees of government ministries, public agencies and authorities, Members of Parliament, Governors of provinces, heads of local executive councils and members of local authorities, urban practitioners and engineers working in the public and private sectors, local community representatives, international organizations, private firms and holdings, experts with outstanding achievements related to the themes of the EUF, media, academics, specialists, and experts, civil society and NGOs members, youth, artists, and other interested groups.

The opening ceremony conveyed the organizers’ messages on sustainable urbanization, the role of cities in development, incremental change, the allocation of central



resources to urban and rural areas and stressed the importance of keeping an open dialogue on all these issues.

The first plenary session presented the 2052 National Strategic Urban Plan for Egypt (NSUP) and the national mega projects, and discussed the extent to which each mega-project resonated with the national vision. The second plenary session provided an overview of the growing importance of cities and urbanization in the realm of sustainable development; it presented the Habitat III Conference, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in the making and the various contributions of the Government of Egypt and other stakeholders to its preparatory process. The third plenary session discussed how international and

regional actors can channel their resources and expertise to support sustainable urbanization in Egypt, and provided examples on how mayors and local governments, networks of south-south cooperation have mobilized local and international resources to implement urban initiatives and produce their own sources of knowledge. The fourth plenary session discussed challenges related to cultural heritage and identity preservation in Egypt; it identified how current laws and legislation enabled or prevented cultural preservation; and it explored the requirements for a paradigm shift towards culture and heritage, from a cost to a resource.

The first theme of the forum was **urban planning**. The first session of this theme explored the present state of urban planning in Egypt, including the role of major players and the key challenges encountered. In addition, it reviewed the extent to which city plans are connected to regional plans and to Egypt's National Strategic Plan. The second session discussed the rapid development of Egypt's informal settlements, and the Government's plans to upgrade and improve the living conditions of residents and promote local economic development. In addition to the Government's approaches, the session explored the role of civil society and international development organizations in upgrading informal settlements. The third session addressed the 22 state-planned New Urban Communities (NUCs) that were developed as part of a national policy to spread the growing urban population more evenly across Egypt's vacant desert lands, despite the continuous growth of informal areas in older urban areas and studies suggesting that resources should focus instead on improving existing urban agglomerations. The fourth and last session of the second theme focused on public space in Egypt. This session discussed if and what kind of public spaces are needed in Egypt, how urban planning tools can help create sustainable public spaces and what we can learn from existing public spaces in Egypt.

The second theme of the EUF was **urban governance**. The first session was about the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in addressing a wide range of urban development challenges. Accordingly, this session explored the extent to which CSOs are able to effectively

participate in the provision of public services; the degree to which they are able to collaborate with local governments; and the reforms needed to enhance their role drawing on both local and international experiences. The second session of this theme was about Metropolitan governance. It explored the current context of governance in Greater Cairo and the current mechanisms of cooperation between the three governorates forming the region, as well as between the central government and non-state actors. The third session was about National Urban Policies and Strategies. The Egyptian government is currently engaging in a joint exercise with UN-Habitat about the opportunity to formulate and implement a National Urban Policy for Egypt, a process that engages with various actors at multiple levels of society to improve sustainable urbanization processes, with a focus on curbing spatial inequalities and socio-economic disparities between the country's regions. The fourth and last session of this theme was about the role of local government in development. It discussed the current mandate and competencies that should enable local governments to meet the needs of their communities and achieve sustainable urban development. It also debated the institutional reforms needed, decentralization in particular, to empower local governments.

The third theme of the forum was **urban housing**. The first session in this theme provided an overview of the housing sector in Egypt, including informal housing, and the interests and behavior of key actors. It also presented the main challenges that the housing market faces, such as the high number of vacancies, speculation and real es-

tate bubbles, and fundamentally, the absence of accurate data on housing. The second session explored different housing models in Egypt and reviewed global best practices of alternative housing that respect the organic social fabric of communities, allow extended families to be accommodated under the same roof, and are more affordable. The third session discussed housing policies and strategies in light of the prevalence of informal housing settlements in Egypt. It reviewed the effectiveness, sustainability and impact of subsidized housing policies in contrast to deregulated housing markets, as low-income segments of the population increasingly seek informal housing in a country where the government is the largest landowner. The fourth and last session of this theme explored the public housing program implemented by the state with mixed results, and discussed potential reforms of the state policy of insuring housing rights to all citizens. It showed how subsidized public housing was often located in poor and unreachable areas, and did not cover the needs of low-income families, and how units remain empty or even unfinished as target beneficiaries resort to the informal housing market.

The fourth theme of the EUF was **urban service delivery**. The first session in this theme focused on urban mobility and addressed the urban transport sector challenges and how cities in Egypt could move to possible innovations. It discussed the necessary institutional reform for a modern, efficient and integrated transport system to be in place. In addition, the session mainstreamed the discussion of how these issues affected people with disabilities. The second session discussed current solid waste

management policies in Egypt, challenges encountered, sustainable solutions, and how to attract investments from stakeholders. The third session was about water supply and sanitation, with a focus on the challenges that Egypt continues to face in terms of the quality and efficiency of the water supply and sanitation system, despite major progress in the supply of piped water between 1990 and 2010. The fourth session was around renewable energy and energy efficiency. It discussed current energy policies, the future of renewable energies in Egypt and the ways to invest in sustainable energy resources.

The fifth and last session discussed the role of ICT in Urban Planning and Urban Service Delivery to provide alternative and innovative visions for the development of Egyptian cities of the future.

The fifth and last theme of the EUF was **urban economy**. The first session of this theme was about the informal economy. This session explored the current state of the informal economy in Egypt, highlighting its advantages and disadvantages; the state's policy on informal activities; and the need for legalizing and integrating the informal economy into the formal one. The session further discussed the geographical and sectorial inequities in Egypt, drawing on local and international experiences to address these issues. The second session was about the value added and responsibilities of the private sector in the urban economy. It discussed how public-private partnerships (PPPs), as a means of cooperation between the state and private sector, could become a potential solution to constructing new public facilities and providing services more efficiently and economically. The third ses-

sion was about urban population. The increase in fertility rates since 1990 – with a peak of 2.6 million births in 2014 -- explains the high urban density rate, not only in Cairo and Alexandria, but also in middle-sized and small cities, which are developing in a “conurbation” process. The session discussed how planning strategies would need to be revisited to contain demographic growth and to respond to the intensification of international migrations due to the regional crisis. The fourth and last session of this theme was about local government budgets and strategies. It discussed the financial context of local governments and their ability to finance strategies for local economic development, as well as the needed reform to effectively empower local governments.

The closing session concluded with the reading of the Cairo Declaration for Habitat III. It also took stock of the achievements of the EUF, insisting on its inclusive, empowering and participatory approach, and stressed the importance of implementing the forum’s declaration, and on the central role of citizens in an incremental urban development process.

THE CAIRO DECLARATION 16 JUNE 2015

Introduction

We, the participants in the first Egyptian Urban Forum which was held in Cairo from 14 to 16 June 2015, representatives of government bodies, private sector, civil society organizations, research institutions, experts, the media and international organizations, thereby affirm our commitment to sustainable and comprehensive urban development capable of adapting with the challenges of urbanization in Egypt.

Thereby, we emphasize the importance of dialogue, supporting reforms and effective measures in the field of urban development, which is based on the principles acknowledged by the 2014 Egyptian Constitution.

Recalling the resolutions of the Second Habitat Conference, which was held in Istanbul in 1996, we thereby renew our commitment to the effective implementation of the right to housing and to improving the quality of life for all people.

Acknowledging that undesirable effects resulting from climate change and inequality impede the full implementation of the Habitat Agenda -taking into consideration the principles included in the post-2015 development agenda proposed by the UN-; we stress the need to consider the development goal related to urban development. This goal aims at making cities and human settlements a safe, resilient and sustainable incubator for all people so as to ensure overall prosperity and justice for all.

Main Issues

The First Egyptian Urban Forum has determined a number of basic issues on the national level that should be taken into consideration in the outputs of the Third Habitat Conference, hence contributing shape the new urban agenda:

- *The acceleration of population growth.*
- *The structural imbalance of the housing market.*
- *The inadequacy of public services and infrastructure.*
- *The inefficient management of urbanization and lack of implementation of cities strategic plans.*
- *The excessive centralization, limited capacities and lack of competencies in cities and local administration units.*
- *The increased rates of unemployment and lack of job opportunities.*
- *The increased economic disparities and social exclusion in cities.*

- *The deficiency of the systems of land tenure and real estate registration procedures.*
- *The neglect of cultural heritage in cities and the lack of community awareness of its importance and need for preservation.*
- *The weak institutional framework and tools to deal with the risks of climate change*
- *Disparities in economic and social conditions and in the availability of public facilities and services across cities.*
- *The proliferation of slums in urban areas.*

Principles

Taking into account the efforts of the Egyptian government in facing urban challenges, we express our commitment to the following principles as the basis for the recommendation mentioned later:

- *Human beings are the focus of urban development, which targets improving the quality of life for all.*
- *Urban development should be based upon justice, inclusion and integration between the national, regional and local level in a decentralized framework.*
- *The participation of stakeholders is the main doorway into accessing urban development.*
- *Taking into account the principles of sustainability, and preservation of cultural heritage in all aspects of urban development.*

Recommendations

According to the previously mentioned, the participants have agreed on the following recommendations:

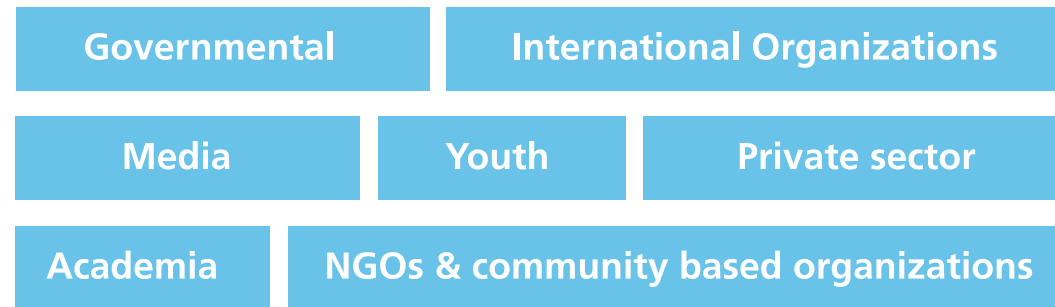
- *Design a legislative framework to implement the principles mentioned in the Constitution regarding urban development, housing and slum development, decentralization and sustainable development.*
- *Create a national policy for urban development and identifying clear mechanisms for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.*
- *Create policies and institutional frameworks promoting clear and balanced relations between rural and urban areas.*
- *Reconsider the law for local administrations that can achieve decentralization and enables local units to provide urban public services and facilities and to develop local economy.*

- *Develop the legal framework of land management law that clarifies the role of stakeholders and removes obstacles put in the way of achieving urban development.*
- *Develop the legal framework of the management and development of major cities.*
- *Design a housing policy that takes into account the current problems, provides adequate housing and addresses the structural imbalances in the housing sector in order to ensure that all citizens enjoy the right to access adequate housing.*
- *Create policies and programs to promote the use of new and renewable energy sources in urban development projects.*
- *Encourage the participation of all stakeholders and mobilize the resources necessary for the implementation of the State's plan to develop slum areas and markets.*
- *Coordinate between the plans of the various Ministries of concern to address slums issues and providing adequate housing.*
- *Produce an institutional and legislative framework for the implementation of cities strategic plans in order to prevent the emergence of new slum areas.*
- *Emphasize the importance of implementing mega-projects within the framework of national and regional vision and plans.*
- *Produce an institutional framework to ensure the participation of all stakeholders involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of urban development programs.*
- *Evaluate the experience of new cities to derive lessons when planning future new cities.*
- *Provide necessary resources to ensure an equitable distribution of services and facilities*
- *Design plans and mechanisms to encourage the use of public transport and reduce reliance on private cars.*
- *Enact the integrated solid waste management system.*

We call on all parties and representatives of government bodies, the private sector, international organizations, academia and research institutions, experts, media and civil society to participate in the urban national campaign in order to address the pressing urban challenges and offer visions, methods and solutions to respond to them.

THE EGYPT URBAN FORUM AT A GLANCE

Sectorial representation



Geographical representation

Egyptian Governorates:

- Cairo
- Giza
- Gharbya
- Qalubiya
- North Sinai
- South Sinai
- Alexandria
- Assiut
- Aswan
- Beheira
- Beni Suef
- Daqahliya
- Sharkiya
- Fayoum
- Ismailia
- Mansoura
- Luxor
- Minya
- Red Sea
- Kafr El Sheikh
- Matrouh
- Menofya
- Qena



7
SECTORS
REPRESENTED

23
EGYPTIAN
GOVERNORATES

Regional & International participants:



17
INTERNATIONAL
PARTICIPANTS

- Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Saida, Lebanon
- Berlin, Germany
- Bucharest, Romania
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Liverpool, United Kingdom
- London, United Kingdom
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- California, United States
- Marburg, Germany
- Minnesota, United States
- Madrid, Spain
- Zurich, Switzerland
- Varel, Germany
- Washington DC, United States
- Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Paris, France

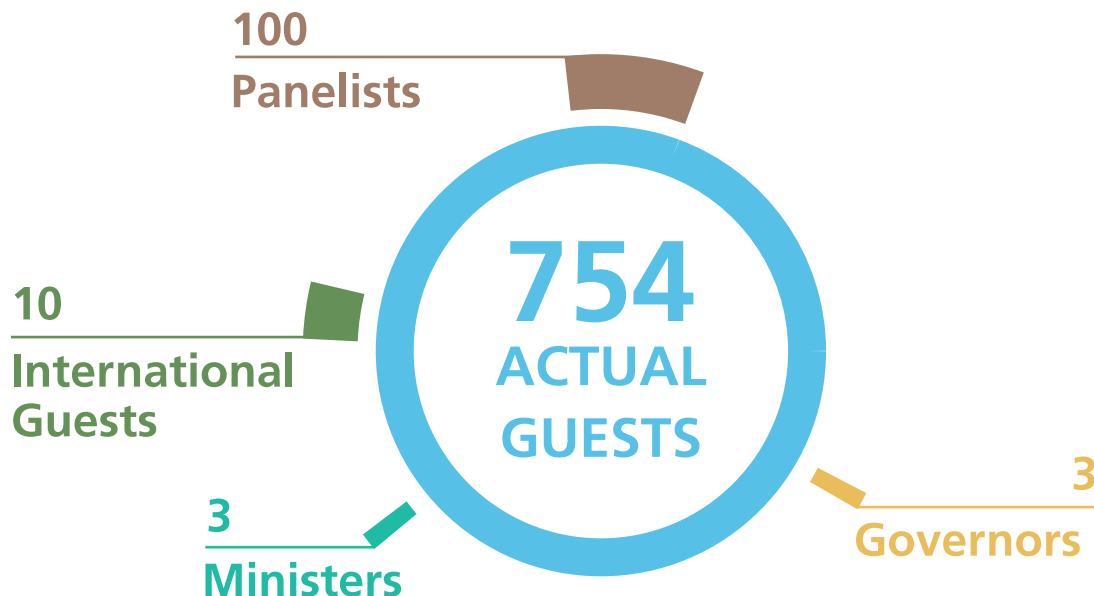
GOAL
500
GUESTS

ACTUAL
754
GUESTS

2
Locations

June 14 & 16:
Marriott Zamalek, Cairo
June 15:
Al-Azhar Park, Cairo

Total number of guests



Prior the event

- 1** Year Of Preparation
- 8** Steering Committee Meetings

- 4** Regional Preparatory Meetings
Covering 17 Egyptian Governorates
- 6** Thematic Preparatory Meetings

5 THEMES

Number and nature of events

- Urban Planning | 4 sessions
- Urban Governance & Legislation | 4 sessions
- Urban Housing | 4 sessions
- Urban Service Delivery | 5 sessions
- Urban Economy | 4 sessions

6 PLENARY SESSIONS

- Opening Ceremony
- Final Declaration and Closing Ceremonies
- National Urban Vision and Mega Projects
- Towards Habitat III
- International & Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation
- Identity, Culture and Heritage

EUF EXHIBITION

- 4 Visual Art exhibitions
- 2 Urban Design and Technology exhibitions
- 2 Installations
- Live performance
- 20 booths of Urban Practitioners

6 URBAN TOURS

- Downtown Tour led by Ahmad Al-Bindari
- Islamic Cairo Tour led by May al-Ibrashy
- Ard al-Liwa Tour led by Omar Nagati
- Izbat Khayrallah Tour led by Hassan Elmouehli
- 6th of October City Tour led by Nabil Elhady
- New Cairo Tour led by Dina Shehayeb

Preparation Process

The initial decision to organize a national urban forum for Egypt and was from the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, who contributed the majority of funds. The Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements co-organized the forum while UN-Habitat took the lead on managing and delivering the event, providing expertise, building partnerships and mobilizing stakeholders as well as additional resources from corporate sponsors including Palm Hills Development, the Housing and Development Bank and Mountain View.

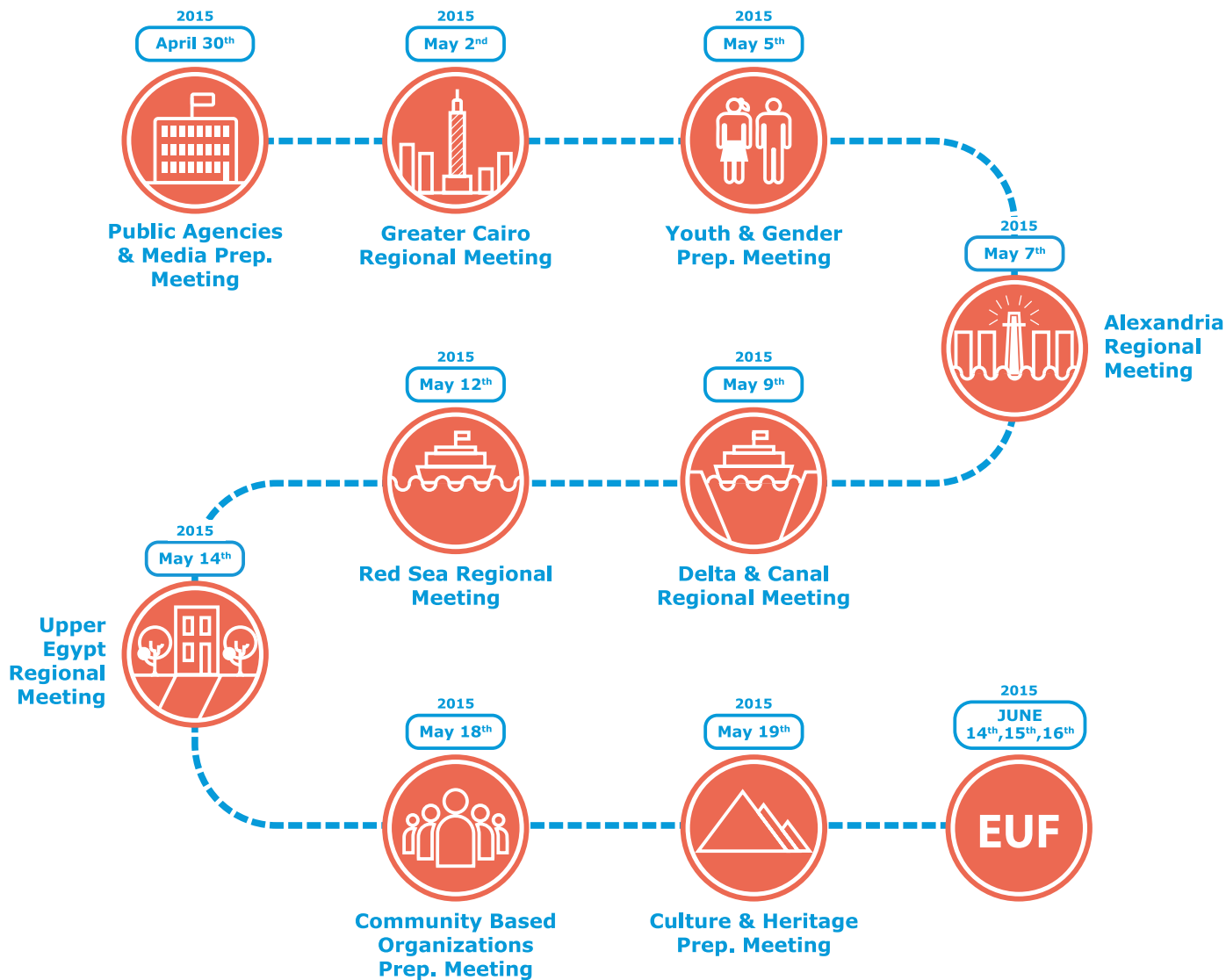
The EUF is the final outcome of two participatory processes, a multi-stakeholder steering committee and a series of regional and thematic preparatory meetings.

The preparation of the EUF lasted for one year and was overseen by a **steering committee**, which guided the process to ensure inclusiveness and representation of a wide range of actors and segments of society. Monthly steering committee meetings were held with a diverse and very dedicated team of urban experts, committed on a volunteer basis, ranging from civil society, think tanks, government and academia. From the brainstorming to the fine-tuning, this committee played a vital role in the preparation of the EUF program. Members of the steering committee included: Eng. Hussein El Ghebaly, Dr. Assem El Gazzar, Dr. Fahima El Shahed, Eng. Aida Fam, Dr. Doaa El Sherif, Mrs Rania Hedeya, Mrs. Delphine Al-Dahdah, Dr. Sahar Attia, Dr. Sherif El Gohary, Mr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Galila El Kadi, Dr. Mohamed Sal-

heen, Dr. Doaa Abouelmagd, Dr. Sawsan Bakr, Eng. Yahia Shawkat, Eng. Omar Nagati, Mr. Ahmed Mansour, Eng. Ayat Abdel Mooty, Mr. Philipp Shuck, Mrs Safa Ashoub, Mrs. Basma Gaber, Mr. Mohab El Refai, Mr Balakrishna Menon Parameswaran, Mrs. Tatiana Weber, Mrs. Nahla Zeitoun, Mrs. Anja Sletten, Mr. Leonardo Mencini, Mr. Selim Shahine, Mr. Ahmad Badr, Dr. Raghda El Ebrashi.

In parallel, a series of 11 regional and thematic preparatory meetings were held across Egypt, through a partnership with Partners in Development (PID) further explained below. The objective of these workshops was to raise awareness about the first EUF across Egypt and to secure a nation-wide geographic and multi-stakeholder representation at the forum. In addition, these consultations were meant to acquire a sense of people's demand and reflect their concerns in the forum sessions.

- Four regional meetings were held in **Giza** (including the governorates of Giza, Beni Suef, Minya and Fayoum), **Red Sea** (including governorates of Red Sea, North and South Sinai), **Alexandria** (including the governorates of Alexandria, Bahira, Gharbiya, Menofeya, Qalubiyya, Cairo, Matrouh, and Kafr Al Sheikh), and finally **Ismailia** (including the governorates of Suez, Port Said, Damietta, Daqahliya, Sharqya and Ismailia).
- Five **thematic meetings** were held to consult with academia, youth and women, public agencies, and culture and heritage organizations.



A **technical secretariat** located in the premises of UN-Habitat Egypt and the Ministry of Housing coordinated daily activities and monitored the implementation of the work plan. UN-Habitat set up a platform of four technical partners, which were contracted through competitive calls for proposals.

“Pool of Partners” PID, a think tank specialized in development issues under the direction of Dr. Mustapha Kamel El-Sayyed, was the scientific partner in charge of mobilizing a large audience of Egyptian stakeholders in the different governorates and within focus groups and leading the communication strategy of the forum. EBS, an event organizer under the leadership of Mrs. Amira Shawky, took over the logistics of the three-day event from the interpretation in English and Arabic for all 28 sessions to the coordination of all contractors and everything in between. 10 Tooba Applied Research on the Built Environment, an urban research center under Eng. Yahia Shawkat conducted an original research on urban parallel practice in Egypt that informed the EUF sessions and generated a bilingual publication. This trail-blazing review of new practices is presented in further detail in Part 3 of this report. CLUSTER, under the leadership of Eng. Omar Nagati and Mrs. Beth Stryker, was in charge of organizing urban tours and curating a significant art exhibition. Cluster’s tours and exhibition were not designed to be side activities but rather another way to pursue the urban dialogue off the beaten path, as this report explains more extensively in Part 3.

Lessons for future editions

The steering committee and the organizing team had to make a number of choices, which resulted in two trade-offs: the first between inclusiveness and selectivity, and the second between breadth and depth of coverage.

For the first national urban forum in Egypt, the steering committee opted for a broad, inclusive and participatory approach that brought as many stakeholders as possible into the discussion. This was a necessary first step to raise awareness about the urban agenda in the country, build trust between large segments of youth and civil society on the one hand and the national and local government on the other. This entailed greater transaction costs in terms of outreach and advocacy, and the allocation of more time and resources for the preparation of the forum. For future iterations of the EUF, a more targeted and more selective approach may be warranted, which would focus on a smaller subset of stakeholders, directly concerned with specific urban issues.

Egypt faces a broad array of challenges to sustained urban development, which had not been openly put for discussion and debate before, and needed to be identified upfront and highlighted in the first edition of the forum. This explains the larger number of themes, sectors and cross-cutting issues featured in the forum. Future editions would likely include less themes, focusing on those which gained traction with participants in the first edition, and on those deemed more pressing. Such

a narrower approach could mean focusing on a specific challenge, on climate change or urban service delivery for example.

An evaluation process was conducted after the forum to receive participants' feedback on areas of satisfaction and improvement. Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction about the overall variety of the three-day program of core and side events, the relevance of the issues addressed during the thematic sessions, the added value of the art exhibition and urban practitioners booths and their innovative perspective, the quality of the organization and registration processes, and the numerous opportunities offered to attendees to network and discuss outside the sessions. The areas of improvement pointed to an insufficient media attention to the Forum prior to its launching in light of its large scale and the high profile of the personalities invited. Another criticism referred to the high number of parallel sessions bringing attendees to choose between sessions they were equally interested in. Finally, participants felt that the time allocated to the discussion within each session was too brief to allow attendees and panelists to interact extensively through multiple rounds of questions and answers.

Achievements

Designing and implementing the first urban forum in Egypt was only the first step of a longer process. There were some achievements and many lessons learnt along the way.

- A first concrete achievement was the breaking of silos between the government agencies and ministries involved in the preparation of the forum, and the ushering in of a mindset change within government about discussing urban development issues in the open.
- A second achievement was to bring national governmental plans to a public consultation, which resulted in a successful and constructive exchange of views and expertise.
- A third achievement was to shape a discourse on urban development as a self-contained sector and to help stakeholders and decision makers to “think urban”.
- A fourth achievement was the building of partnerships between these government agencies and ministries and prominent civil society actors that had previously been lukewarm about the government’s commitment to discuss urban development issues in an open and partici-

patory way. This provided an enabling environment for a myriad of stakeholders to be part of a community of practitioners.

The EUF organizers believe that by multiplying future editions of the forum and by giving recurrent opportunities to meet, network, monitor progress and collaborate such a community of urban practitioners would acquire a strong identity and unleash each member’s dynamism. Of course, these achievements were temporary, and the process of dialogue launched by the EUF needs to be iterated before they can be sustained.



PART 2
SESSIONS

- **Plenary Session 1: National Urban Vision and Mega Projects**
- **Plenary Session 2: International and Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation**
- **Plenary Session 3: Towards the Habitat III Conference**
- **Plenary Session 4: Identity, Culture and Heritage**
- **Theme 1: Urban Planning & Renewal**
- **Theme 2: Urban Governance**
- **Theme 3: Urban Housing**
- **Theme 4: Urban Service Delivery**
- **Theme 5: Urban Economy**

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony witnessed the welcoming words of His Excellency **Dr. Mostafa Madbouli**, Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, **Mrs. Anita Nirody**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Egypt; and Mrs. Rania Hedeya, Country Manager, UN-Habitat Egypt. They emphasized that the Egypt Urban Forum was the first dialogue of this scale on urban development between the state and diverse segments of society. They stressed the support of the Egyptian government and development partners in this initiative, which will serve as an input for Habitat III –the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

Mrs. Rania Hedeya also explained the objectives of the Forum, the broad participatory and inclusive preparation process that led to it, and thanked the Forum’s steering committee, the sponsors and representatives of the

government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The slogan of this first edition “My City, My responsibility” was meant to invite all stakeholders to express their views, share their experience and voice their aspirations for a better urbanization.

Her Excellency **Dr. Laila Iskandar**, Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, advocated more broadly for an equitable distribution of resources as the basis for sustainable urban development in both urban and rural contexts, in light of Egypt’s rapid urbanization. She stressed the need for a national plan addressing informal settlements, as they form a non-negligible portion of the Egyptian economy and contain a large portion of the population. She further stressed the need for a paradigm shift in dealing with human settlements, emphasizing the inclusion of the communities in the decision-processes, following years of mistrust between policymakers and urban communities.



From left to right: Dr. Mostafa Madbouli, Mrs. Anita Nirody, Dr. Khaled Zakaria, Dr. Laila Iskandar, Dr. Galal Saeed and Dr. Joan Clos

Highlights of Keynote Speech by Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Understanding Urbanization and Economic Growth

- There is a positive correlation between urbanization and economic growth. As the economy grows, a large portion of the population moves to urban areas in search of better employment and ultimately, better lives. In other words, urbanization acts as a source of employment. However, urbanization has several consequences that are particularly related to informality, pollution, security, and employment.
- Two types of economies must be taken into consideration when considering land value: the economies of location and the economies of agglomeration.
- Regarding the economy of location, in real estate the price of a plot is a function of the location. Profit hinges on predicting value: buying land when it is cheap and selling when it is expensive. Accordingly, governmental decisions such as transportation planning, establishing parks, and providing services, influence land value.
- The second source of value, which is the most important and fundamental aspect of urbanization, is the economies of agglomeration. In high population densities, more skills are found in close proximity, which increases overall productivity. Furthermore, production is more specialized in dense populations, which is of greater value.



Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Recognizing the Unique Process of Building Cities

- When determining whether urbanization is “good” or “bad”, all settlements can’t be considered equal. Unlike bee colonies, humans do not build their settlements by instinct, but rather through complex tools and processes. Building cities is thus a multi-layered process integrating culture, history, language, character, politics, and the multiple tools and resources available to humans. As such, urbanization occurs differently under different regional and geographic contexts, and is subject to the effects of many complex factors.

Developing a Comprehensive Plan

- The absence of a comprehensive plan when designing a city can result in the loss of control over the city. While spontaneous, intuitive urbanization does exist, this is often on a small-scale. Cities should be designed in a way such that its function becomes more productive, empowers urban constituents, and prioritizes the quality of life for all residents.
- There are three aspects of the city that must be incorporated into a comprehensive plan: rules and regulations, physical design reflecting patterns of activity, and economic activities. Learning from previous mistakes should also be taken into consideration.

Recognizing the Value of Public Spaces

- In comparison to successful cities, satellite maps characterize less successful cities with a lower proportion of walkable streets and public spaces as part of the total urban mass. This has an impact on the real estate market since land value is largely dependent on the quality of public space surrounding it.

Ensuring Inclusive Urbanization

- Cities are complex such that the responsibility of designing and maintaining cities cannot rely solely on a number of governmental agencies and must involve all relevant parties. In other words, successful urbanization necessitates the inclusive processes of deliberation and planning.

CLOSING CEREMONY

In the closing session, **Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos**, Former Special Envoy for the European Union in the Middle East, complemented the EUF on its success. He stressed the vital need for local empowerment as a tool for future development, emphasizing the need for modifying policies on the local level, and concluding with a wish for the implementation of the declaration of this forum for a better future for the Egyptian city. Mrs. Rania Hedeya, the Country Manager of UN-Habitat Egypt, shared her belief in incremental change and saw the EUF as a model of positive participation at the individual and group level. She expressed the desire that the next editions of the forum would occur every two years to build on the success of this first edition.

Dr. Assem El Gazzar, Head of the General Organization for Physical Planning, read the text of the final declaration of the forum. This declaration was prepared by a committee that included various representatives of the EUF organizers and volunteers, who collected and summarized the key recommendations formulated during the deliberations. Dr. El Gazzar expressed his satisfaction at the presence and participation of the youth in the forum and focused on the pursuit of decentralization in Egypt being one of the key outcomes of this forum.



Dr. Assem El Gazzar, Head of the General Organization for Physical Planning

PLENARY SESSION 1

Date and Venue:

14 June 2015

12:00 pm : 1:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

decentralization, mega-projects, management, participation, informal settlements, ICT, rural areas, sustainability, coordination, communities, usufruct rights, eco-city, economic development, tourism, reform, transportation, environment

NATIONAL URBAN VISION AND MEGA PROJECTS

Introduction

In response to the global call for states to develop a coordinated approach to urban development with clear national policy directions and frameworks, a 2052 National Strategic Urban Plan for Egypt (NSUP) was prepared.

Accordingly, this vision aims to integrate and align all urban development plans and projects in Egypt towards achieving national urban development objectives.

In this context, Egypt is currently initiating a number of national mega projects, which has generated a dialogue to discuss how these mega projects contribute and align with the NSUP. In this session, Egypt's NSUP and mega projects were presented, followed by a discussion and evaluation of each and the extent to which they complement each other.

Panelists

- **National Strategic Urban Plan 2052:**

Dr. Abu Zeid Rageh

Board Member, The Supreme Council for Urban Planning and Development

- **Mega Projects:**

Dr. Assem El-Gazzar

Chairman, General Organization for Physical Planning, Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development

Discussants

Dr. Hazem Fahmy

Head of Infrastructure Sector, Ministry of Planning

Eng. Yahia Shawkat

Co-founder & Research Coordinator, 10Tooba

Prof. Ahmed Yousry

Professor of Urban Planning, Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University

Prof. Yasser Sakr

President of Helwan University

Moderator

Mrs. Rania Hedeya

UN-Habitat Egypt Program Manager

PANELISTS' KEY POINTS

A 2052 Integrated Urban Vision for Egypt: Promoting Decentralization, Management and Participation

Dr. Abu Zeid Rageh,

Board Member, Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development

- Egypt's key challenges include:
 - **The “duality of urban spaces”:** Geographically, the coastal space - Nile Valley and Delta - constitutes only 6% of Egypt's landmass, yet is home to 90% of the total population. The exclusive urban expansion of coastal areas versus desert areas has led to massive rural-urban migration, the sprawl of informal settlements, and the encroachment of agricultural land. The need to develop beyond the valley and the delta is emphasized accordingly. Socio-economically, Egyptians' condition has seriously deteriorated and the gap between the rich and poor segments of society has widened.
 - **Extreme centralization:** The government has full control over governorates and local councils and administrations. Egypt can never have an influence regionally, nationally, and locally unless it shifts towards a genuine decentralization system and facilitates real community involvement.
- Key recommendations for development:
 - **The development of information and communication technologies (ICT)** is a must for both the administration and ordinary citizens as Egypt's demographic growth will bring an additional 60 million people by 2050 and require new spaces and services. The state needs to facilitate a paradigm shift towards a

6% OF EGYPT'S LANDMASS **IS HOME FOR** **90%** OF TOTAL POPULATION



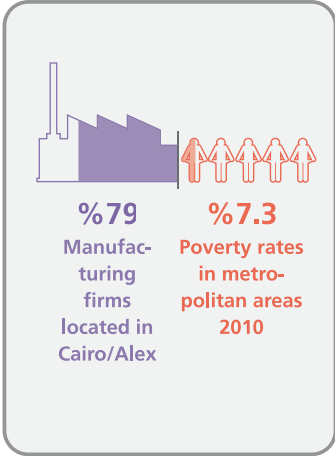
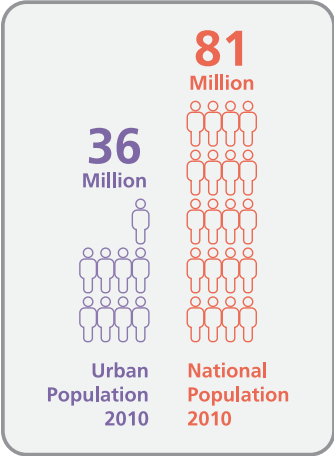
knowledge-based community.

- **A gradual decentralization process** is the key reform that Egypt needs to give local municipalities and governorates the capacity to manage and direct their own development. With decentralization comes real participation and real democracy.
- **A dynamic, interactive, measurable and amendable planning** will be required, but **more importantly, urban management** will be the only way to see an actual implementation of planned development.
- In contrast with Egypt's traditional approach where national sectors operate in silos, **the National Strategic Urban Plan for 2052 (NSUP 2052) responds to Egypt's essential need to integrate all sectorial policies, plans, and legislation in both urban and rural areas under one comprehensive development scheme.** This integrated strategy necessitates the coherent implementation of responsibilities between different sectors and levels of society. In other words, all development efforts should be aligned towards a common objective - including national mega projects - and complementary to one another to minimize the duplication of efforts.
- The NSUP 2052, placed under the supervision of the Supreme Council for Urban Planning and Development, was divided into 3 main components:
 - 1- **Examining the current context:** for example, studies indicate that 24% of Egypt's area can be developed, and this can be extended to 40% with manageable obstacles.
 - 2- **Setting objectives for the 3 phases:** 2020, 2030, and 2052.

3- Achieving objectives: improving management and administration, which particularly requires collaboration between the Ministry of Planning (MOP), the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) and the State Land Use Authority (NCPSLU).

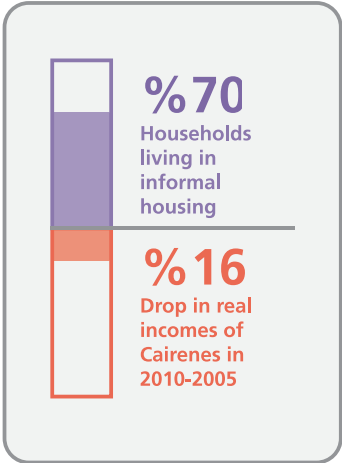
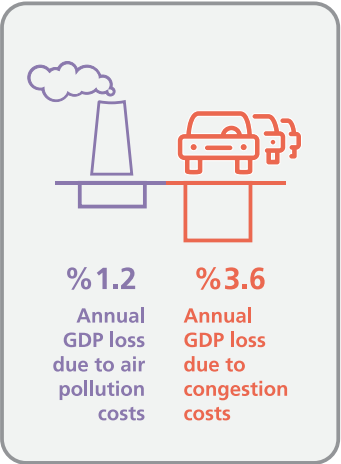
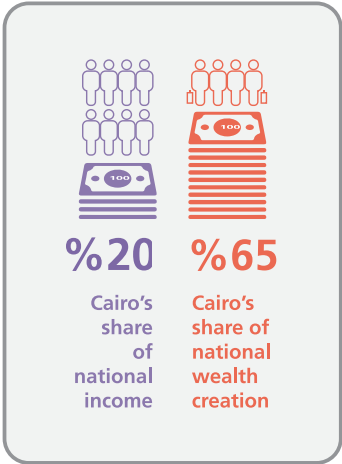
Egypt's Urban Challenges are Significant

Besieged by limited land, poor infrastructure and services, informality and negative externalities Egypt's urbanization and urban development are at a critical turning point



At its heart is Metropolitan Cairo

Cairo generates about 3/2rd of Egypt's income despite critical infrastructure and service gaps, and regulatory and institutional constraints that severely limit its potential



Doubling the area of inhabited land through urban mega projects

Dr. Assem El-Gazzar,

Chairman, General Organization for Physical Planning, Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development

• **The main vision of the 2052 NSUP is to expand beyond current urban areas and effectively double the current area of inhabited land in the country.** In line with this vision, the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) has been collaborating with different authorities, organizations and private consultants to develop several mega-projects across the country. All mega-projects are based on the 2052 NSUP, and include:

- **The Suez Canal Corridor Development Project**, which is a fully government-financed project that aims to double the throughput of the existing canal and promote economic development by transforming the entire canal zone and East Port Said into a world-class center for trade and industry;
- **The reclamation of 4 million acres**, which involves redrafting crop patterns, tapping into Egypt's groundwater and developing agricultural processing industries. This will contribute to national self-sufficiency in agriculture, the geographical re-distribution of the population - in which 3.5 million people are anticipated to relocate from urban areas to new reclaimed lands - and increased economic opportunities through an estimated 1 million new jobs;

○ **The National Road Network Project** where 3,200km of new roads will connect Egyptians across the country and facilitate sustainable development;

○ **The development of the Northwestern Coast along the Mediterranean Sea and its adjacent desert hinterland**, which will increase population density through agricultural development and new urban centers. This includes establishing a world-class tourist resort near El Alamein, which is also planned to be an eco-city by mainly relying on solar power and having its own desalination plant for water;

○ **The Golden Triangle Project** which is the second largest development project run by the country and aims to develop North and Central Upper Egypt-around the cities of Safaga, Al-Qusayr and Qena- by taking advantage of the country's under-tapped mineral resources; and

○ **The New Capital City Project**, which contributes to doubling urban areas in Egypt through the development of a new business district that would attract investments, generate competitive markets, and form an extension of Cairo. Simultaneously, the project focuses on rehabilitating the historical culture of Cairo to attract tourists. The idea is that Cairo would have an obscure demarcation of historic and new commercial zones that would be closely interlinked through modern transit systems and airports.

DISCUSSANT'S MAIN POINTS

The Ministry of Planning 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy

Dr. Hazem Fahmy

Head of Infrastructure Sector, Ministry of Planning.

- The several national plans developed by the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Housing, and other governmental agencies are in line with broader issues of sustainable and social development.
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy developed by the Ministry of Planning is comprehensive by covering areas such as education and scientific research, health, tourism, and economy. The plan will be monitored through key progress indicators (KPIs) and presented to the public for a national dialogue.
- Most countries have 2030 as a target year. However, in the 2052 NSUP, Egypt links its first phase with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2020; thereby using the Key Progress Indicators (KPI) of the SDGs to evaluate its first phase and set the path towards 2052. In the past, Egypt did not use such indicators to measure progress.

“Implementing projects requires the same effort, if not more, as drafting the national plan in order for projects to be carried out in their relevant timeframe and to achieve the national vision.”

-Prof. Ahmed Yousry

Translating Plans into Action

Prof. Ahmed Yousry

Professor of Urban Planning, Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University.

- Significant effort is made in the planning phase of national projects where several studies are conducted and there is proper integration and cooperation between ministries. However, this level of effort, particularly between ministries, is completely absent when it comes to implementation. This leads to major challenges that could have been avoided and results in delayed or incomplete/ ineffective projects on the ground. Thus academics and citizens become frustrated when they hear about plans but do not see tangible outcomes.
- Implementing projects requires the same effort, if not more, as drafting the national plan in order for projects to be carried out in their relevant timeframe and to achieve the national vision. Plans need to be flexible and officials need to focus on how to translate ideas into action on the ground, and this requires major legislative and institutional reform.

Mega Projects Yet to Achieve Social Targets

Eng. Yahia Shawkat

Co-founder & Research Coordinator, 10Tooba.

- Large-scale plans and mega projects have relied on the ostensible redistribution of the population to new areas of development; however due to various reasons this has not happened on the ground and many existing urban areas have become deteriorated because locals have neglected their homes and surrounding environment in anticipation of being relocated.
- While many communities and citizens are willing to relocate to new urban areas, many are not; and thus more effort should be made to identify those who are willing and unwilling to relocate in order to implement projects more effectively.
- Overspending on mega projects that have not achieved social targets has absorbed substantial resources that could have been used to develop and maintain existing urban areas.
- Institutional and legislative reform is critical. More specifically, the key objectives should be:
 - Coordination: A higher governing body for development and planning should be established to coordinate planning on the central level.
 - Decentralization: While planning is at the central level, implementation should proceed through a decentralized approach that is inclusive of community participation.

- Improving the land management system through usufruct rights, which legally enables communities to use and enjoy land owned by others provided that the land does not become damaged. This would enable land to not only become a commodity but a development tool.

Tackling Urban Management

Prof. Yasser Sakr

President of Helwan University

- Egypt should have its own national vision, which would be branched out according to different specialties, rather than each region having its own plan.
- Currently, Egypt's planning and implementation efforts are scattered. There is basically no urban management system in Egypt to the extent that it is incomparable to other countries.

For example, who exactly is responsible for urban development and planning in Egypt? Is it NUCA, the private sector, or GOPP? Is there coordination between these entities and between the two plans; the 2030 plan proposed by MOP and the 2052 proposed by the MHUD?

- We need one unified development plan coming from these entities, one decision-making process, and one mechanism for implementation. This means that there needs to be a consensus among all entities on how urban planning and implementation is executed from beginning to end.

“Overspending on mega projects that have not achieved social targets has absorbed substantial resources that could have been used to develop and maintain existing urban areas.”

-Eng. Yahia Shawkat

“There is basically no urban management system in Egypt to the extent that it is incomparable to other countries.”

-Prof. Yasser Sakr

DISCUSSION

Questions/ Comments and Answers (Q&A) with Dr. Assem El-Gazzar, Head of GOPP

- **Economic development of Aswan:** Shouldn't we start development plans south of the Nile where Egypt's natural resources are located, and focus on Aswan as the gateway to Africa and ensure that Nubian lands are also incorporated?
 - Aswan has the potential to play a very cultural, historical, educational, and medical role to Africa and become the African capital of Egypt if we invest in health and education and establish universities and hospitals that would host students and patients from Africa.
- **The reclamation of 4 million feddans:** Does Egypt have the groundwater to sustain this? Experts suggest we expand vertically before proceeding with horizontal expansion. In addition, we need to protect existing agricultural lands that are anticipated to deteriorate in 50 years before we cultivate other areas.
 - Through rationalizing the usage of water, Egypt has available groundwater for 4 million feddans that can be sustainable for a period of 100 years. Reclaiming 1 or 4 million feddans is not considered horizontal expansion, but rather vertical expansion since the idea is to redesign crops pattern in existing agricultural lands or arable lands and to rationalize the usage of water. The Ministry of Agriculture is currently embarking on these studies.
- **Egypt transport projects** only focus on Cairo and do not include railways projects connecting the rest of the country, despite the fact that all countries around the world are moving in this direction.

- The government is working in various locations to link Cairo to new communities through different types of railways systems such as the monorail and speedy train. One of the current projects is an electrical train that links Ismailia Road and Suez Road.
- **The protection of the environment:** The NSUP 2052 seems to be approached from an entirely business perspective. The impact of climate change is a reality in Egypt with the rise of sea levels in the north resulting in drowned villages. Has the state taken into consideration that communities living in coastal areas will be forced to evacuate and how this will have an impact on the customs and traditions of communities relocating to new areas?
 - Many parts of the NSUP 2052 address the rise of the sea level and plans have been developed accordingly.

Comments and Additional Questions

- **Halting new construction in Cairo?** The capital city's infrastructure is unable to accommodate its dense and growing population; however rather than building more, a law should be passed to prevent the construction of new buildings in Greater Cairo for 30 years and encourage construction in other parts of the country. Egyptians only migrate to Cairo due to the lack of services such as schools, hospitals, and factories. Egypt does not have one exemplary village where peasants are living healthy and in sanitary conditions.
- **Developing other regions of Egypt:** Why hasn't Egypt considered building an industrial capital in the Suez Canal region or in Eastern Sinai to better facilitate the development of these regions? The Matrouh Gover-

norate is abundant in natural resources and is capable of accommodating 40 million people. What are the plans for Matrouh in the NSUP 2052?

- **How to stop the “brain drain”?** It is anticipated that 14 million Egyptians will be outside of Egypt by 2020. This can only be prevented once we create a sense of ownership and allegiance to every citizen.



From left to right: Dr. Hazem Fahmy, Eng. Yahia Shawkat, Prof. Ahmed Yousry, Prof. Yasser Sakr, Dr. Abu Zaid Rageh, Dr. Assem El-Gazzar and Mrs. Rania Hedeia

Learn more on this topic

General Organization for Physical Planning:
www.gopp.gov.eg

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

United Nations for Human Settlements Programme:
www.unhabitat.org

Ministry of Planning:
www.mop.gov.eg

10Tooba for applied research on the built environment:
www.10tooba.org

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTER-ARAB COOPERATION

Date and Venue:

15 June 2015
4:30 pm : 6:00 pm
Al Azhar Park

Keywords:

diplomatic support, peace, cooperation mechanisms, decentralization, participatory development, south-south collaboration, local knowledge, networks, inequality, civil society, cities

Introduction

As Egypt expects rapid urbanization in the next 30 years, various actors have become involved in Egypt's urban development sector. This session discussed how international and regional actors can channel their resources and expertise to support sustainable urbanization in Egypt. In parallel, the panelists provide examples on how mayors and local government networks have mobilized local and international resources to implement urban initiatives. Regional and south-south cooperation, with an emphasis on building knowledge exchange networks, is also highlighted as an effective approach to introducing best practices and influencing urban policy at the local and national level.

The questions proposed to the panelists were the following:

1. How can European and Arab countries support sustainable urbanization in Egypt?
2. What are the cooperation mechanisms provided by mayors and local government networks?
3. How can we build knowledge exchange networks in the urban development sector?
4. What can we learn from urban development global best practices?

Panelists

Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos

Former Special Envoy of the European Union in the Middle-East and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Spain (Spain)

Mrs. Shahira Wahbt

League of Arab States (Egypt)

Mr. Mohamed Baba

Deputy Mayor of Saida (Lebanon)

Mr. Adrien Licha

UCLG-MEWA (Turkey)

Dr. Teresa Caldeira

University of Berkeley (USA)

Mr. Tahar Ouederni

Center for Studies, Training and Decentralization Support CEFAD (Tunisia)

Mr. Husam Abu Dagga

Lead Operations Officer, World Bank (Egypt)

Mr. Dyfed Aubrey

Director of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (Egypt)

Moderator

Mrs. Delphine Al-Dahdah

Senior International Consultant, UN-Habitat Egypt

KEY POINTS AND PROPOSITIONS

Supporting Egyptian Leadership and Institutions

Europe should increase its political engagement to bring peace and security in the Middle East. This begins by providing full diplomatic and political support to Egyptian leadership and institutions.

–Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos

Establishing New Financial Mechanisms

Drawing from unfulfilled previous initiatives, such as the Euro-Med Partnership in 1995, **supporting sustainable urbanization would be more effective through studying and proposing new financial mechanisms formulated by Arab states and their cities and the European Union** - through the Neighborhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean States-. Accordingly, by developing these new financial mechanisms, Europe and other international organizations such as the World Bank can easily channel financial aid to Arab states and cities to support sustainable urbanization.

–Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Seeing Development from the Urban Lens

Leaders in Egypt need to think about development from an urban perspective, which will lead to more effective and direct solutions. The most important aspects to consider and put into action include reviewing the policy framework and changing the regulatory, institutional and financial frameworks to strengthen the role of local governments in urban development, management and service delivery.

– Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos;
Mr. Husam Abu Dagga

Ensuring Decentralization and Inclusive Development

From adopting environmentally-friendly practices – in the city of Saida in Lebanon- to establishing reforms for decentralization - in post-revolution Tunisia- **all stakeholders should be involved and consulted in the urban development process, particularly the local inhabitants affected by urban issues, NGOs and youth.** Accordingly, there should be a long-term vision to build a generation of citizens who believe and have the capacity to contribute to change.

– Mr. Tabar Ouederni; Mr. Mohamed Baba



Sida's Beach became one of the cleanest beaches in Lebanon

Featured Initiative: Participatory Development in the City of Saida, Lebanon

Participatory Development Led by the Municipality of Saida, Lebanon

Prior to implementing local projects, the Mayor's office in Saida set up local steering committees and conducted consultations with urban stakeholders, NGOs and the youth to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the issues on the ground and addressed them through a participatory approach.

Consultations with local stakeholders led to the unified objective of making Saida the first environmentally-friendly city in Lebanon by 2020.

Some of the results of this collaborative work include:

- A 58-meter trash mountain transformed into a public park;
- A sewer transformed into a primitive refinery;
- Saida's beach became one of the cleanest beaches in Lebanon;
- Some of the buildings destroyed by war were repaired; and
- New safety signs were placed on beaches to guide swimmers from dangerous places and marine currents.

- Mr. Mohamed El Baba

Taking Ownership in the Production and Circulation of Knowledge

The Arab region and Global South need to play an active role in the production and circulation of relevant knowledge. The dominant urban theories have been formulated to explain cities like Manchester, Paris, and Los Angeles. Consequently, these theories are limited in explaining the configurations and logics of cities like Cairo, which have been produced through different processes than the cities of the North. Accordingly, **it would be more effective for states in the Arab region and the Global South to fund and build the capacity of locals to produce research, and through the development of knowledge exchange networks, engage in regional/south-south comparisons and collaborations on instruments of urban policy and experiments.**

- *Dr. Teresa Caldeira.*

Considering National and Regional Best Practices

Real change depends on conviction: the genuine recognition of an urban issue and demand followed by a long-term commitment to address it. Examples of best practices at the national and regional level highlighted by panelists include:

- **The League of Arab States** in collaboration with **UN-Habitat** have approved a resolution to establish a database on housing and urban development in the region.

- **Tunisia and Morocco's** success in **reversing the prevalence of informal areas** through a long-term political, legal and financial commitment to **slum upgrading and slum prevention.**

- **Jordan's** recognition of the widespread demand for housing by middle and low income citizens and its effective response by **increasing the private sector role in the development of adequate houses.**

- **Egypt's** commitment to future sustainable development by producing its **national urban policy**; an overarching coordinating framework to orient public interventions in urban areas and a reference source for sectorial ministries and service providers.

- **Tunisia's** recognition after the 2011 Revolution that its highly centralized government disempowered local governments and left citizens feeling excluded and disenfranchised, responded by making a political commitment to decentralization in the newly adopted constitution and recently launching a decentralization program with the World Bank.

- **Sudan's regional and national spatial plan** which illustrates the logical systems of cities, the inter-linkages between cities including rural-urban linkages, the corridors that could promote growth, and how the entire region can develop economically and in a socially sustainable manner.

- *Mrs. Shahira Wahba, Mr. Dyfed Aubrey, Mr. Tabar Ouederni*

Building Networks to Foster Peer-to-Peer Learning, Collaboration and Influencing Policy

Panelists offered the following initiatives:

Network	Description
<p>Network of Urban Reform in Latin America</p> <p>Presented By Dr. Teresa Caldeira</p>	<p>The Network of Urban Reform in Latin America was formed by a large number of scholars and activists who have met regularly for the past 30 years in conferences and forums, where they collaborate in research and publishing, discuss urban alternatives, engage in social movements and experiment with new forms of urban policy.</p> <p>Recommendations developed from meetings entered into constitutions in Brazil and Columbia while others entered municipal and zoning codes.</p>
<p>United Cities and Local Governments - Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA)</p> <p>Presented By Mr. Adrien Licha</p>	<p>UCLG- MEWA organizes regional meetings and training sessions to share experiences between mayors and local authorities of 20 countries and facilitates partnerships to build the capacities of local governments.</p> <p>Recently important to UCLG-MEWA is the influx of migration and the impact on municipalities, and how to improve local public service delivery.</p>
<p>Lebanese Mayor's Committee</p> <p>Presented By Mr. Mohamed El Baba</p>	<p>Created in 1995 and elected by the Lebanese cities UCLG members, this national association of mayors assists municipalities technically and institutionally to implement their projects in the field of development and international relations.</p> <p>This network also serves as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences among peers and mayors around the world. Eventually this network developed a technical arm, which has enabled it to be an appropriate counterpart for international organizations such as the EU and therefore channel resources at the local level.</p>

DISCUSSION

Dr. Laila Iskander, the Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements commented on the inconsistencies of how shared growth is measured in Egypt, where the indicators of inequality are not considered when analyzing the number of dollars spent on slums versus high rises and gated communities and public parks for the poor versus golf courses and private swimming pools.



From left to right: Mr. Adrien Licha, Mr. Mohamed Baba, Mrs. Delphine Al-Dahdah, Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, Mr. Husam Abu Dagga, Mr. Tahar Ouederni, Dr. Teresa Caldeira, Mr. Dyfed Aubrey and Mrs. Shahira Wahba

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

United Nations for Human Settlements Programme:
www.unhabitat.org

Training and Decentralization Support CEFAD (Tunisia):
www.cefad.pt

League of Arab States:
www.lasportal.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA):
www.uclg-mewa.org

The World Bank:
www.worldbank.org

Towards the Habitat III Conference

Date and Venue:

15 June 2015
2:30 pm : 4:00 pm
Al Azhar Park

Keywords:

urban agenda, poverty, sustainable development goals, youth, cities, campaigns, consultation, sustainability, strategic planning, institutional framework, public space, transportation, informal settlements

Introduction

The General Assembly, through its resolution 66/207 of December 2011, decided to convene the *Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)* in 2016. Habitat III will assess the state of our cities and propose solutions. The purpose of the conference would be to reinvigorate the commitment to sustainable urbanization through a “New Urban Agenda”. More appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks. Rethinking urbanization is also integrating equity as an issue of social justice, ensuring access to the public sphere, extending opportunities and increasing the commons.

The Conference welcomes the participation of all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations. *Habitat III* will be the first UN global summit after the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and a new climate change agreement.

Panelists

Mr. Wataru Kawazaki

Secretariat of Habitat III Conference

Mrs. Christine Auclair

Project Leader, World Urban Campaign

Mrs. Katja Schaefer

*Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat
Regional Office for Arab States*

Eng. Hussein El Gebaly

*Advisor to the Minister of Housing, Utilities and
Urban Communities*

Dr. Mohamed Nada

*Program Manager and Advisor on
Decentralization Urban Policies, Governance and
Legislations Program, UN-Habitat Egypt*

Mrs. Shahira Walid

League of Arab States

Moderator

Dr. Sahar Attia

*Head of Architecture and Urban Planning, Cairo
University*

PANELISTS' KEY POINTS

What are the objectives of the Habitat III Conference and the New Urban Agenda in the making?

Mr. Wataru Kawazaki

Secretariat of Habitat III Conference

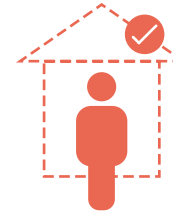
- **What is the Habitat III Conference?** This important conference on sustainable and urban development is not a UN-Habitat event, but an event determined by the UN General Assembly every twenty years. After “Habitat I” held in Vancouver in 1976 and “Habitat II” in Istanbul in 1996, the upcoming “Habitat III” conference will issue a new global urban agenda in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.
- **The New Urban Agenda** (the outcome document of the conference) has 4 objectives: to obtain political commitment from the member states; to assess the Habitat II agenda agreed upon in 1996 and its achievements to date; to address poverty; and to identify and address emerging challenges for the next 20 years.
- **The conference is based on 6 themes** that are very much in line with the EUF: social cohesion and equity, urban frameworks, spatial development, urban economy, urban ecology and environment, and urban housing and basic services.
- The **Habitat III Secretariat** is the official coordinating body of the conference and is structured around the following 4 concepts:
 - **Engagement:** member states, cities and local governments, civil society and the private sector are encouraged to issue declarations and recommendations through the organization of a National Urban Forum, such as the EUF; participate in the World Urban Campaign (WUC); and draft national urban reports.
 - **Policies:** 10 policy units will be preparing 22 issue papers forecasting upcoming issues for the new policy formulation and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
 - **Operations:** preparatory committees in New York and Nairobi, and regional and thematic meeting in various cities around the world are being held in the lead up to the conference.
 - **Knowledge:** 3 types of key documents are being prepared and will be the legacy of Habitat III in the future: national reports potentially developed by the 193 UN member states; 5 regional reports; and 1 global report incorporating lessons learnt and recommendations for the next 20 years.

Road Map towards the New Urban Agenda

Vancouver 1976

HABITAT I

Governments recognize the need for sustainable human settlements and sustainable urbanization.



World Leaders adopt the Habitat Agenda as a global plan of action for adequate shelter for all, with the notion of sustainable human settlements driving development in an urbanizing world. Cities are the engines of global growth; Urbanization is an opportunity, Call for a stronger role of local authorities and Recognition of the power of participation.

Istanbul 1996

HABITAT II



Medellín April 2014

WUF7

World Urban Forum

22,000
Participants



Governments, private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals and CSO reaffirm the commitment to integrate urban equity into the development agenda. Outcome: the Medellín Declaration



ENGAGEMENT

Ensuring inclusive participation, engaging partnerships, advocacy to raise awareness and build consensus towards the New Urban Agenda.

- General Assembly of Partners
- National and Local Urban Campaigns
- Preparatory process for the II World
- Assembly of Local Authorities
- Urban Journalism Academies
- Together Towards HIII- Global Survey

New York September 2014

PREPCOM1

Nairobi April 2015

PREPCOM2



KNOWLEDGE

Capturing, creating, organizing and disseminating knowledge towards the New Urban Agenda. NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL REPORTS

POLICY

- Securing renewed political commitment.
- Addressing action for new challenges.



July 2015

HABITAT III URBAN DIALOGUES

Thematic Consultations

A series of e-discussions with the aim to gather views from all interested players to bring forward new and emerging thinking on urban issues.

URBAN OCTOBER

World Habitat Day World Cities Day

Local Governments joint-message towards the New Urban Agenda
INDONESIA, NIGERIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, MEXICO, TEL-AVIV, MONTREAL, CUENCA, ABU DHABI, MEXICO CITY, BARCELONA, PRETORIA

Paris Nov - Dec 2015

COP21/CMP11

UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

ZERO DRAFT DOCUMENT

May - July 2016

INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

Surabaya July 2016

PREPCOM3



URBAN OCTOBER

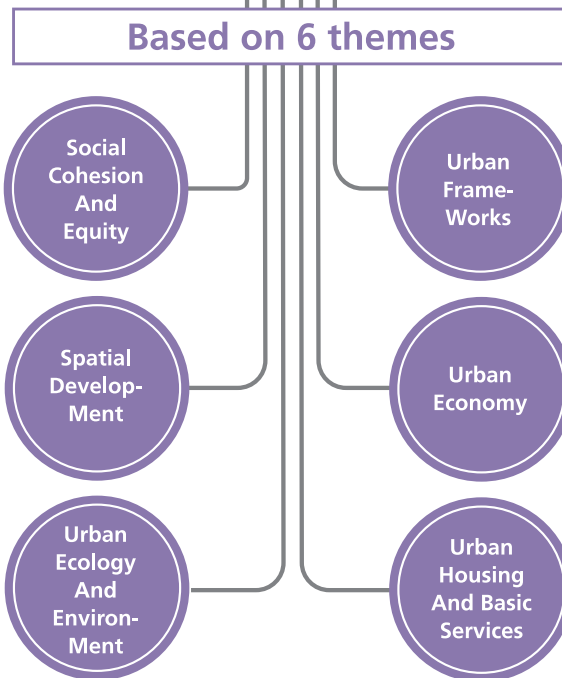
Quito October 2016

HABITAT III

II World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

Urbanization is an endogenous source of sustainable development as well as a tool for social integration and equity.

NEW URBAN AGENDA



Why join the World Urban Campaign?

Mrs. Christine Auclair

Project Leader World Urban Campaign

- **Why a World Urban Campaign (WUC)?** Launched in 2010, the WUC seeks to mobilize urban stakeholders beyond central governments for Habitat III and to shape the new urban agenda that will influence the future urban development for the next 20 years. 115 organizations are already engaged worldwide to promote sustainable urbanization and positive urban change.
- **Who are the partners of the WUC?** A wide variety of stakeholders ranging from local governments, public agencies, private companies, academia, CSOs, media, and youth. 14 groups of stakeholders are currently organized in a “general assembly of partners”.
- **What are they doing?** The partners are preparing a document entitled “The City We Need” to influence the governments on priority issues. The first draft is ready and the second draft will be issued in March 2016.
- **Launching an Egypt Urban Campaign?** Egypt’s urban challenges, experience and innovation would be an invaluable contribution to the WUC and the report “The City We Need”. The brainstorming session on slogans and activities for Egypt that was held during the EUF was successful and creative, where 19 organizations committed to join the steering committee.



What are the processes and the partners of the preparation for *Habitat III* in the Arab region?

Mrs. Katja Schaefer

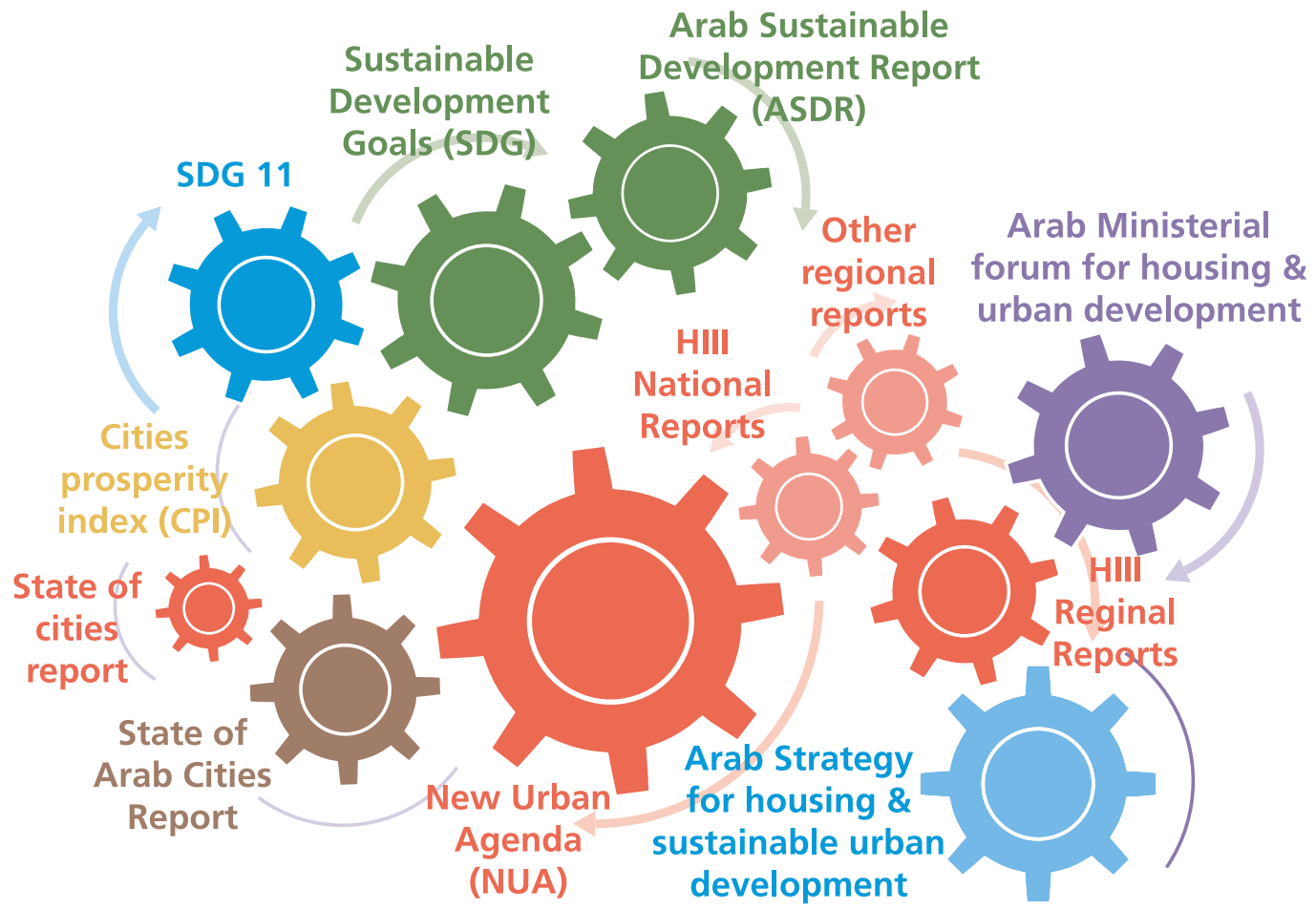
Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS)

- **What is happening globally that relates to urban development?** In September 2015, the UN Summit on the post-2015 development agenda will endorse the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and among them, “Goal 11” directly relates to urban development. Following this, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, COP21, will be held in Paris in December 2015 with a large focus on sustainable urbanization. Finally, in October 2016 the Habitat III conference will issue the new global urban agenda.
- ROAS has been contributing in raising awareness and advocating for **urbanization as an over-arching concept in the global sustainability discourse.**

Traditionally, global concepts focused on “environmental sustainability” or “social and economic sustainability”, however “sustainable urbanization” is over-arching. **For the first time in the history of global discourse, SDG 11 really puts the cities at the center of development and the Arab region is positioning itself on this appropriate scale of intervention.**

- **ROAS has been promoting the “City Prosperity Index” (CPI)** through a range of indicators to measure progress in Arab countries. In 2012, the Arab region released the State of Cities Report and the next edition is planned post-Habitat III to measure the progress and draw future perspectives.
- **In preparation for Habitat III, 22 Arab countries are compiling their national urban reports as well as an Arab regional report led by the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).** By documenting the progress made during the past 20 years and outlining prospects for the next 20 years, these reports will enable Arab cities to position themselves towards the new urban agenda.
- **For the first time, the Arab League is looking at housing and sustainable urban development as part of a wider strategy and determining how the region can set its targets, implementation mechanisms and monitor progress.** The first Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development (AMFHUD) will be convened in Cairo in December 2015. Accordingly, Egypt is positioning itself strongly in the process towards Habitat III both nationally and regionally.

Towards more inclusive, resilient and sustainable Cities in the Arab Region



Introducing the Egypt National Habitat Report

Eng. Hussein El Gebaly

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development

- **Egypt is taking various initiatives to prepare for Habitat III**, which includes the organization of the EUF, the development of a national report that will address the country's urban challenges and opportunities, as well as hosting a regional Arab Forum to facilitate the exchange of experiences and to establish a unified stance of the Arab region towards the new urban global agenda.
- **Egypt is currently facing number of development challenges**, including the lack of a unified urban vision or strategy that would integrate and merge all national plans; the difficulty of attracting residents to new cities; the lack of a comprehensive survey for informal settlements; the uneven development of urban and rural areas, which results in rural-urban migration and the consequent growth of informal settlements; and the difficulty to provide suitable housing units, potable water, food, clean energy and transportation systems to accommodate all of its population in both urban and rural areas.
- Propositions and future trends highlighted in the report include:
 - **Expanding the rate of inhabited land** which is currently only 6% of Egypt's land mass;
 - **Managing the expansion of big cities** such as Cairo and Alexandria;
 - **Involving all stakeholders**, especially NGOs, and **coordinating between several ministries** to strike a balance between urbanization in rural and urban areas.
 - **Empowering youth in the development process** by increasing their access to knowledge and financial resources;
 - **Establishing laws and regulations to enable citizens to participate in all urban planning processes** from the local to national level, such as the government's strategic planning of 130 cities and the master plan of Cairo and Alexandria;
 - **Exploring new technologies** such as GIS for documenting existing cities and informal settlements;
 - **Increasing agriculture lands** and make cordons to protect them from urban growth;
 - **Merging urban transportation plans with the national strategic plan** and establishing mass transportation systems to reduce traffic and pollution;
 - **Exploring sustainable housing designs** that can be built quickly, sold affordably, and meet the needs of the residents;
 - **Raising our capacity to recycle water**; and
 - **Providing clean energy** that can be solved through increasing efficiencies, raising awareness, and rationalizing subsidies for renewable energies.

Mohamed Nada
*Program Manager and Advisor on
Decentralization and Urban Policies*

- **UN-Habitat Egypt program’s approach:** over the past few years, UN-Habitat has adopted an approach to gather information and insight from the ground in order to tackle real issues and develop evidence-based policy. By leveraging existing research and studies, our goal was to look at the legislative and institutional frameworks and incorporate the financial implications to grasp how the urban sector is working.
- **Towards a national urban policy (NUP):** this policy will encompass all urban stakeholders and guide the urbanization of the country. This important milestone will build on what was implemented over the past 20-30 years.
- **The “State of the Egyptian Cities Report”:** based on the City Prosperity Index (CPI), a tool that provides data and indicators on 6 themes: infrastructure, productivity, social well-being, environment sustainability, service provision, and governance. 82 cities across Egypt will be screened and analyzed allowing comparisons between northern or southern cities according to their level of productivity.
- **A report on Egyptian streets:** streets are among the more durable public spaces and drivers of urban prosperity impacting infrastructure, productivity and the provision of services. This research samples 35 cities in Greater Cairo, including small cities and new cities, in

order to understand and compare street patterns in the Delta and Upper Egypt, as well as old and newly built streets.

- **The Egypt “Housing Profile”** is a diagnosis of the current status of the housing sector in Egypt. Policy papers will tackle certain themes such as the renting problem.
- **Enhancing the Legislative and Institutional Framework governing Urban Development in Egypt**
 - **A unified construction law is being developed** to link urban planning with sectorial planning and to connect national, regional, and local levels of urban development.
 - **A law on the distribution of lands all over Egypt is being developed**, starting with the strategic planning of 17 cities. UN-Habitat has established 3 centers of strategic planning, and for the first time, planning is being implemented at the governorate level in Luxor, Sohag, Red Sea and Qena.
 - **The new city of “El Alamein” is being planned as a symbol of the fourth generation of new cities**, with a focus on the urban economy and in which development will be linked to the entire network of cities on the Northern and Western Coast.

Piloting Land readjustment in Expansion areas in Banha City

- Informal settlements continue to increase and currently host 66.7% of the Egyptian population. Policies, laws, and financial systems developed 30-40 years ago are currently hindering the strategic planning and development of these areas. **UN-Habitat has recently piloted a land readjustment model on 10 feddans in Banha for the first time in Egypt in order to explore how orderly and negotiated processes of land acquisition are possible.** A law on the distribution of lands would help overcome problems of fragmentation regarding land ownership.

Enhancing Public Spaces and Safety through Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations

Mrs. Shahira Walid
League of Arab States

- We need to **create open public spaces through partnerships with civil society and turn unsafe spaces into vibrant areas** for pedestrians, which can generate income and sociability.
- **The role of the Arab League** is to coordinate with all Arab countries in multiple sectors in order to unify the urban, environmental and energy standards. In this process, various stakeholders including cities, universities, media and local communities collaborate to evaluate development indicators.

- **The Ministerial Council for Housing and Development** is among the specialized ministerial committees of the League of Arab States. This council coordinates policies on urbanization and urban development for the purpose of relaying a unified Arab stance towards the Habitat III conference in 2016, and other international conferences.

- **Since HABITAT II in Istanbul 20 years ago, Arab states have made a number of achievements and also encountered a number of challenges.** The ministerial council aims at reflecting both the achievements and challenges and developing solutions for the persisting challenges in the Arab region. For, example, the Arab region is the most impacted region by climate change, particularly rising sea levels, which impact all coastal areas and cities and urban development in general.

- **For the first time, the Arab League, Ministry of Housing, and UN-Habitat will convene an Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development (AMFHUD)** in Cairo this December 2015. The output of this conference will also contribute to HABITAT III, as well as other conferences.

DISCUSSION

How to improve concepts and definitions applied to urban development?

- There is no clear definition of “informal settlements” and “decent human units”. Without identifying these terms, any strategy will be far-fetched and not easily implemented. When discussing city prosperity, how do we define urban areas and rural areas? We also need more social indicators versus numerical indicators.

What are the dynamics between rural and urban areas?

- Why should development focus on cities when 47% of the world’s population and 47% of Egypt’s population are living in the countryside? What is the privilege to restrict this agenda to be an urban agenda and dismiss the other inhabitants of Egypt? SDG 11, which targets urban development, is a shortcoming in the Egypt National Report and in Habitat III.
 - Response from Mr. Kawazaki: One of the themes for the urban agenda is the rural-urban linkage, which examines the contribution of both rural and urban areas.
 - Response from Dr. Sahar Attia: Cities will not be sustainable and operating well unless rural areas are strong. We cannot clearly separate between these two areas as urbanization proceeds from both of them. Interestingly, the focus on the “City” generates an ongoing debate within UN-Habitat

- Have we benefited from the new cities project? The expansion of cities has not solved the overpopulation problem of the urban core, which signifies that there is no strategic planning.

From Habitat II to Habitat III

Dr. Sahar Attia
*Head of Architecture and Urban Planning,
Cairo University*

- Between Habitat II in 1996 and Habitat III, we have witnessed a qualitative leap of participation from countries, individuals and new actors such as academia and the League of Arab States in our region who did not participate before, as well as the media who have gained a very prominent presence in the recent years.
- The goals of Habitat II are all important, however they did not focus on rural areas and villages. Sustainable development is now a target with indicators that will measure the progress of cities, rural areas, and public spaces - all of which are very important leaps forward. Arab states and the region as a whole should have a strong presence and voice in the new urban agenda.

Additional Questions/ Comments

- Solutions will not be reached unless by research and specialized facilities. For example, roof gardening has proven to be an income generator. We should learn from countries such as Spain who have buses with roof gardens.

- Why isn't UN-Habitat working in Port Said but in Banha, which is overpopulated? Why not plan in open areas that require expansions? Also, there has been no discussion on the issue of irregular building on agricultural land.



From left to right: Mr. Wataru Kawazaki, Mrs. Christine Auclair, Mrs. Katja Schaefer, Dr. Sahar Attia, Eng. Hussein El Gebaly and Dr. Mohamed Nada

Learn more on this topic

Habitat III conference:
www.habitat3.org

World Urban Campaign:
www.worldurbancampaign.org

League of Arab States:
www.lasportal.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

United Nations for Human Settlements Programme:
www.unhabitat.org

Date and Venue:

16 June 2015

2:00 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

prioritizing culture, heritage, political will, institutional reform, public awareness, education, investment, asset, legal framework, management, media, artists, governance, tourism

Identity, Culture and Heritage

Introduction

Cultural Heritage is the source of one's identity and the seal that brings people together as a nation. In fact, it sustains the continuity between the present and the past. Learning about cultural heritage does not only buttress a self-awareness of one's origins and culture but also contributes to value other cultures and foster intercultural dialogue. Cultural heritage by definition is a collective and public notion belonging to the realm of public interest and aimed at the public good. As far as we are concerned, the term "heritage" relates to architectural objects, urban sites, artefacts that have been or are in the process of being recognized as tangible vestiges of bygone ages. "Heritagization" then is a process geared to convert exchange value into cultural value by enhancing objects and sites with new functions. In other words, heritage can transmit knowledge and build up culture and identities; it gives places where people can spend leisure time and contemplate aesthetic beauty; and it drives local and regional development, attracting tourists and, hence, generating earnings.

Panelists

Dr. Galila El Kadi

Professor and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement

Dr. Fethi Saleh

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Heritage

Mrs. Shaima Osama

Management of Historic Cairo, Ministry of Monuments and Antiquities

Dr. Riham Arram

Cairo Governorate, Director of Cairo Heritage Preservation Administration

Dr. Ahmed Mansour, Architect

Dr. Haby Hosny

Supervisor at National Organization for Urban Harmony

Dr. Safia El-Kabbani

Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts

Mr. Choukri Asmar

Coordinator of The Heritage of Masr Gedida

Dr. Mona Zakaria, Architect

Dr. Alaa al-Habashi, Architect

Dr. Pierre Arnaud Barthel, AFD

Dr. Husam Refai,

Dean of the Faculty, Heritage Management Master

Moderator

Dr. May El-Ibrashi

Ain Shams University, Megawra

PANELISTS' KEY POINTS

Q1- Are we able to preserve the identity and the cultural heritage of our cities? Why is this important?

Dr. Galila El Kadi

Professor and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

- **Heritage neglected by the state:** The state has allocated \$5 billion towards infrastructure for the new administrative capital while the National Authority for Antiquities is struggling with minimal resources.
- **The lack of cultural awareness:** The main challenge in Egypt is the lack of awareness about the environment and cultural heritage including monuments, antiquities, natural sites, crafts and folklore music.
- **Action taken:** The Save Cairo campaign was launched a year ago in response to the serious violations on the urban fabric in historic Cairo, which day by day is losing its specificities and identity. The media played a large role in conveying the voices of the campaign to public officials and putting pressure on them to listen. Although none of the demands from the campaigns were met, such as seizing to destroy buildings for a year, a committee emerged from the campaign to propose ideas to officials.

Dr. Fethi Saleh

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Heritage

- **The cultural richness of Egypt:** Egypt has 7000 years of invaluable heritage covering different periods of civi-

lization: Prehistoric, Pharaonic, Greco-Roman, Coptic, Islamic, and Modern

- **The Lack of political will to invest in heritage:**

While the components of cultural heritage management are well understood, Egypt lacks the political will to invest in heritage as an industry and major asset. The focus remains on education and health sectors, while heritage is considered a secondary issue.

Q2 - To what extent does the current law and legislations enable or prevent cultural preservation?

Mrs. Shaima Osama,

Management of Historic Cairo, Ministry of Monuments and Antiquities

- **Assessing the legislative framework:** To protect monuments, law #117 was drafted in 1983 with amendments made in 2010. However the articles are rather vague on which entity is responsible for the maintenance, restoration and ownership of monuments. This ultimately leads to the mismanagement of protecting monuments.
- **Steps toward reform:** Various proposals were submitted to the Cabinet to form a committee that would ensure the preservation of cultural heritage in Cairo. This was approved by the Prime Minister as a first step in involving other Ministries that did not manage or promote historic Cairo. As a result, the Ministers started to

change their point of view on sustainable development for historic Cairo.

Dr. Riham Arram

Cairo Governorate, Director of Cairo Heritage Preservation Administration.

- **Assessing the legislative framework:**
 - Law 144 of 2006 gave the National Authority for Urban Harmony (NOUH) its formal status in protecting heritage by restricting the demolition of heritage buildings that are not protected as monuments or historic buildings according to the law of antiquities of 1983. There are currently 6,435 heritage buildings listed covering 16 governorates.
 - Law 119 of 2008 also gave the NOUH powers to protect heritage, monitor urban quality and guide urban aesthetics.
- **Suggestions for reform:** The main purpose of developing legislation is to revive the cultural values in Egyptian urbanism and to restore the harmony and aesthetic values in cities, towns, open spaces, and squares throughout Egypt in determined and progressive steps.
- **Major risks:** In Egypt there are various types of risks to the preservation of cultural heritage including the rise of subterranean and underground water levels; the destruction of heritage buildings; fire incidents; the negative impacts of vehicle traffic and overcrowding inside historic and heritage areas; and loading material inside monuments and heritage buildings.

Dr. Haby Hosney

Supervisor at National Organization for Urban Harmony (NOUH)

- **Legislative shortcomings:**
 - As long as the law does not give the right and incentive to the owner or renter to maintain heritage buildings, Egypt will continue to face major problems in maintaining architecture and urban heritage. This results in the demolition of heritage buildings.
 - The current law indicates that heritage buildings should be restored and registered, however this is not accompanied by the funding mechanisms and incentives to encourage people to restore and register buildings.
- **Challenges for reform:** The big question is if we change the law do we reach a solution or a bigger problem? We discovered that in order to amend and implement the law political will is critical, especially in Egypt where there is major ignorance of the law and those who are responsible for the law are not specialized in law.

Eng. Ahmed Mansour, Architect

- **Problems at the management level:** Information about registered buildings is not easily available to the public and this is unclear even for entities responsible for registering the buildings.

- **Challenges of the legislative framework:**

- The legislative framework that currently exists does not have specific requirements and conditions for the different types of historic sites. As a result, historic sites become subject to the general law for construction, which affects the cultural preservation of these areas.

- How to implement those conditions and requirements is another major problem. What happens when these requirements (such as colors and interfaces) are not implemented? This is not clear in the law. In addition, there is a lack of coordination and accountability between the different entities and agencies on legal aspects and planning.

- **Challenges of planning:** Historic Cairo is not separated from the rest of Cairo. Thus, when planning for a subway that passes through the ancient city there is no consideration that this affects the socioeconomic value of the old city as well as housing and several other factors.

Question from Moderator: What is the relation between the different government entities? Do they compete or rather coordinate with each other? While the responsibility seems to be shared among the different entities, we find that there seems to be competition over who controls heritage yet not wanting to assume any responsibility at the same time.

Answers:

- **Dr. Riham:** Unless there is a specific article of law that determines the role of each person and entity, then no one

will shoulder the responsibility. The only solution is that the legislation needs to be clear.

- **Eng. Ahmed:** Nothing happens in Paris without the knowledge and approval of the Mayor of Paris. However in Egypt, the Governor of Cairo's powers are distributed among many partners and thus it is very difficult to move things forward.

Q3 - How can we shift the conventional thinking that preserving cultural heritage is an investment rather than a cost?

Mr. Choukri Asmar

Coordinator of the Heritage of Masr Gedida

- **Raising public awareness:**

- The Heritage of Masr El Gedida is a group of youth engineers and residents of Masr Gedida who are working in the area to preserve the architectural and urban heritage and greenery; improve public transportation and disposal management; and raise awareness about urban heritage.

- Egyptians must be persuaded that if they preserve the buildings they live in they will be able to sell or rent their apartment at a higher price.

- **Promoting the economic benefit of cultural heritage:** Heritage areas should have a commercial/ economic benefit in order to incentivize people to preserve these areas. Restaurants and hotels are great examples. In Is-

tanbul, a 3-star hotel located in a heritage area could cost up to \$300 a night, whereas a 5-star hotel in Cairo next to the airport is around \$100.

Dr. Safia El-Kabbani
Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts

- **Promoting social awareness:** Besides physical heritage, which is being widely discussed, there is also social and spiritual heritage, which can be preserved through art.
- **Involving artists:** Artists such as Nagui Shaker, Abdelhady El Gazar, Hamed Nada, Shady Abdel Salam, Mona Abou el Nasr have enlightened the public about the country's heritage through works of art - including films and cartoons - passed on through generations. Architects such as Wissa Wassef and Hassan Fathy were instrumental in preserving and adapting architectural forms specific to Egyptian culture and heritage into modern architectural practices.

Dr. Mona Zakaria, Architect

- **Heritage taught in the education curriculum:** There is a lack of knowledge among Egyptians about the country's cultural heritage. When heritage and architecture are taught in universities they are taught through a descriptive curriculum without providing any reflection on the relation between people and buildings. Students in universities should be encouraged to practice their creative talents, which can be enhanced through exposure to the cultural heritage of their country.

- **Perceptions of culture:** More than the knowledge of heritage, what matters most is the values and attitudes disseminated by the media and influential people who are currently causing a great indifference towards cultural heritage across the country.

- **Preserving culture:** The incorporation of our heritage in all sectors of society is imperative for the preservation of social, physical and intellectual heritage.

Question from moderator: What is clear from the presentations is that when discussing investment, this does not refer to traditional investments where one has capital and decides to invest. Heritage is being discussed as a resource and investment from the level of the individual who investing in their house and memories. When people see that their lives and memories have a value they have an incentive to preserve it. How can we encourage people to value their monuments and invest in them accordingly?

Answer from Mr. Choukri Asmar: Awareness-raising is essential in encouraging people to maintain historic sites in their neighborhoods as well as informing them that heritage places are accessible to the public. Legislation and facilities should encourage the reuse of heritage for economic activities and there should be tax exemptions in heritage areas for a certain period of time, such as 5-10 years.

Q4 - How can we mobilize partners and investments in the cause of cultural heritage? What are local and international examples of this effort?

Dr. Alaa al-Habashi

Architect, Assistant Professor, Menoufia University

- **The challenge of property laws:**

- The majority of buildings in Egypt are owned by more than one person, which makes transfer of ownership very difficult. All partners must be brought together to agree on prices and procedures.

- According to the law of property, generations after generations would inherit land and property. However, if we can't preserve this property as a new generation then it's not an issue of private interest but national interest.

- **The problem of registering monuments:** Research conducted in Old Cairo indicates that the registration of monuments has stopped and this has led to people being negligent of monuments.



Beit El-Razzaz, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar area, Cairo

Dr. Pierre Arnaud Barthel
French Development Agency (AFD)

- **AFD's Urban Project Finance Initiative:** This project aims at developing sustainable and innovative urban projects in the Middle East that are potentially replicable. Three projects have been identified for Egypt, two of which are heritage-led urban projects: the Minat al Bassal/ Kafr Ashry project and the Esna City Centre Urban Revitalization project
- **The Minat al Bassal/ Kafr Ashry** project located in Alexandria is a small-scale project that identified a unique set of 8 listed buildings registered by the National Organization for Urban Harmony. The main objectives of the project are to:
 - gradually regenerate the industrial warehouses of Minat al Bassal through an adaptive reuse project;
 - promote cultural awareness among Alexandrians in order to become acquainted with the civilization and cultural heritage of their city;
 - improve the public realm of the area, including the Mahmoudieh Canal and its banks, streets and bridges; and
 - upgrade the nearby poor quarter of Kafr Ashry and provide new job opportunities for the inhabitants within the dynamic of the urban regeneration project.
- **The Esna City Centre Urban Revitalization project**, supported by MURIS and the Governorate of Luxor,

focuses on the rehabilitation of old traditional buildings, providing public spaces, and improving the local economy through the development of the old commercial passage. The idea is to design the same development mechanism of Al Darb al Ahmar and Al Azhar Park supported by the Aga Khan Development Network.

Dr. Husam Refai
Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality at Helwan University

- **Egypt as the most important heritage country:** Egypt is the only country that has heritage encompassing ancient, Coptic, Islamic, and contemporary heritage.
- **Lack of management and academic programs:** There are no academic programs in Egypt or in the Arab world that qualify people to manage heritage. There is the Faculty of Tourism and Fine Arts, but no faculties offering a major on heritage. This is why Helwan University initiated a Master's program for heritage restoration and site management in collaboration with Germany.

DISCUSSION

- **Cultural heritage and the educational system:**

- Dr. Fethi Saleh: Egyptian children need to learn more about Egypt cultural heritage through diverse and robust school curricula; for instance figures such as Al-Khawarizmi and Ibn Sinna need to be taught for their contribution to develop sciences. Another function of the curriculum would be to adapt part of its content to different geographical contexts in Egypt and provide students the knowledge of their surrounding local heritage and culture.

- Dr. Safia El-Kabbani: At the academic level, Egypt has a fair number of Master's theses on heritage; however more efforts are needed at the basic education level. In addition, heritage and history should not be taught as an archaic history.

- **Heritage and the media:** The role of media is also vital in raising awareness and shedding light on heritage. In addition, the role of actors and actresses are needed to come up with creative means and methods that address regular audiences and children in order to raise their awareness on heritage, as well as creating more incentives through raising awareness via mass media

- **Heritage as a source of income:** An important share of the economy relies on heritage and its capacity to generate revenues and jobs in the sector of tourism. Public and private investment in restoration projects must be further emphasized to sustain economic development.

- **Legislation and heritage management:** Current laws and legislations on heritage do not reflect the immense value of Egypt antiquities, cultural goods and history. For example, when the administration classified 3 areas in Cairo and Giza as unsafe areas, they didn't take into account their historical character. Another example is that historic buildings are continuously being destroyed in place of new construction because if the Ministry of Archeology is registering many buildings and sites as protected monuments, it also ignores many others.



Map applied by Al-Athar Lina initiative to guide visitors to Al-Khalifa area (Historic Cairo)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PANELISTS

- Raising the profile of heritage and culture in the governmental priorities: the lack of political will, social and institutional awareness about the need to preserve cultural heritage contrasts with the fact that Egypt's heritage is its number one wealth and the impetus for development. The state needs to acknowledge that heritage determines its own identity and is a national asset that requires protection and investment. Thus, the government should establish a commission on heritage at the cabinet level to ensure a participation across all ministries
- Improving governance, legislation and management of the heritage sector: Egypt needs a unified law on heritage that embraces all relevant actors and authorities. However, heritage is not only a matter of legislation, but rather an issue of management to enforce the legislation. When it comes to protecting historic and archeological sites, only one entity is needed to lead the process to be fully effective. Incentives to invest in archeological areas will have a limited chance to succeed if the current obstacles to investment at the municipal level are not removed first.
- Access to information: On issues of cultural heritage, public institutions need to increase access to information. Not only should the cultural institutions focus on collecting and documenting heritage, but also making this information accessible to the public.
- Awareness-raising: A campaign should be launched to raise awareness about the importance of heritage at the municipality level and to coordinate with urban stakeholders.
- Looking at best practices: The experience of other countries such as France would provide examples of heritage management that could be a good fit for Egypt. The French government has created an independent fund to support NGOs committed to preserving cultural and archeological sites. Tax exemption is another tool that can be used to encourage organizations and individuals to engage in heritage protection.



From left to right: Dr. May El-Ibrashi, Dr. Galila El-Kadi, Dr. Fethi Saleh, Dr. Riham Arram, Mrs. Shaimaa Osama, Dr. Haby Hosny and Dr. Ahmed Mansour

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Culture:
www.moc.gov.eg

National Organization for Urban Harmony (NOUH):
www.urbanharmony.org

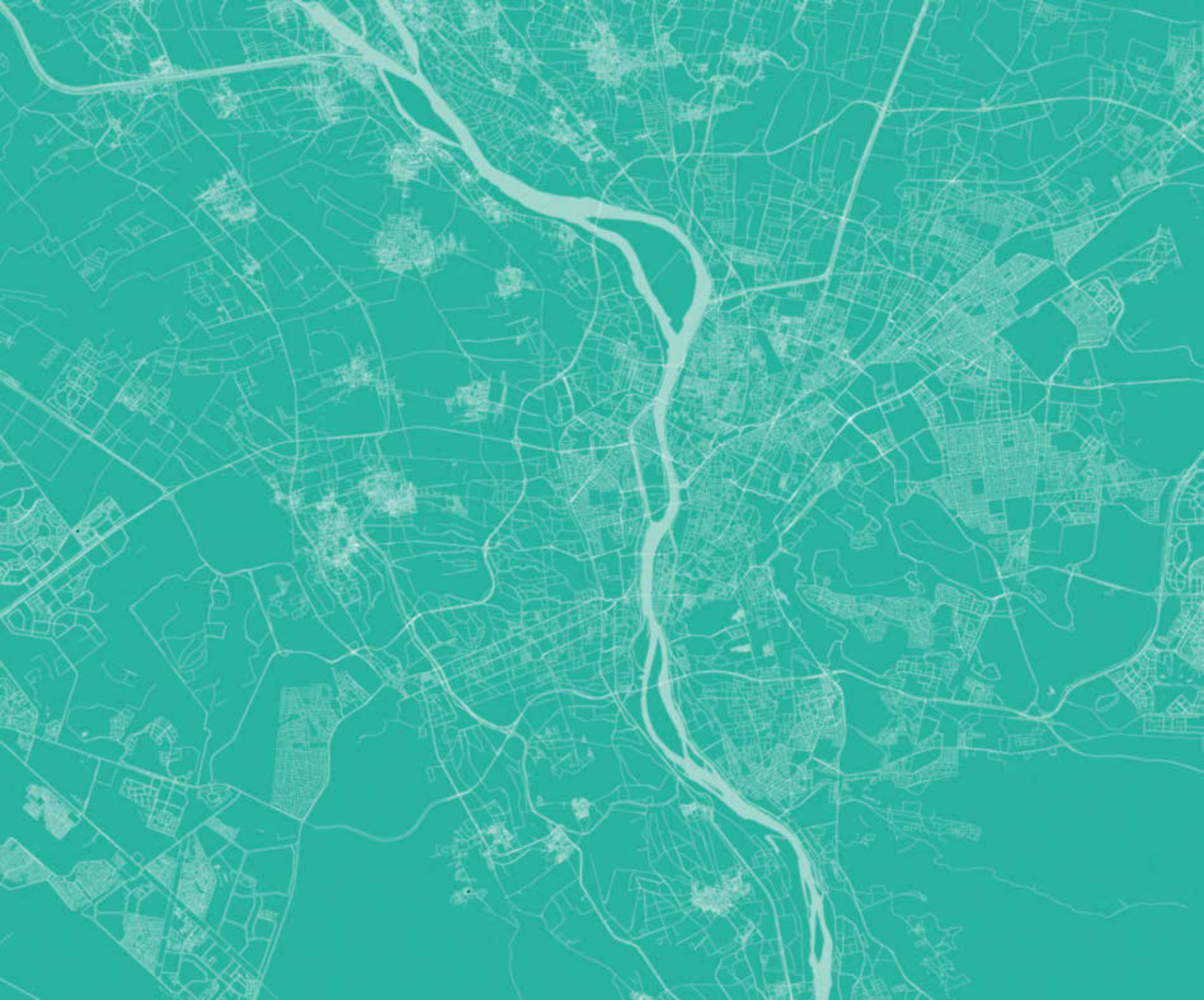
Cairo Preservation General Administration:
[facebook.com/cairoheritage](https://www.facebook.com/cairoheritage)

The Center for Documentation of Cultural & Natural Heritage:
www.culnat.org

Eternal Egypt:
www.eternalegypt.org

The Global Egyptian Museum:
globalegyptianmuseum.org

Megawra, Built Environment collective:
www.megawra.com



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- Plenary Session 1: National Urban Vision and Mega Projects
 - Plenary Session 2: International and Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation
 - Plenary Session 3: Towards the Habitat III Conference
 - Plenary Session 4: Identity, Culture and Heritage
 - **Theme 1: Urban Planning & Renewal**
 - Theme 2: Urban Governance
 - Theme 3: Urban Housing
 - Theme 4: Urban Service Delivery
 - Theme 5: Urban Economy



THEME 1/ URBAN PLANNING & RENEWAL

Date and Venue:

14 June 2015

2:30 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

*comprehensive vision,
integrated planning, inter-
ministerial coordination,
upgrading, services,
decentralization,
concentration,
investment, urban
design, institutionalizing
participation, small scale
projects, social segregation*

SESSION 1 PLANNING EXISTING CITIES AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Introduction

As Egypt plans for new cities and extensions of existing cities, concerns about the need for adapting urban planning methods currently used has been voiced out by the Egyptian government, academia and other stakeholders. Accordingly, this session explored the present state of urban planning in Egypt, including the role of major players and the key challenges encountered. In addition, this session explored the extent to which city plans are connected to regional plans and to Egypt's National Strategic plan.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- What is the institutional setting and role of local authorities in the urban renewal of existing cities?
- What is the needed reform in the methodology used for planning cities in Egypt?
- How are regional plans connected to city plans, and how does GOPP¹ coordinate with other institutions to achieve the national vision?
- How are urban/rural linkages taken into consideration in the planning process of existing cities? What are the case studies?
- How do we best respond to unplanned neighborhoods within existing cities?
- Are professional associations playing an effective role in planning existing cities?
- The private sector is mainly concerned with extensions in new cities; to what extent do they play a role in existing cities?

1. General Organization for Physical Planning



Panelists

Eng. Soad Nageb,

Ministry of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Mr. Ahmed Zaazaa,

Maspero Triangle Participatory Project

Eng. Salwa Abdel Wahab,

Vice President, General Organization for Physical Planning

Dr. Pierre-Arnaud Barthel,

Project Manager (Egypt, Ethiopia, Palestine), French Agency for Development

Mr. Tarek Abdel Rahman,

CEO of Palm Hills

Prof. Hassanein Abu Zeid,

Professor of Regional Planning, Al Azhar University

Moderator

Prof. Magdy Rabie,

Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University.

Maspero Triangle, Cairo

ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Despite the current planning tools and levels of intervention, Egypt still lacks a comprehensive urban planning vision that would be shared by a majority of stakeholders and that would take into account socio-economic development and the needs of local communities.
- Despite several decades of attempting to reduce the demographic pressure on the capital city by developing new settlements on the outskirts of Cairo, mass migration to these areas did not occur and many residents even returned to the city core due to a number of reasons including the lack of services.

Diverging responses

- Whereas the traditional government-led approach to urban upgrading consists of relocating residents on the outskirts of the city, some actors of the public sector, civil society and international community prefer participatory approaches that enable citizens to assess their own needs. This alternative method consists in providing services to these precarious areas through planning.
- The trend of building new cities in Cairo's suburbs is disputed within the urban stakeholder community which includes governmental entities, urban planners, and practitioners who believe that upgrading existing urban settings and scaling up the provision of services are more likely to mitigate urban challenges.

Key findings

- Economic and social plans cannot be separated from urban planning; they should be integrated in one unified planning process.
- Issues pertaining to upgrading the informal areas have become so complex that they require a multi-stakeholder coordination leveraging the skills and expertise of all relevant ministries and public entities, local authorities and communities, and international or national experts.
- If the central government provided an enabling environment for the private sector to invest in scaling up the range of services in new settlements, these areas would become more attractive to Egyptians and address Cairo's over-population issue.
- Small scale projects are most effective in fostering city resilience as they more suited to involve residents in assessing their needs and upgrading their living conditions.

Quotes

“The strategy for dealing with informal areas is not to evacuate them but to provide them with services that are available to other citizens.”

– Eng. Soad Naguib

Panelists' propositions

- Enact decentralization to allow governorates to develop and attract new settlers and businesses.
- Scale up the quantity and the quality of services available in the new settlements around Cairo.
- Revise the legislation applied to informal areas to enable neglected areas, whether they are planned or unplanned, to benefit from upgrading interventions.
- Create an inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder committee dedicated to upgrading informal areas and equipping them with appropriate services.

Key comment from the audience

- Interventions to upgrade run down areas in existing cities should be designed in a way to simultaneously address three objectives: the preservation of cultural heritage and the historical character, economic sustainability, and connectivity with neighboring areas to avoid social segregation.

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

Eng. Soad Naguib,

The representative of the Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

- The legislative identification of informal areas needs to be modified in order to be inclusive to areas that have very similar physical characteristics. For example, many unsafe areas in Egypt are not considered informal or “unplanned areas”, although similar to informal areas they lack basic municipal services such as water, sanitation, waste collection, flood drainage, street lighting, paved sidewalks and roads for emergency access.
- The strategy for dealing with informal areas is not to evacuate them but to provide these areas with economic, social, institutional, and community services that are available to other citizens. Gradually, these areas will be improved, formalized and incorporated into the city itself.
- No authority alone can address the complex issues of informal areas. It is critical to have inter-ministerial coordination and to adopt an integrated approach where local authorities and local communities collaborate with the other stakeholders.
- The Ministry is currently working to upgrade 42 areas in Cairo and Giza in the hope of creating a successful small-scale model that can be replicated gradually in other areas.

Mr. Ahmed Zaazaa,

Architect and urban researcher, co-founder of 10 Tooba and Madd Platform

Featured Initiative: Maspero Parallel Participatory Project, by Madd Platform

The Maspero Triangle District, located in downtown Cairo and situated on the banks of the River Nile, stands on 82 acres of land and is home to at least 14,000 residents. In the 1970's, the district began experiencing various problems related to complicated land tenure systems and the unclear ownership of land, as well as the lack of community inclusion in public and private development projects.

The traditional government-led approach to informal upgrading is resettlement - i.e. evacuating the existing community and relocating them in the outskirts of cities - and cash compensation, both of which neglect the community's attachment to the area they live in. This was the initial plan for the Maspero Triangle, which was classified as an “unsafe area” by the Informal Settlements Development Facility (ISDF).

However, the Maspero Parallel Participatory Project led by the Maspero Youth Association, the Egyptian Center for Civil and Legislative Reform, and the Madd Group, became the first participatory and community-led in-situ urban planning project adopted by the Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements (MURIS).

Apart from the project's participatory approach, the project was exceptional in other ways such as:

- incorporating lessons learned from a wide array of local and international participatory urban upgrading projects, and combined it with the urban, economic, and social dimensions of Maspero;
- outlining several options that guaranteed the right of residents to stay in the area; and
- re-zoning the area so that the up-scale developments that investors want to pursue do not negatively impact the zone where residents would be rehoused.

After the details of the plan were finalized between the community organizations and MURIS, Foster + Partners - an international studio for architecture and integrated design - won the international competition to develop the area. However, the community organizations currently have concerns about how the project will be executed now that the developer has control of the project. In addition, they believe that the Maspero project's participatory methods need to be institutionalized to ensure the sustainability of these measures and their proper replication.



Public Hearing session in Maspero Triangle



Community consultation session in Maspero Triangle

Eng. Salwa Abdel Wahab
*Vice President, General Organization for
Physical Planning*

- The GOPP operates at 3 levels of urban planning - regional, national, and detailed city planning – and develops a strategy for each governorate which aims to ensure that shelter is provided to all, while taking into consideration informal settlements, women and marginalized social classes.
- The GOPP works in coordination with other institutions in the attempt to achieve the national urban vision. However, Egypt needs a more comprehensive vision with clear objectives in order to achieve desired results.
- It is important to integrate urban planning strategies with economic and social plans, which cannot be studied separately.

Mr. Tarek Abdel Rahman,
CEO of Palm Hills

- Although the new trend in Egypt is to live outside of Cairo, most residents tend to return due to the lack of services such as schools, hospitals and other type of services. To address this issue, Palm Hills - a real estate company - works on new urban design settlements outside Cairo.
- The role of the private sector is important in urban planning and development, however one way the

Egyptian government can support the private sector's involvement is to lower investment requirements.

- One of the main solutions for the housing problem in big cities is a decentralized process which would enable less populated governorates to develop their districts and therefore attract new settlers.

Dr. Pierre-Arnaud Barthel,
*Project Manager, Egypt, Ethiopia, and
Palestine, French Cooperation Agency (AFD)*

- Instead of following the private sector trend of building new cities, AFD focuses on strengthening the resilience of existing cities via support with implementation, urban upgrading and technical assistance.
- The agency adopts a needs-based and participatory approach to its work by identifying community needs and collaborating with Egyptian authorities and NGOs in the field. There are currently 10 ongoing projects in Egypt, which includes the North Giza Regeneration Project where Imbaba has been completely redesigned, the Esna Project in cooperation with MURIS and the Alexandria Development Project, which is a small scale project in Mina el Basal.
- It is important to raise public awareness within the relevant urban context similar to the approach of the Agha Khan Foundation when upgrading Al-Darb Al-Ahmar.

DISCUSSION

Comments from audience members include

- When comparing the rate of population growth in the historical areas of Maspero Triangle, Bulaq and Al-Darb Al Ahmar from 1890 to 2015, it is clear that the rate has decreased, which is due to the various attempts of re-planning these districts and creating new investments while disregarding the needs of the residents.
- When re-planning historical districts three factors should be well preserved; the architectural character, the urban fabric of the place and the residents' rights and needs.
- The private sector should be encouraged to transform certain historical buildings within the deteriorating urban areas in Cairo into various services such as hotels and museums. The result is that neighborhoods become upgraded while preserving its architectural character and attracting cultural/ touristic activities.
- A government plan is necessary to prevent the growth of new informal areas and upgrade existing ones.
- To avoid economic or social segregation when planning a district such as Maspero, urban planners should make sure they gradually create a connection between the neighborhood zones.



From left to right: Eng. Soad Nageb, Eng. Salwa Abdel Wahab, Prof. Magdy Rabie, Mr. Tarek Abdel Rahman, Mr. Ahmed Zaaza and Dr. Pierre-Arnaud Barthel

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

Informal Settlements development fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

TADAMUN:
www.tadamun.info

French Agency for Development:
www.afd.fr/lang/en/home

Palm Hills developments:
www.palmhillsdevelopments.com



THEME 1 / URBAN PLANNING & RENEWAL

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

4:30 pm : 6:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

*unplanned areas,
participatory planning,
petition, relocation,
belonging, inter-ministerial
coordination, licenses,
sewage and sanitation,
urban landscape, quality,
infrastructure, health,
education, women's
empowerment, local
communities, youth,
employment, micro-credit,
public space*

SESSION 2 INFORMAL AREAS AND LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

Introduction

Informal settlements in Egypt are developing rapidly and have reshaped Egyptian cities in the past decades. In the early 90s, the government began developing plans to upgrade informal areas in most of Egypt's governorates. Currently, about 37.5 % of urban areas in Egypt are unplanned with densities of around 500 people/ acre. This percentage increases to 95% in villages. Current interventions target the upgrade of informal settlements; the improvement of the living conditions of residents and the promotion of local economic development. This session explores the approaches the Government is adopting, as well as the role of civil society and international development organizations toward informal settlements upgrading.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- The various approaches, methodologies and techniques MURIS is adopting in informal areas.
- The gaps that hinder upgrading efforts.
- The role of NGOs in improving the conditions of informal areas.
- The best practices for upgrading informal areas in the cultural and services sectors.

Panelists

Dr. Sherif El-Gohary

Manager, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Unit, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Dr. Güenther Wehenpohl

Programme Coordinator, Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas (PDP), GIZ

Mrs. Rasha Abdel Fattah Raslan

The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

Eng. Hani El Minaoui

Architect and Urban Planner Consultant

Moderator

Dr. Marwa Khalifa

Associate Professor of Urban Planning, Ain Shams University

Izbet Awlad Allam, Dokki, Giza



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Informal settlements constitute a huge percentage of cities such that Egyptians will have to accept these areas as part of their urban landscape. Resolving informal settlements issues through the provision of infrastructures and services is bound to be the mainstream approach.
- Informal settlements are complex and dynamic entities. Their social fabric is unique. Successful upgrading efforts by governmental or non-governmental actors require the participation of communities to mobilize support, strengthen social cohesion and foster citizens' sense of belonging to their neighborhood.

Diverging assessments

- Displaced residents often perceive the relocation from informal areas to planned areas as a negative outcome. When safety issues require a relocation process, the strategy of MURIS consists in identifying a location nearby to avoid a potentially traumatic experience for residents.
- Other sources of resistance to the relocation process come from the residents and homeowners who live in areas neighboring the destination of the displaced population. These residents who have paid for their units fear that the value of their property and the attractiveness of their neighborhood will drop.

- The decision of the Egyptian president to create MURIS for the purpose of responding to the sprawl of informal areas was an institutional breakthrough. The expansion of informal areas was considered one of the main symptoms of the country's urban crisis. Urban stakeholders including NGOs, academia and international organizations offered to collaborate with this new ministry. However, these actors, including MURIS, suggested that inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms were required to raise the governmental response to the expected level.

Panelists' propositions

- The participation of local communities is a key criterion for all projects aimed at upgrading informal areas.
- The government's involvement of academia in the planning process is a mutually beneficial approach. The MURIS project, "Egypt without huts in 3 years", was developed as a result of collaborating with scholars and students at Cairo University.
- The experience of the association "ADAPT", which works with youth and children on cultural projects, has shown that giving back agency to residents of informal areas is a key prerequisite for project sustainability. By participating, people regain self-esteem and feel more positive towards the place they live in. They become willing to maintain facilities and projects by themselves.

- A MURIS pilot renewal project in Ezbet Abu Hasheesh has shown that assessing the needs of the community resulted in development priorities that were based on local interest and improved quality of life through the creation of a playground, a vocational education center, as well as a proper sanitation system.
- With its Participatory Development Program (PDP), GIZ aims to maximize the commitment of the local community in upgrading their neighborhood. However, the success of such programs requires inter-ministerial agreements.
- By empowering female-headed households in informal areas, the association ADEW discovered that micro-finance programs have little significance without a comprehensive development approach addressing health and education.

Quotes

“It’s important to understand informal settlements’ unique social fabrics, dynamic nature and strong identity.”

-Sherif El-Gohary

“Infrastructure, health, and services are powerful instruments to upgrade informal areas.”

-Güenther Wehenpohl

“The informal areas are very dynamic but the way they are managed is very static.”

-Hany El Minaoui

Key comment from the audience

- Addressing the deepening educational gap in informal areas is a top priority. However, the gap will not be filled by upgrading school premises, the situation will only improve when local communities are empowered and their voices are heard in educational improvement projects.



Izbet Harb, Giza - classified by ISDF as an Unsafe Area

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Sherif El Gohary

Manager, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Unit, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

- The Ministry targets two types of informal settlements: unsafe and unplanned areas. Both have unique social dynamics that constantly change and adapt to community needs. Residents have developed a deep sense of belonging to these areas such that relocating them to other areas has often provoked traumatic scenarios. To prevent this reaction, the Ministry minimizes the distances between the old neighborhood and the new residential area, as in the case of Manshiyat Naser where residents were moved from Asmarat to Amarat 1.
- When implementing projects, the Ministry faces five main challenges: the location of the land, the low technical capacity of the community, the lack of coordination among stakeholders, the lack of information about sewage and sanitation systems and the long delay in obtaining licenses.
- Academic institutions and think tanks can add value to the planning process of upgrading informal areas. For example, the Ministry recently collaborated with Cairo University where professors and students shared their ideas and opinions about the Ministry's work and policies.
- MURIS has adopted a participatory planning approach in various projects throughout Egypt, exemplified by the Maspero Project for which an international competition was convened.

ISDF Classifications of Unsafe Areas in Egypt ⁽¹⁾

Grade
1

Areas that threaten life including those located:

Under or above sliding geological formations; in floodplain areas; or under threat from railways accidents.

Grade
2

Areas of unsuitable shelter conditions including:

Buildings made of make-shift materials, e.g. shacks; sites unsuitable for building, e.g. solid waste dump sites; or ruined buildings.

Grade
3

Areas exposed to health risks including those:

Lacking accessibility to clean drinking water or improved sanitation; located in the vicinity of industrial pollution; or located under electrical power lines.

Grade
4

Areas of instability due to insecurity of tenure:

Areas located on the territory of state-owned land; areas located on the territory of sovereign quarters; or areas located on the territory of endowments (Awqaf)

1- Source: Khalayfa, Marwa. 2011. "Redefining Slums in Egypt: Unplanned versus Unsafe Areas." Habitat International 35, no. 1: 40-49.

Dr. Güenther Wehenpohl

Programme Coordinator, Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas (PDP), GIZ

- Rather than relocating residents out of informal areas, improving infrastructure, health, and services in informal settlements is far more effective in improving their quality of life. However, when upgrading efforts have been implemented, the main focus has been on improving infrastructure, which alone is insufficient. In Cairo, informal buildings reach up to 14 floors, which is considerably unusual compared to informal buildings in other parts of the world.
- Informal settlements are complex and diverse entities, which require target groups to be involved in the different phases of a project - planning, implementation, operation and maintenance. In general, urbanization can only be achieved through an integrated approach that takes into consideration all different aspects and all relevant stakeholders. For example, a participatory approach cannot be implemented by GIZ alone; it needs a full agreement with partners as well as local and central governments.

Eng. Hani El Minaoui,

Architect and Urban Planner Consultant

- Informal settlements constitute a huge percentage of Cairo such that Egyptians will have to accept these areas as part of their urban landscape. The prevalence of informal settlements is primarily caused by the failure of the state to solve the housing crisis, which developed in Egypt's recent history at times when urban development was often influenced by Western paradigms.
- The social fabric of informal settlements and the importance of community participation, including youth, are increasingly taken into consideration by urban stakeholders. Not only does community participation help in mobilizing support and preventing social disintegration, but it also stabilizes the social psychology of the community and fosters their sense of belonging to the area.
- The NGO, ADAPT, has had successful interventions in Imbaba, Bashtil, Manshiyat Naser Nasser and other informal areas by limiting their involvement to logistics and endowing youth with the responsibility of designing and implementing cultural activities.

Mrs. Rasha Abdel Fattah Raslan

The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

Featured Initiative: The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

Since 1987, the Association for Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW) has been working in informal settlements to develop the capacity of women headed households. Microcredit and micro-entrepreneurship loans were provided to support women heads of households, who represented 40% of households in Manshiyat Nasser. ADEW also provided services such as literacy programs. To achieve meaningful change, ADEW ensures that various methods are undertaken in development projects. For example, focusing on projects implemented in Manshiyat Naser, projects were:

- Context-specific: i.e./ the living conditions and needs of women were studied prior to developing programs;
- Based on best practices: i.e./ rather than targeting women only, microfinance programs were designed for family units;
- Comprehensive: i.e./ since microcredit is insufficient to empower women economically, services were provided in the sectors of health, education and street lightening and cleanliness.

- Collaborative: i.e./ a partnership with the Ministry of Health was established to develop health centers;
- Sustainable: i.e./ ADEW facilitated the establishment of a committee to provide training sessions for staff and students on how to maintain their school.



"My school project" in Kafr El-Elw, done by The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

DISCUSSION

Specific comments/ questions to the panelists include

- The improvement of educational facilities in informal areas should be given greater priority.
 - Response from: Mrs. Rasha Abdel Fattah Raslan: Physically upgrading schools should not be the priority; the greater goal should be empowering local communities and strengthening their voice in educational improvement projects. ADEW implements various educational programs such as scholarship programs, initiatives to reduce over-crowded schools, and awareness-raising campaigns for parents and students.

- The ministries and agencies involved in upgrading informal settlements have major coordination and communication issues.

- Response from: Dr. Günther Wehenpohl: It is definitely necessary that urban stakeholders in Egypt need to join forces in a coordinated development effort. Funding for education can be mobilized from different sources ranging from parents to development agencies.
- There is limited access to maps and figures that properly reflect the magnitude of informal settlements.
 - Response from Dr. Sherif El-Gohary: MURIS releases surveys on an annual basis as well as case studies of several informal settlements.



From left to right: Mrs. Rasha Abdel Fattah Raslan, Dr. Günther Wehenpohl, Dr. Marwa Khalifa, Dr. Sherif El-Gohary and Eng. Hani El-Minaoui

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

Informal Settlements development fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

New Urban Communities Authority, Ministry of Housing:
www.nuca.gov.eg/en/Home.aspx

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Egypt:
www.giz.de/en/worldwide/319.html

The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women:
www.adew.org



THEME 1 / URBAN PLANNING & RENEWAL

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

9:00 pm : 10:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

*integrated planning,
corridor of development,
resilience, services,
connectivity, mobility,
pedestrian, street vendors,
relocation, vision, inter-
ministerial coordination,
governance, civil
society, comprehensive
development, private
sector, low-income
housing, culture*

SESSION 3 NEW CITIES

Introduction

The 22 State-planned New Urban Communities (NUCs) – or new cities - began developing in the 1970's as part of a strategy to spread the growing urban population more evenly across Egypt's vacant desert lands. The three successive generations of NUCs were supposed to provide affordable housing to lower-income groups as an alternative to informal areas, and attract workers by offering manufacturing jobs in newly built industrial factories. Despite the continuous growth of informal areas in older urban areas and studies suggesting that resources should focus on improving existing urban agglomerations – particularly in Upper Egypt and the Suez Canal regions – the construction of new desert cities became a national policy. Thus, the New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA) was formed in 1979 as the official government authority in charge of overseeing the development of new desert cities.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss the following questions

- To what extent have new cities achieved their intended objectives?
- What have been the institutional challenges of developing new cities?
- What are the gaps and shortcomings of new cities, and how can they be addressed?
- To achieve resilient and sustainable cities, what new principles, thought-processes and development approaches should be applied in new cities?

Panelists

Eng. Kamal Fahmy

Deputy Chief for Urban Development and City Upgrading, New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA)

Dr. David Shaw

Professor of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool

Dr. Sahar Attia

Head of the Department of Architecture, Cairo University and member of the Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development.

Eng. Manal Shaheen

Manager for Northern Governorates and Greater Cairo NGOs, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Moderator

Dr. Hany Ayad

Professor of Urban Planning, Alexandria University

Masaken Uthman, 6th of October City



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- There is a consensus on the problems related to new cities. Since the first generation of desert settlements, these new urban communities have suffered from inadequate planning and governance and from weak implementation and phasing processes. Consequently, pervasive challenges still await appropriate responses as these new cities lack sustainability, connectivity and attractiveness.

Diverging assessments

- The government and the planners of these new cities did not prioritize the provision of services as a prerequisite before settling the population. Rather they believed that the provision of services would grow along with the demography. On the contrary, experts from public and private entities believe it is essential to plan for urban service delivery before the population settles in because it is precisely the presence of services that will attract new settlers and ensure the city's sustainability.
- The decision to assign a single ministry with the task of delivering new cities that are “ready-to-use” was in contradiction with the need for obtaining a wide range of services and infrastructure that would be provided by different line ministries.
- From a financial standpoint, what type of governance structure would be best suited? Would a development agency alone have the power to deliver the entire needed infrastructure or could risks and benefits be shared

through partnerships with the private sector and civil society?

Diverging responses

- The governmental strategy to develop new cities was weakened by diverging responses among several technical ministries, and the confusion about the distribution of roles and responsibilities between these entities, and between urban service providers and the industrial developers.
- NUCA is affiliated with the Ministry of Housing (MoH), which is in charge of constructing houses in new cities. However, the other ministries did not operate public services such as schools, hospitals or transportation due to the confusion between the scope of their respective mandate and NUCA's.
- Building new cities to relocate inhabitants from slum areas has proven to be unsuccessful. The response of MURIS is to conduct more in-depth assessments of low-income communities' needs to facilitate their settlement and integration into the community fabric and deliver appropriate services.

Panelists' propositions

- The upcoming national urban policy needs to help clarify whether we should work bottom-up, top-down, or a combination of both, with respect to future new cities.
- When planning the next generation of new cities, the government should learn from past experiences and ensure that the Ministry of Transportation will be responsible for providing an efficient public transport system to connect these new communities with existing urban areas.
- Functional facilities and operational services will attract people to live in new cities. .

Key findings

- The usual shortcomings affecting new cities can be alleviated through managerial and good governance approaches at the city level but also at the national level. In addition, undervalued aspects of planning deserve to be enhanced such as cultural activities, marketing strategies, social diversity and urban extension planning.
- NUCA took into consideration the lessons learned from previous experience and decided to adopt a new approach to city management by including civil society in the new cities' board of trustees to better accommodate the needs of citizens. Social housing programs are currently developed and units will be delivered only when services are available. Currently, land is being equipped

so that investors can start building infrastructures like hospitals and education facilities.

Quotes from panelists

“Looking back at the three generations of new cities, intentions were good but implementation required better management, and governance.”

-Sahar Attia

“Designing a new city is not just about the master plan, the strategy, the implementation or the governance but making a place where people want to live.”

-David Shaw

Best comments/questions from the audience

- If city councils became independent entities, then they would have the authority to operate services such as public transportation, schools and hospitals, rather than waiting for several ministries to take responsibility.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Sahar Attia

*Head of the Department of Architecture,
Cairo University*

- While new cities may have been well-planned, implementation has been unsuccessful to do various reasons including a lack of coordination between urban service providers and industrial developers; and an unclear division of responsibilities within and between the relevant organizations. For example, there is confusion over whether the Urban Communities Agency is responsible for building schools or the Educational Directorate.
- New cities currently lack sustainable solutions, connectivity, good governance, and proper marketing policies and population distribution models.
- It is important to have a national urban policy as we continue to beg the question of whether we should work bottom-up or top-down. We need to link the new administrative capital to the existing one with public transportation, and identify how to create jobs and corridors of development. Similarly New Alamein should be easily accessible with public transportation.
- In most case we build new communities in order to solve an existing problem, rather than being proactive in preventing these problems by ensuring cities are sustainable and green.

Eng. Kamal Fahmy

*Deputy Chief for Urban Development and
City Upgrading, New Urban Communities
Authority*

- From the onset, new cities encountered key development challenges due to inadequate planning and coordination. For example, there was no strategy to attract populations to these new cities, and there was confusion as to whether services such as transportation, schools, and hospitals should be built and fully functional before or after inhabitants arrive.
- The unclear distribution of tasks and lack of coordination among ministries involved in developing new cities was a drastic setback. Since the Ministry of Housing (MoH) implemented the first task of constructing houses, other ministries wrongly assumed it was the MOH's responsibility to construct and put into operation all other services. Also, since the Public Transport Authority did not fall under the authority of NUCA, there was no general vision of how transportation would operate within new cities. The lack of services consequently limited migration to new cities.
- EGP 80 million has been allocated to developing the 4th generation of new cities, and NUCA is taking into consideration the lessons learned from previous efforts. To date, 7 million people are living in new cities with future plans to reach 17 million. Also, to gain a comprehensive understanding of citizen needs, NUCA has included civil society in the new city's board of

New Cities & Urban Communities Map

Since 1979, Egypt built 28 new cities and urban communities over three generations with more under construction.



Source: www.tadamun.info based on NUCA data

trustees with future plans to engage civil society in the management of these cities.

Eng. Manal Shaheen
Manager for Northern Governorates and Greater Cairo NGOs, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

- Building new cities to relocate inhabitants from slum areas has proven to be unsuccessful, as very little thought has been given on how low-income communities will inhabit these cities, what their needs might be, and how they will be part of the community fabric. In addition, urban service delivery has always been left to the last phase of development when it should be the first priority.
- For two years, residents in slum areas have been urged to relocate to new cities on the outskirts of Cairo; however despite high-class facilities, these new cities greatly lacked adequate services. For example, in 6th of October City there are no transportation services after 3:00pm. This greatly limits mobility for low-income communities who do not own vehicles and is the reason many new facilities such as schools and hospitals were missing professional and administrative staff. After two months of relocating to new cities many residents moved back to slums.

Featured Initiative: Zarzaraa has been a slum area for over 20 years. In 2012, MURIS implemented a project to relocate residents in Zarzaraa to vacant housing units in Port Said. First, a survey of the resident's needs was conducted and minimum standards for vacant units

were established. For example, vacant units must have a bedroom, reception, kitchen, and bathroom. The process of transition required residents to present a receipt indicating that they demolished their slum homes and they received their housing units immediately. The project was miraculously finalized in 10 months, where 300 families in Zarzaraa relocated to vacant housing units in Port Said. Although skeptical at first, these families became extremely overjoyed that their living conditions improved and that they owned their new homes.

Dr. David Shaw
Professor of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool

- Cities are complicated, complex, and dynamic; they continuously change, evolve, and develop. Hence, urban stakeholder must think of how to create strategies, frameworks, or plans that are susceptible to change over time. Resilient cities have systems that can adapt to change and shocks. Egypt tends to associate green cities with resilient cities; however what is a green city in the Egyptian context? Is it more green spaces or low carbon, smart, energy efficient cities? Also, what is meant by a resilient new city? Does it mean the city will be a closed system when it comes to energy or water supply and production, or an open system connected to the rest of the country?
- For the Ministry in the lead of urban development -the Ministry of Housing-, there are two key questions: (1) in the first phase of development should the infrastructures

come first or should the city be fully populated 20 to 30 years down the line?; and (2) how can ministries collaborate to agree on a common vision for Egypt and join efforts and budgets to help deliver and pay for the economic and social infrastructures that people will need?

- There is a lack of discussion on who will provide new jobs and what types of jobs will be available in new cities. Do we know what types of economic activity will attract people to new cities? The concept of “smart specialization” may be relevant, which implies that specific places should have specific attributes - which may be economic, social, or cultural - for which they want to be recognized for, and these attributes are then marketed.
- If the new cities are to be closed, we have to determine what type of governance structure we need: would a development agency have the power and authority to deliver all this infrastructure, or can this be done in partnership with the private sector and the civil society?

DISCUSSION

General comments/ questions from the audience include:

- In new cities, there are no places for pedestrians to walk because these cities have been designed for cars and vehicles. Future plans must take into consideration pedestrians.

Specific comments/ questions to the panelists include:

- Informal settlements emerged due to people's desire to live in a particular place, and then it becomes difficult to develop these areas because residents resist. For example, for 300 years new buildings were not allowed to be constructed in a slum area in Calcutta, India. How can we eradicate informal settlements when people are historically tied to them?

- Response from Pr. Hany Ayad: Residents do not resist improvement. They feel that they are going to be “gentrified” or alienated. They will not resist change if they are assured that they will have adequate replacement or improvement of their current residences.

- What efforts have been undertaken in new cities to benefit low-income communities?

- Response from Eng. Kamal Fahmy: In Sheikh Zayed, a market area was created for street vendors to sell their goods and now all street vendors convene here on a daily basis.

- The Zarzara project is clearly a successful initiative. Were there any lessons learned from this experience?

- Response from Eng. Manal Shaheen: After following up with residents, it was determined that many did not require balconies and they removed them which made their apartment look unpleasant. Hence, we began to ask residents about their preference for balconies. In addition, there were no community centers in proximity to the resident's new housing area, and this was taken into consideration in the following phases.

- Most people living in slums are handymen, therefore when they are relocated to other areas there must be a storage facility or garden for them to store their animals and tools. New buildings must be designed to cater these needs.

- Response from Dr. Sahar Attia: Most of the people living in slums come from the countryside and therefore the priority should be improving and enhancing the countryside so that migration from these places does not need to occur.



From left to right: Eng. Kamal Fahmy, Dr. Hany Ayad, Eng. Manal Shaheen and Dr. David Shaw

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities
and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

General Organization for
Physical Planning:
www.gopp.gov.eg

New Urban Communities
Authority, Ministry of
Housing:
www.nuca.gov.eg/en/Home.aspx



THEME 1 / URBAN PLANNING & RENEWAL

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

11:00 am : 12:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

public space, community, rights, women's empowerment, economy, health, transportation, social cohesion, culture, design, commercial areas, resilience, environment, place making, identity

SESSION 4 PUBLIC SPACE

Introduction

It is easy to sense the lack of public spaces in Egyptian cities by simply walking around. The few public spaces that do exist are usually fenced around and difficult to access. Some argue that public space is a minor issue compared to other challenges, in addition to the fact that significant resources are needed to maintain these areas. How public spaces can be inclusive and frequented by society is another concern, as well as how to acquire the land for public spaces, especially in informal areas or inner city areas with high densities. This session discussed if and what kind of public spaces are needed in Egypt, how urban planning tools can help create sustainable public spaces and what we can learn from existing public spaces in Egypt.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss the following questions/ issues

- Are we entitled to adequate public space in Egyptian cities?
- What are the lessons learned from the regeneration of public space in Luxor? How can we include public space in legislations?
- In what ways can we ensure the sustainability of inclusive public space?
- How can planning tools and methodologies ensure the availability, maintenance, and safety of public space for recreation and community gathering?
- How is MURIS ⁽¹⁾ negotiating public space in existing informal areas and upgraded planned areas?

1. Ministry of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Panelists

Mr. Dyfed Aubrey,

*Regional Director (A.I.) UN-HABITAT Regional Office
for Arab States*

Mrs. Sohailah El Sawy, Chair,

*The Egyptian Association for Environment and
Community Service*

Dr. Ayman Ashour,

Dean of Ain Shams University, Ain Shams University

Dr. Eman El-Nashar,

*Prof. of Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan
University*

Mrs. Sondos Abdallah,

Coloring the Grey of the City Initiative

Moderator

Dr. Bassem Fahmy

*MRTPI, Consultant, Principal Advisor, Strategic Planning
and Urban Development Program, UN-Habitat Egypt
Project Office*

Al-Azhar Park, Cairo



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- The question of public space goes beyond notions of landscape, services or social purpose; it is at the core of the city's identity and strategic planning process.
- Three reasons explain why public space is scarce in Egyptian cities: first, its inadequate and insufficient allocation, second its privatization for particular or corporatist interest and third, its common cases of misuse and abuse. Consequently, there is a dire need to develop projects that create or regenerate public space. Previous experience show that the participatory approach is particularly essential to such projects for it will ensure that public space is well maintained and serves the general interest in the long term.

Key findings

- Al-Azhar Park in Cairo or Karnak Temple Piazza in Luxor successfully demonstrate the relation between adequate public space and economic and social development.
- The presence of a river in an urban context provides the opportunity for creating attractive public space. In Luxor, the *Corniche* has been availed for the public whereas in Cairo, its accessibility is highly limited by the presence of private clubs and corporatist organizations.
- Cairo is at a juncture: the governmental plan to build a new capital district raises a concern that we turn our back to existing Cairo by expanding horizontally.

However, this plan can be seen as a unique opportunity to redistribute public space in a more harmonious and sustainable way. The example of Malaysia provides food for thought: the government built the planned city of Putrajaya to shift the seat of the government from the overcrowded and congested capital city of Kuala Lumpur to an intelligent city that would grant 38% of its space to green areas.

Panelists' propositions

- At a time when the government plans for a new administrative capital district, it is important to make a political gesture in favor of existing Cairo by directing investments into rehabilitation projects. The state should inventory 100 derelict sites in Cairo and turn those into public spaces.
- The state should enforce a clear separation between commercial and residential areas.
- Urban stakeholders should give local communities a voice and an agency in all projects dealing with public space.
- The government should encourage investments in low-income areas to make them more livable.
- The design of public space should incorporate aspects of residents' identity and draw upon applied sciences such as environmental psychology.

Quotes from panelists

“The quality of public space has a direct correlation to the economic value of the city.”

-Dyfed Aubrey.

“Who wouldn’t like to see the Corniche becoming a public space?”

-Dyfed Aubrey.

“When regulations are not enforced, people exploit public space and turn it into private use.”

-Sobailah El Sawy

Comments/questions from the audience

- The allocation of public space is a matter of social equity. For instance the allocation of green areas should be more balanced between high-income and low-income neighborhoods.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Mrs. Sohailah El Sawy,
*Chair, the Egyptian Association for
Environment and Community Services*

- Urbanization has hi-jacked space that could otherwise be used to provide open and green public spaces, which are drastically lacking in Egypt. For the public spaces that do exist, prevailing problems include the lack of pavements, which is a pedestrian's right; the lack of respect to protected surroundings; the abuse of public space including squares and protected gardens; and the misuse of private clubs and youth centers. It must be engrained that public space is not lawless.
- A few ways to address the problems of public spaces are to establish a clear demarcation between commercial and residential areas since both spaces serve different purposes, and to rethink designs that would promote sustainable maintenance and monitoring.
- Small community garden projects should be further promoted given the success-rate of these projects, particularly in residential areas; as well as their ability to strengthen the voice of local communities.

Dr. Ayman Ashour,
*Dean of Ain Shams University, Ain Shams
University*

- The regeneration of public spaces in Luxor City serves as an excellent example of how participatory development can lead to meaningful change. These

projects drew upon the strategic planning of Luxor and focused on heritage preservation, tourism development and housing, services, and shelter. Notable regeneration projects include:

- **Market Street;** which was redesigned with a gate to invite tourists while also providing shade to vendors and local customers. Specifications for each shop and the flooring materials were determined in consultation with the community.
- **El Mahatta Street;** which connects the railway station to Luxor temple. The design included widening the sidewalks with a green buffer zone between the sidewalk and traffic lanes. Street furniture, textures, and materials were carefully chosen for this project.
- **Karnak Temple Piazza;** which is an important historical and touristic spot overlooking the Hatshepsut temple, was deteriorating due to the lack of site management. A master plan was developed to renovate the entire site so that it could strategically serve multiple purposes. The next step to complete the process will be to renovate the ancient port.
- **The Luxor Temple Piazza;** which is a major historical location combining Pharaonic, Roman and Islamic heritage. The rehabilitation had to accommodate the needs of different audiences such as the tourists, the local mosque, local residents and visitors coming from Upper Egypt. The space is now used for cultural heritage projects and has become the main spot for celebrations in Luxor.

Mrs. Sondos Abdallah,
Coloring the Grey City

- Aspiring to change the grey setting that drapes Cairo's streets and dulls the spirits of Egyptians, a group of student's at Helwan University's Faculty of Fine Arts came up with the idea of coloring different parts of the city's spaces such as staircases, bridges, and playgrounds.
- The success and sustainability of the project is heavily reliant on the support and participation of residents who develop a sense of ownership of the project and further maintain the spaces and designs. The project is also supported by Takween Integrated Community Development and is approved by the government.
- Next projects will focus on coloring slums in Cairo and Giza. In addition, these initiatives have inspired other coloring campaigns across the city; most notably the painting of the 6th of October Bridge.

Dr. Eman El-Nashar,
Prof. of Architecture, Faculty of Fine Arts

- The concept of place-making is a process by which city identity is structured by the self-identities of its inhabitants; while place identity is a substructure of self-identify.
- Current discussions on the identity of cities/ places tend to focus on whether imported Western designs are fitting in non-Western countries. However, there is very little examination on how to investigate the identity of

a place/ city as part of the resident's self-identity, and consequently, a lack of intelligent design incorporating the concept of identity as a need of residents.

- Applied sciences, such as environmental psychology, could play a more dominant role in the design of public spaces and developing different quantitative and qualitative perspectives.



"Coloring The Grey City" Initiative



Geneina - Meet & Play Area: A public open space designed and implemented by Takween and Make Space for Play (Renet Korthals Altes) in participation with Egyptian and Syrian women and children of Masaken Uthman, 6th of October City

Mr. Dyfed Aubrey,
*Regional Director (A.I.) UN-HABITAT Regional
Office for Arab States*

- UN-Habitat’s research on “the City Prosperity Index” determined that city resilience and competitiveness had a high correlation with the number of public spaces. The Habitat III Conference in Quito to be held in 2016 aims at allocating public spaces in 50% of the city space, including 30% of streets.
- Cairo has become too congested and there has been a trend to move outside the city center with the objective of developing horizontally. This is ultimately the result of inadequate allocation of public space, privatization of public space and created enclosed spaces for the wealthy. Although some public spaces do exist in Cairo, such as Al-Azhar Park, great efforts are required to show that Cairo is still being developed and strategies should link investments in public space with public transportation.
- Cairo is at a juncture. With the plan for the new administrative capital district, there is a concern that we shouldn’t turn our back to the existing Cairo. In the 1990s, Malaysia decided to build Putrajaya, a new federal administrative center, which was only 25 km away from the existing capital city of Kuala Lumpur. The concept of this planned city was to shift the seat of the government from the overcrowded and congested capital city of Kuala Lumpur to an intelligent city that would grant 38% of its space to green areas. A grand political gesture would show that existing Cairo is still being developed and that

investments in low -income areas will make them more livable. Who wouldn’t like to see the Corniche becoming a public space? Just like Berlin successfully transformed 20 derelict sites into green corridors, Cairo could easily identify 100 derelict sites to transform into public spaces.

Mr. Dyfed Aubrey,
*Regional Director (A.I.) UN-HABITAT Regional
Office for Arab States*

Public space can be defined as “areas of the city that are freely accessed by all such as open space, streets and buildings”. There are 7 key attributes of public space:

- (1) Public spaces shape the character of a city (its' boulevards, streets, squares, gardens, public edifices), fosters a sense of identity, and exposes the image of the country.
- (2) Public spaces support the economy: the quality of public spaces has a direct correlation to the economic value of the city and the employment, business and tourism it can generate. Good streets, markets, and parks are vital as a marketing tool for the city.
- (3) At a social level, public spaces support social cohesion. These spaces are open to all regardless of ethnicity, age, and gender; and they bring communities together and provide a sense of place and identity known as “the poor man’s living room”. Even people living in low standard housing can have access to quality public spaces, which has a vast improvement on their wellbeing and quality of life. Women are more likely to use public space than men, thus public spaces are a platform for women’s empowerment.

4) Public spaces increase the safety of cities. Mixed, vibrant and busy public spaces reduce vulnerability, and are closely related to better living standards of surrounding residents. Conversely, when public spaces are poorly designed and managed they can become locations that attract crime.

5) Public spaces can improve public health through physical activity such as walking and cycling. Children can develop social skills through playing in these areas. In addition, green areas and mental health are closely related.

6) Public spaces can create transport efficiency. When planners allocate more space for streets, people are able to move more effectively around the city and this further allows for the use of a wider range of public transportation modes such as walking, cycling, cars, and public transport.

7) Public spaces help improve the environment. Green spaces clean the air by absorbing pollution and encouraging cycling and walking.

DISCUSSION

Comments/ questions from the audience include

- There should be a balance of green spaces in higher income and lower income areas.
 - Modern physical interventions should be limited in historical areas because they reduce the urban value.
 - How can we balance large governmental interventions with the right of people to their residence and land?
- The focus of public spaces should be on the needs of the tourism sector, such as the successful development of the *Corniche* as well as parks in Luxor.
 - A specific code of behavior is needed in the use of public spaces.
 - It would be useful to have a simply furnished public space where citizens can use empty zones in creative and ephemeral ways.

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

General Organization for Physical Planning:
www.gopp.gov.eg

New Urban Communities Authority, Ministry of Housing:
www.nuca.gov.eg/en/Home.aspx

Coloring the grey city:
facebook.com/coloringgreycity

United Nations for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), Egypt:
www.unhabitat.org/egypt

Takween initiative in Masaken Uthman:
facebook.com/takween.icd/videos/1049210231755636/



From left to right: Dr. Eman El-Nashar, Mrs. Sohailah El Sawy, Dr. Ayman Ashour, Mrs. Sondos Abdallah and Mr. Dyfed Aubrey



- 
- Plenary Session 1: National Urban Vision and Mega Projects
 - Plenary Session 2: International and Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation
 - Plenary Session 3: Towards the Habitat III Conference
 - Plenary Session 4: Identity, Culture and Heritage
 - Theme 1: Urban Planning & Renewal
 - **Theme 2: Urban Governance**
 - Theme 3: Urban Housing
 - Theme 4: Urban Service Delivery
 - Theme 5: Urban Economy



THEME 2/ URBAN GOVERNANCE

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

9:00 am : 10:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

participation, civil society, rights, representation, trust, democracy, state constitution, local governments, legal framework, service delivery, partnerships, collaboration, resource gap, coordination, inclusion

SESSION 1 CIVIL SOCIETY AND URBAN GOVERNANCE

Introduction

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Egypt continue to play a vital role addressing a wide range of urban development challenges. This session explored (1) the extent to which CSOs are able to effectively participate in the provision of public services and urban governance; (2) the degree to which they are able to collaborate with local governments; and (3) the reforms needed to enhance the role of CSOs in urban development drawing on both local and international experiences.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- What initiatives do CSOs have for the enhancement of city management and the improvement of public services in the Egyptian cities?
- What are the opportunities and challenges of involving CSOs in urban development?
- What are the lessons learned internationally where CSOs have effectively participated in urban governance and planning? Which lessons are particularly beneficial for the Egyptian context?
- What is the expected role of CSOs in sustainable urban development? What is the social accountability and the role of CSOs when holding local governments accountable?
- To what extent have local governments been able to create an enabling environment for partnership and actively engage with CSOs in urban development?
- What is the needed reform to enable CSOs to actively engage in enhancing urban development in Egypt?

Panelists

Dr. Mosaad Radwan

Ministry of Social Solidarity

Dr. Fahima El-Shahed

General Organization for Physical Planning, Ministry of Housing, Urban utilities and Urban Development

Dr. Teresa Caldeira

Professor of City and Regional Planning, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Selim Shahine

Vice President, Zamalek Association for Services Development

Mr. Hani El Sharkawy

Popular Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, Mit Oqba

Eng Abdel Monéim Magdy

Sport Club Al- Ahly Upper Egypt

Moderator

Mr. Khalil Shaat

Water and Wastewater Management Programme (WWMP), Senior Policy Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Community Workshop, El-Minya



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Governments recognize that they are not the only actors of urban development. CSOs play a vital role, often filling a gap. Around the world, municipal governments such as Brazil's have mainstreamed participatory approaches that involve civil society in policymaking decisions, and have institutionalized channels for policy dialogue with citizens at the local level. In Egypt, there are several local, small-scale examples of successful partnerships between national government agencies and CSOs to improve the provision of public services, especially for poor and marginalized citizens, but these efforts are scattered and lack a unified legal framework.

Contrasting views

- The government views CSOs as implementing agencies that fill a capacity and resource gap at the local level; on the other hand, CSOs view government as a full partner, in both policy making and policy implementation. For the government, this gap results from the absence of a legal framework, in addition to limited resources; for CSOs, the lack of resources and a unified legal framework reflects weak government commitment.

Panelists' propositions

- Improving services will not solve the question of democracy; it will only solve the question of services. The quality of democracy requires institutionalized mechanisms of participation which guarantees people's right to be represented through an electoral process.

- Stakeholders should consider international best practices of institutionalizing the participation of civil society in policymaking and policy implementation at the local level. Such partnerships work best with local governments.

Quotes from panelists

- ***“People who have lived in good faith in a piece of land had the right to claim it.”***

–The Urban policy chapter in Brazil Constitution, according to Dr. Teresa Caldeira

- ***“Development cannot succeed with the government acting alone.”***

–Dr. Mosaad Radwan

- ***“Every master plan should have a mechanism that assigns a role to the NGOs, the municipalities and the private sector.”***

–Dr. Fahima El Shahed.

Key findings

- Coordination and the division of work with civil society is essential for the government to succeed in its development efforts.
- The voice of NGOs is essential in strengthening democracy; however NGOs do not represent people in a democratic manner simply because it is not their function. Without elections, society will reproduce privileges

of those who have the capacity to be proactive and organize and neglect those who do not.

- A small-scale project in Zagazig shows that Government and CSOs can work collaboratively to include people with disabilities in many aspects of urban life.
- When NGOs replace local governments in the provision of public services, transferring the responsibility to local authorities has been difficult due to the lack of capacities and skills of local public administration and staff.

Key comment from audience

- The relationship between government and CSOs is not always ideal because NGOs are rarely consulted in early stages of planning, they don't know who their counterparts are, they have limited access to information, and in cases where there are disputes the courts tend to favor the government. In addition, despite the vast knowledge of academia, they are rarely consulted for their expertise.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Eng. Abdel Monéim Magdy *Sport Club Al- Ahly Upper Egypt*

- The UNDP in partnership with Fab Lab Egypt and Misr El Kheir Foundation held a 3-day workshop in Cairo entitled 'Design for Integrated living'. This workshop focused on the integration of persons with disabilities in society and considered the possibilities of introducing changes in the design of streets, parking lots, apartments, and places of employment.
- The government has recently entered into a partnership with a local NGO in Zagazig to finance various initiatives aimed at improving the accessibility of places and services for persons with disabilities. This initiative represents an important opportunity of cooperation among government, CSOs and people with disabilities.

Dr. Selim Shahine *Vice President, Zamalek Association for Services Development*

- The Zamalek Association (ZA) is a non-profit organization established in 1991 with a mission of improving urban conditions and providing social services to the Zamalek district in collaboration with the residents and government. ZA has grown to 360 members who carry out various voluntary activities such as repairing streets, collecting garbage, and restoring public parks. ZA also organizes cultural activities such as concerts and fund-raising activities.

- ZA faces various difficulties implementing activities. It is essential to have good relations with government agencies, local city administrators, residents, and businesses for ZA to succeed.
- When NGOs fulfill a gap in local public services, they view local public administrations as the logical institution to eventually take over. For example, in undertaking its tree preservation project, ZA mobilized resources and equipment and built the capacity of the local district or "hay" through training workshops for city employees. However, the main problem with sustaining these projects and handing them over was a lack of long-term commitment from the local districts, which are constantly reassigned to address other issues.
- New technologies offer new possibilities to improve local services and engage the local community in these efforts. For example, ZA has used GIS technology and smart phone applications to develop a database on tree maintenance and preservation and enable local communities to learn and participate in the project.

Eng. Hani Sharkawy *Popular Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, Mit Oqba*

- The Popular Committee for the Defense of the Revolution was established on January 28th, 2011 in order to provide protection to the inhabitants of the Mit Oqba district. The Committee implements various types of activities in collaboration with government officials and

the inhabitants of the district. More recently, the Committee has submitted proposals to MURIS for urban upgrading projects.

- Despite the constant rotation of government officials, the Committee managed to achieve major developments such as paving at least 10 streets, delivering butane bottles to households, extending natural gas pipes to the district, planting trees, painting streets and coloring the façade of houses, and halting the privatization of the district's public hospital.

Dr. Mosaad Radwan,
Ministry of Social Solidarity.

- The pervasive notion that the government only issues orders to CSOs and NGOs is false. Although CSOs and NGOs fall under the authority of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), the Ministry strives to partner and create an enabling environment for civil society to work. At the same time, society requires the government to take action against violations committed by NGOs, although at this point the government lacks proper legislation to sanction violations.
- Development cannot succeed with the government acting alone. For the first time, civil society is able to compete for funds from MoSS, which has allocated a total of LE 560 million for different types of projects, particularly those targeting homeless children.

Dr. Fahima El-Shahed
General Organization for Physical Planning.

- Since the 119 Building Law of 2008, civil society is supposed to play an essential role in the process of urban development and should be considered a strategic partner in all phases of projects from planning and funding to implementation.
- When developing an area, government efforts have to be done hand in hand with the citizens inhabiting the neighborhood whether they are volunteers from the public or organized through an NGO. The key features of collaborating with civil society is their ability to bridge the gap of trust between citizens and the government through knowledge dissemination, and their capacity to assess local needs.
- NGOs can be really effective in helping the government provide basic services such as education, waste management, and city maintenance. On the other hand, the quality of work of NGOs varies from excellent to poor, and they are not always present in remote or rural areas.

Dr. Teresa Caldeira, Berkeley

Featured Initiative: The Role of CSOs and Citizens in Brazil's Urban Reform

Brazil's transition to democracy in the mid-1980s represents one of the most successful cases of urban planning achieved in collaboration with citizens and CSOs. For example, to influence public policy CSOs formed a coalition for urban reform operating at the local level in more than 1000 neighborhoods and cities. By mobilizing a petition of over 100,000 signatures, CSOs were able to take part in the drafting of the constitution and particularly contributed to the chapter on urban policy, which stressed two important principles:

- (1) Any property must fulfill a social function; for example, a property cannot be left vacant.
- (2) People who have lived in good faith in a piece of land had the right to claim it through a process called "adverse possession".

The chapter on urban policy eventually inspired a new federal law known as the "City Statute" which became a model throughout Latin America and around the world on how to develop policy and institutionalize mechanisms of participation. The "City Statute" was not designed to instruct local governments on what to plan in their cities; but rather how to develop a master plan that took into consideration popular participation in cities with 20,000 or more inhabitants. To do this, the Ministry of Cities - created in 2003 by President Lula

– developed a toolkit for 1,600 cities. This toolkit included a CD profiling each city's statistics and a simulation card game outlining different planning instruments for each city to consider according to its specific context. The Ministry of Cities conducted widespread awareness-raising via various media outlets, and provided training sessions on how to participate and enhance skills in urban planning and architecture.

Challenges? Although training sessions were conducted, the participation of the poor was insufficient because they lacked the time and ability to effectively understand the laws and processes of planning, especially since they were preoccupied with making a living. In addition, in big cities like Sao Paulo with a population of 10 million, the mechanisms of participation worked however they were more complicated to implement.

What worked? The participatory planning approach fostered a greater interest in communities to improve their neighborhoods and ensured a sense of belonging to their cities. The participation of the rich was unexpectedly high. In contrast to traditional ways of lobbying and clientelist networking, the rich proceeded through the bottom-up participation process. As intended, urban planning was initiated at the neighborhood level and worked its way up to the city level. This was facilitated through local elections and the new councils that were formed with elected representatives in sectors such as health, education, and women's rights.



From left to right: Dr. Fahima Elshahed, Eng. Abdel Monéim Magdy, Dr. Teresa Caldeira, Mr. Khalil Shaat, Dr. Selim Shahine, Mr. Hani El Sharkawy and Dr. Mosaad Radwan

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Social Solidarity:
www.moss.gov.eg

Zamalek Association:
zamalekassociation.org

GOPP:
www.gopp.gov.eg

“The City Statute of Brazil: A Commentary”:
www.citiesalliance.org/node/1947

More information on Mit Oqba district:
www.tadamun.info/?post_type=city&p=2417#.VuIN-7px97IV



THEME 2/ URBAN GOVERNANCE

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

11:00 am : 12:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

legal framework, elections, centralization, decentralization, sustainable planning, coordination, governors, access to information, budgets, districts, demography, social incubators

SESSION 2 METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE

Introduction

The emergence of metropolises and megacities has been fueling the debate concerning management and governance of these new types of urban agglomerations. Metropolises and megacities in the developing world have grown to their current size as a result of urban expansion over rural land. This has led to less trust on state institutions and more reliance on grassroots organizations for the provision of basic services. At the same time, the role of the private sector in urban development has increased substantially in detriment of governmental intervention. In the Greater Cairo region (Cairo, Giza and Qalyubia), more than 66% of the population are currently residing in informal areas, yet the region contributes to about 43% of Egypt's GDP. In addition, the region is a destination for major foreign direct investments and multinational corporate, public and private services and recreational activities. This session explored the current context of governance in Greater Cairo and the current mechanisms of cooperation between the three governorates forming the region, as well as their cooperation with the central government and non-state actors.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- How do the three governorates forming the Greater Cairo Region and the different subsequent local administrative units engage with each other?
- To what extent do the current arrangements of metropolitan governance contribute to equity, accountability and participation?
- How and why does a metropolitan region work and how should it operate?
- Which practical recommendations can be made to improve good urban governance at a metropolitan scale?

Panelists

Dr. Khaled Zakaria

Governor of Giza

Dr. Mahmoud Sherif

Ex-Minister of Local Development and Ex-Governor of Cairo

Mr. Ahmed Moustafa Hassan

Save Alex Initiative

Mr. Ramy Yasser

Mahaliat Initiative

Mr. David Sims

Economist and Urban Planner

Moderator

Dr. Mohamed Nada

Program Manager and Advisor on Decentralization, Urban Policies, Governance and Legislations Program, UN-Habitat Egypt

Citadel view from Manshyet Naser



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- The Greater Cairo region suffers from a lack of effective governance due to an array of interrelated factors such as: institutional fragmentation, top-down decision-making, fiscal centralization, poor access to information, including socio-economic development indicators, and weak accountability mechanisms.
- In Egypt, cooperation and coordination between the government, civil society, and local authorities is weak and lagging although it is widely acknowledged as a necessity.

Diverging responses

- To facilitate the development of the Greater Cairo region, the legal framework has stipulated the establishment of a coordination committee for the three governorates of Cairo, Giza, and Qaliubiyya; however this committee has been inactive for the past decade
- Civil society, international organizations, and governors think that establishing a committee is insufficient in addressing root problems. The priority should be major reform, which leads to decentralized arrangements, including more fiscal decision-making in relation to key functions within the mandate of local government. This would foster efficient and collaborative urban planning, implementation and service delivery between governors and civil society.

Panelists' propositions

- The government needs to reconsider the way administrative districts are demarcated in order to respond to the changing demographic characteristics of these districts.
- Governorates need to be transparent by publishing their budgets, progress reports, and final financial accounts.
- The government needs to institutionalize participatory development to guarantee the right of citizens and non-state actors to participate in the planning and implementation of socio-economic plans and developmental initiatives, including at the local level.
- Administrative decentralization should be coupled with fiscal decentralization; a legal and institutional reform would help clarify the roles and responsibilities of different actors at the central, regional, and local levels.
- Social accountability, among other forms of accountability, is needed to enhance efficient and effective service delivery.

Quotes

- *“Because citizens know the nuts and bolts of issues they can help find long term solutions for their city.”*

Khaled Zakaria

- *“When we say decentralization it is not a call for the disintegration of the State.”*

Ramy Yasser

- *“Coordination is a difficult word in the Egyptian dictionary.”*

Ehab Shalan

Key findings

- There is a nation-wide network of 4,500 cooperative associations representing 13 million people in Egypt who have the potential to contribute to urban development.
- The gap between policies and actual implementation can only be closed when Egypt experiences a systemic change in mindsets regarding the inclusion of different sectors and levels of society in designing urban development projects.

Key comments from the audience

- Governorates should establish social incubators to foster collaborative work at the local level and launch awareness-raising campaigns concerning urban issues.
- The government needs to support original research in poor neighborhoods, given that prominent urban issues are mostly found there.

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

Dr. David Sims

Economist and Urban Planner

- To achieve sustainable urban planning in Greater Cairo, Egypt should consider best practices from countries such as France, Poland and Brazil where robust legislative frameworks govern the management and development of the capital city or metropolitan entities. Active cooperation between governorates as well as institutionalizing the role of civil society will also improve sustainable urban planning. Creating a new authority in charge of the Greater Cairo urban area is an option as well.
- In Greater Cairo, it is currently unclear which public entity is responsible for planning, managing and financing services such as transportation, infrastructure, water, sewerage, electricity, telecommunications, and natural gas. This is primarily because decision-making is fragmented between many different state institutions that operate in silos and have overlapping responsibilities.
- Interventions by the three governorates have produced minimal change due to the lack of funding and decision-making allocated to them by the central state.
- The political representation of cities and local areas is currently nonexistent because the elected local councils were dissolved after the revolution and they will not reemerge until local elections are implemented in the country. The Parliamentary representation is weakened by the unclear demarcation of electoral districts.

Dr. Khaled Zakaria

Governor of Giza

- Egypt's overall governance is experiencing a transition period, which has generated a sense of contradiction between the spirit of the constitution and the current legislation. For example, the constitution promotes the role of NGOs, however new legislation restricts the work of civil society.
- The way current districts are demarcated do not take into consideration demographic characteristics, which prevents people from working collectively. Accordingly, we need to redraw our administrative districts.
- Greater Cairo is a metropolitan region with three governors and three strategic plans that are not interlinked. Accordingly, an integrated strategy for the region is needed along with corresponding resources.
- CSOs are indispensable to the government, which cannot work alone. In Giza, the governorate engages with youth and CSOs; however these efforts are limited because of the absence of local councils.

Dr. Mahmoud Sherif

Ex-Minister of Local Development and Ex-Governor of Cairo,

- The accurate geographical perimeters of Greater Cairo are Cairo Governorate, Urban Giza and Shubra al-Qadi-ma in Qalyubia Governorate.
- To better manage Greater Cairo, a higher council was established between the three governorates; however this higher council has been rather ineffective given that very few meetings have been organized and disagreements on internal functions were never resolved.
- The provision of services in Greater Cairo is marked by an unclear and confusing division of responsibilities. For example, two transportation entities, CGG (blue buses) and the Greater Cairo Bus Transit Company cover approximately the same area. Accordingly, there is a need for a service sector to cover all of Greater Cairo without complications and interferences between the different authorities.
- Given that there are more than 4,500 cooperative associations representing 13 million people in rural Egypt, the role and development of cooperative associations should be given priority.

Mr. Ramy Yasser

Mahaliyat Initiative

- The Mahaliyat Initiative is one of the few initiatives in Egypt focusing on reforming local government and raising public awareness about the importance of local government, their different roles and responsibilities, and how residents can be more involved in the management of their local communities.
- Coordination between the three governorates in Greater Cairo is necessary but currently inexistent, as well as the lack of cooperation between government, civil society, and local authorities.
- The impact of centralization is felt whether working inside or outside big cities such as Cairo. Governors do not have the instruments and budgets to run basic services such as health, housing, transport and education within their own governorates. Accordingly, the Mahaliyat Initiative advocates for the redistribution of responsibilities between the central and local government.
- In the same way that civil society is perceived as vital to urban development based on their expertise, local governments are equally if not more vital because their legitimacy to address local needs is drawn from elections. Similarly, just as local governments have their flaws, some NGOs in Egypt have existed for 25 years managing large budgets without producing anything tangible.

Mr. Ahmed Hassan
Save Alex Association

- In the aftermath of the 2011 Revolution, a number of demolition permits for heritage buildings were issued. The various groups that began protesting the demolition of these buildings eventually united to form the Save Alex initiative with the objective of preserving the built environment of Alexandria by raising-awareness about the city's remaining architectural heritage.

- Save Alex interacts with local government regularly, however the lack of formal channels to express demands was a major hindrance in the effort to preserve and develop heritage buildings.
- The deterioration of historical buildings is often blamed on people and the lack of proper legislation; however the underlying problem is related to the lack of heritage programs directed to locals. In addition, improving access to governmental information in this field would enable NGOs to better inform the public.



Demolition of Villa Aghion, Alexandria

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- The style of decision-making and implementation in the government appears to be clandestine or confidential. Public projects such as building a bridge or road concerns all people, and therefore they should be included in these types of decisions.
- Communities have the ability to take matters into their own hands and improve their surrounding environment.
- The government tends to reinvent the wheel rather than learning from cities such as Paris, Madrid, London and New York which have similar experiences of metropolitan governance.
- The role of governors is not as powerful or influential as often perceived because they are confined by the limited budgets allocated to them by the central government. This impedes their ability to be held accountable and thus this system should be dismantled. In addition, their mandates have become very limited as a result of various laws and decrees that were issued over the past three decades.



From left to right: Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Dr. Mahmoud Sherif, Mr. David Sims, Mr. Ramy Yasser, Dr. Khaled Zakaria and Dr. Mohamed Nada

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Local Development:
www.mld.gov.eg/arabic/default.htm

Ministry of Planning:
www.mop.gov.eg

Save Alex initiative:
facebook.com/savealexeg



THEME 2/ URBAN GOVERNANCE

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

4:30 pm : 6:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords:

national urban policy, informal settlements, demography, planning, participation, legal framework, implementation, funding, diagnostics, infrastructure, inequalities, system of cities, governorates

SESSION 3 NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

The Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Program, in its resolution 24/5 encouraged governments to initiate processes “to review, strengthen and develop national urban policies as a key strategy for national socio-economic development, to maximize the national and local benefits of urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities, as well as a coordinating mechanisms amongst different sectors and ministries” (UN-Habitat 2013, 24/5.1). The Egyptian NUP would aim at curbing spatial inequalities and socio-economic disparities between the country’s regions.

Lessons learned from the international experience suggest that a progressive NUP should promote inclusive national urban policies that assert urban space and territoriality. In addition NUPs should seek to strengthen the link between urbanization, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability by guiding the urbanization process towards a balanced and well-dispersed urban network.

The Egyptian government is currently engaging in a joint exercise with UN-Habitat to explore the importance of developing a new *National Urban Policy* in Egypt. This means formulating and implementing policies that engage with various actors at multiple levels of society to improve sustainable urbanization processes.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- What are the key lessons learned from the development of a National Urban Policy, with reference to international experience as well as the NUP developed in 1982?
- Why is there a need for a new NUP?
- What objectives should the new NUP have and which key dimensions should it tackle?
- How could the new NUP overcome the key challenges that hinder policy implementation?
- Who should participate in the development of the NUP?
- To what extent can a new NUP address the legal and political framework related to informal development?

Panelists

Dr. Mohamad Nada

Program Manager and Advisor on Decentralization Urban Policies, Governance and Legislations Program, UN-Habitat

Prof. Ahmed Yousry

Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University

Dr. Faisal Abdel Maqsod

Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Menofya University

Dr. Laila Iskandar

Minister of State, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

Moderator

Dr. Mohamed Salheen

Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University

Community Workshop, Shubra, Cairo



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- A National Urban Policy needs to be feasible and tailored to the Egyptian context. Given that many national urban policies have been adopted over the last decades, although never implemented, diagnostics suggest to bridge the growing gap between urbanization levels and urban infrastructure to address spatial inequalities; to shift from a mono-centric model with Cairo at the center to a system of cities working together as a network; and to develop a clear policy that limits informal urbanization by integrating relevant sectorial policies.

Contrasting views

- Urban stakeholders consider two different templates for the NUP: the UN-Habitat “three-legged approach” - law, economy, planning - and the homegrown approach - social, economic demographic.

Panelists' propositions

- Incorporating the lessons learned of previous urban strategies, positive and negative, is necessary to produce and implement realistic solutions.
- Determining from the start which various urban stakeholders should be involved in the NUP to guarantee inclusive participation and the funding source that will support the implementation of the NUP.

Quotes

“Informal settlements are not the problem, but the symptom of other problems.”

-Dr. Joan Clos

Key question from the audience

- How can the gap be narrowed between developed and less developed governorates?
- One response to slow the migration to Cairo would consist in growing new industries in less developed governorates, however the challenge in this respect is not just determined by coordinating urban plans but also by dealing with the necessary funding to carry out these plans.

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

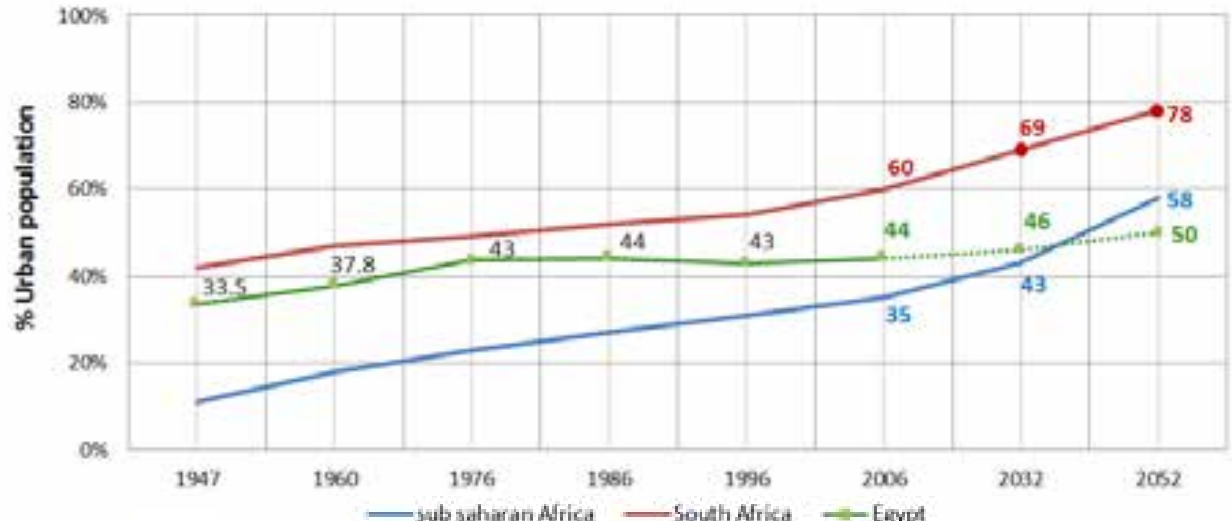
Dr. Mohamed Nada

Program Manager and Advisor on Decentralization Urban Policies, Governance and Legislations Program, UN-Habitat Egypt

- In 2014, the urban population accounted for 54% of the total global population; in Egypt it was 43% of its population. The rate of urbanization will continue to accelerate around the world, particularly in Asia and Africa, with projections that the world urban population will increase by approximately 2.5 billion.
- The rapid rate of urbanization around the world has led to the emergence of 41 megacities of 10 million people or more, one of which is Cairo. As Cairo increasingly expanded over the past 30 years, the development of infrastructure has lagged behind and spawned spaces of social inequality. When comparing GDP versus percent share of urban population in several countries in Asia and Africa and when examining the relation between population growth and the provision of adequate infrastructure in Egypt, the results portray that urbanization does not necessarily lead to development.
- Unless Egypt pursues a new and comprehensive National Urban Policy, which covers the three main frameworks for development - urban legislation, urban economy and urban planning -, informal settlements and social inequality will continue to develop alongside urban population growth.

- What makes the NUP effective is that it is context-specific - there is no single model with a standard outcome and a universal approach that can be replicated in other places. However, there are key guiding principles derived from international experiences that can be applied to support the effective development and implementation of NUPs. For example, NUPs should foster ownership and leverage on national policies and strategies; spatially guide urban growth and balanced regional development; serve as a platform to strengthen participation and collaboration; promote aspirational goals and shared principles on planning and management; and be affordable, implementable and measurable.





Source: the statues of African cities reports 2012, 2015, Un-Habitat press



Source: CAPMAS (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics) from 1907 to 2006

Prof. Ahmed Yousry

Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University

- The evolution of Egypt's national urban planning began in 1974 with Former President Anwar Sadat's National Urban White Paper and is subsequently followed by the National Urban Policy Study (NUPS) developed by PADCO in 1982; Egypt's Development and Reconstruction Map 2017 developed by the GOPP in 1997; Egypt's Vision and Strategic Urban Development National Plan 2052 developed by GOPP in 2012; and Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 and Egypt's Strategic Urban Development National Plan 2052, both of which are currently being developed by the Ministry of Planning. However, the government has not implemented any of these studies.
- From 1976 to 2013 the number of cities has increased from 121 cities to 254 cities - 16 of which were villages that transformed into cities and 24 of which were new towns-. The distribution of the population continues to be concentrated in the Cairo, Alexandria, and Suez region where the population of these areas has doubled or tripled between 1976 and 2000.
- The new NUP for Egypt should center on the successful management of the Delta area by focusing on three development poles; the Suez Canal axis, the Cairo-Alexandria axis, and the Cairo-Ismailia axis. In addition, key determinants to initiate the NUP should include:

- previous underutilized national megaprojects in areas such as land reclamation, tourism development, and industrial zones;
- new national megaprojects and presidential white papers such as the Suez Canal development corridor, and Northwestern coastal zone;
- governmental national strategies and plans such as Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030;
- a new paradigm for the urban system, including new urban indicators - i.e. city prosperity, productivity, competitiveness, connectivity, and social wellbeing; a shift from a hierarchical system of cities to a cities network and a shift from monocentric to polycentric system of cities;
- economic restructuring and transformation towards service- and knowledge-based economies; and
- involving partners from various sectors to participate in the implementation of the NUP, which would significantly improve the outcomes of the NUP.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

- If a new NUP is to be developed in Egypt, the government needs to strongly consider the factors that have hindered successful urban planning in the past decade, such as the government's tendency to resettle communities - i.e. evacuating the existing community and relocating them in the outskirts of cities - the creation of new towns that are unsustainable; the contradiction between

past and present leadership in planning processes; and the pervasive notion that informal settlements are the problem rather than the symptom of other problems.

- The new national urban policy should be built within the framework of independent governorates in order to establish different sets of urban policies among all governorates rather than between Cairo and all other governorates.
- Solutions are never static, they are dynamic; there is no perfect technical solution, however proper management is a vital condition for having a sustainable urban policy.

Dr. Laila Iskander

- To prepare the national urban policy we need to think about which partners will be involved in the various stages of the process and what their tasks include, as well as the entities financing the implementation of the urban policy. These need to be clear for proper implementation.
- Half of the area occupied by the capital city was unplanned which should compel us to comprehensively understand the reasons for this expansion and ensure that these unplanned areas are incorporated into future urban plans in the effort to upgrade and formalize these areas.

Dr. Faisal Abdel Maqsood

- There are 3 dimensions for a new national urban policy: (1) a demographic dimension: promoting balance between space and inhabitants; (2) an economic perspective: meeting economic goals and bolstering the process of development; and (3) a social element: narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas.

DISCUSSION

Questions raised by the audience include

- What are the ways of narrowing the gap between developed and less developed governorates?
- What are the policies that should be applied in order to slow down migration, which has contributed to rapid urban population growth in Cairo?
- How can the informal sector be integrated into the national urban policy?
- How will different levels of government be working together to insure the implementation of national urban policies?



From left to right: Prof. Ahmed Yousry, Dr. Mohamad Nada, Dr. Joan Clos, DR. Laila Iskandar, Dr. Faisal Abdel Maqsood and Dr. Mohamed Salheen

Learn more on this topic

General Organization for
Physical Planning:
www.gopp.gov.eg

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

Informal Settlements development fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

United Nations for Human Settlements Programme:
www.unhabitat.org



THEME 2/ URBAN GOVERNANCE

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

2:30 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

SESSION 4 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

As Egypt expects rapid urbanization in the coming thirty years, local governments are expected to play a major role in managing the urbanization process, insuring the provision of needed services and infrastructure, and enhancing local economic and urban development. This session discussed the current mandate and competencies that should enable local governments to meet the needs of their communities and achieve sustainable urban development. Panelists also discussed the needed reform and institutional change, decentralization in particular, to empower local governments.

At this stage Egypt's territorial organization is closer to "deconcentration" than full decentralization. The word "decentralization" is often misused when actually meaning "deconcentration" and vice-versa. Full decentralization is about power sharing; it is the devolution of decision-making and resources by the central state to a lower tier of government, thereby enabling them to be autonomous. Usually these local entities are elected and have a local council and executive authority.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- What are the possible ways to empower local government in Egypt? Is Egypt ready for electing the city mayor or the governor?
- How do you envision the relationship between local and central government in a decentralized structure? What would be the role of the central government?
- What is the role of local governments and municipalities in Lebanon? What are the challenges, limitations, obstacles and opportunities they face to fully contribute to urban development?
- What are the most important obstacles hindering the move towards a decentralized framework? What type of reform needs to be undertaken?
- What will be the changes that the local government would undertake within a decentralized local government?
- How is the government enhancing the role of local governments in tackling informal urbanization?

Panelists

Prof. Sami

Abdelwahab, Professor of Political Science at Cairo University

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdel Zaher

Governor of Qalyubia

His Excellency Eng. Mohamed Al Baba

Deputy Mayor of Saïda, Lebanon

Dr. Nihal El Megharbel

Senior Advisor for the Minister of Planning

Eng. Suzane Nader

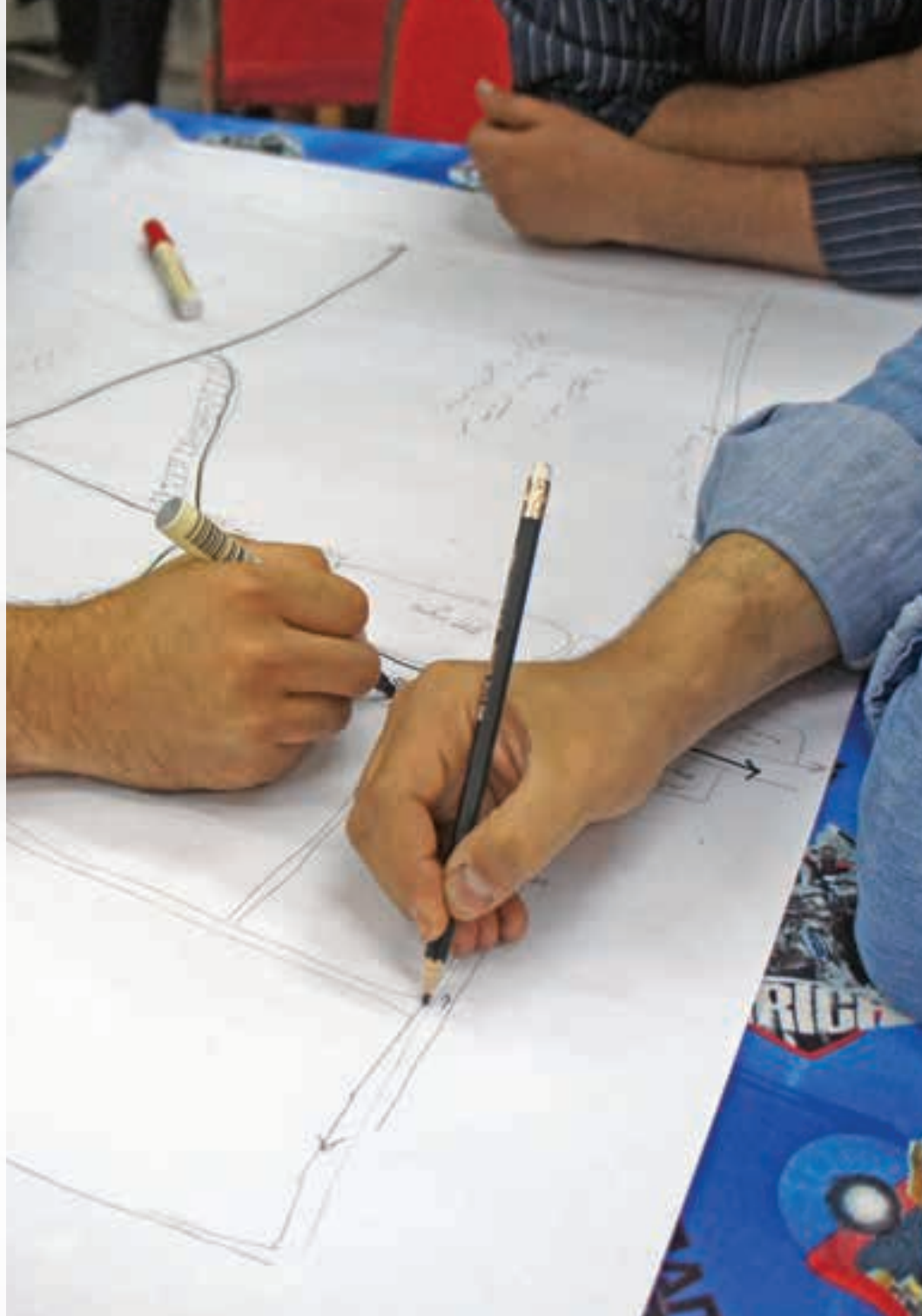
Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Moderator

Dr. Mohamed Nada

Program Manager and Advisor on Decentralization Urban Policies, Governance and Legislations Program, UN-Habitat Egypt

Community Mapping Workshop, Izbet khayrallah, Cairo



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Egypt is a highly centralized political system. 17%¹ of the national resources only are spent at the local level.
- The 2014 Constitution is setting a new framework that is more favorable to decentralization, however implementation is pending until the new local administration law is endorsed.

Contrasting views

- Some stakeholders think that future reforms to advance decentralization in Egypt should enable citizens to elect both local councils and governors.
- Other stakeholders think there is no point in electing governors because they are not the right institution to be elected. Future reforms should rather focus on electing a mayor and a local council at the city level as well as electing a head of council at the regional/ provincial level. As for the governor, its role is to be the representative of the government at the local level and thus he is to be appointed.

1: Source: CAPMAS

Quote(s) from panelists/ audience

“No country in the world can exceed without decentralization, and Egypt is characterized by extreme centralization.”

-Mohamed Abdel Zaher

“Decentralization is a culture, it’s a path.”

-Tabar Ouederni

Key findings

- There is no true sense of citizenship in Egypt because citizens do not know who is accountable to them.
- Decentralization is one component of local governance; others are deconcentration and the participation of local NGOs and citizens.

Key comments from audience:

- Why has the role of NGOs been completely disregarded in light of their significant accomplishments?

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

Prof. Samir Abdelwahab

Professor of Political Science at Cairo University

- In comparison to the legislation on decentralization outlined in the 1971 constitution, the 2014 constitution gave local councils room to operate with more independence. For example, local councils now have independent financial budgets and the authority to make final decisions regarding certain issues. Under the 1971 constitution, a submission to the governor was necessary to acquire funds and issues had to be raised before a higher council, which would ratify or reject. Local councils also have the ability to call for interrogations of governors.
- The new quota requirements of local councils is another notable amendment in the constitution, where local councils should be composed of 25% women, 25% youth, and 50% laborers, workers, or farmers; and these percentages are expected to include an appropriate representation of Christians and persons with disabilities. However, the concern is the practicality of electing local councils in districts where it is difficult to meet the quotas of youth, women, farmers, and Christians, etc. due to the small number of people from these particular segments of society. Can a local council still be formed if a district has no farmers?

His Excellency Eng. Mohamed Al Baba

Deputy Mayor of Saida, Lebanon

- In Lebanon, national officials and mayors are elected by the people, and thus they are held accountable for

their actions. The success of local councils in urban development has been heavily reliant on their cooperation with local NGOs as well as building the capacity of local youth to manage projects and services in the future.

- Despite partial decentralization, some of the obstacles that prevent local councils from fully contributing to urban development include: a highly centralized government in Beirut where appointments of local council employees are based on favoritism or nepotism, resulting in the low productivity of longstanding employees who lack the motivation for progressive thinking and change; heavy bureaucratic procedures which hinders progress in budgeting and planning, such as approval from the governor for the disbursement of funds; and political interference which hinders the local council's productivity.

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdel Zaher

Governor of Qaliubya

- The 2014 constitution did not provide adequate directions for a well-functioning decentralized framework. For example, given that local districts are characterized by different demographic segments, the quota requirements for electing councils in the 2014 constitution limits the possibility of electing quality councilors and thus enabling effective local governance. Another weakness of the current decentralization model is the improper division of power between the executive power – the governor – and the elected council power.

- Under Egypt's political system, if governors were elected, this would mean that they would be mainly accountable to the people that elected them rather than to the locally elected councils that have been formed to hold the governor accountable.
- Decentralization results in local revenues and local decisions. In other words, decentralization enables cities to become self-sufficient by having local resources and the capacity to influence their own development.
- No country in the world can succeed without decentralization, and Egypt is characterized by extreme centralization. We need to improve local administration at all levels and enable them to take decisions within their scope and mandate.

Dr. Nihal El Megharbel
Senior Advisor for the Minister of Planning

- Although there is an adequate legal framework for decentralization, the obstacles hindering implementation include legislative provisions, since many laws regarding planning and taxes require revision; the delay in the enforcement of constitutional provisions in local governance due to the lack of coordination between the different sectors; and the lack of performance indicators. In addition, the constitution should not segment the population demographically.
- Governors should not be held accountable for modest developments in their local districts since they lack both adequate resources and tools. An example of rem-

edy is the call to the Ministry of Planning to create local platforms based on governorates to implement adapted projects and programs at the local level. The move by the Ministry of Planning to establish local units under the agency of the governorate is an example of how deconcentration can boost the capacity of governorates. In parallel, it is important to see the role of the citizen as a resource rather than a burden for urban development.

Eng. Suzanne Nader
Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

- The role of MURIS is to provide technical and financial support in the form of a fund. Since 2009, MURIS began tackling centralization by establishing local units throughout Egypt, which are responsible for developing informal settlements. To achieve this, MURIS collaborated with all governorates to establish these local units under their agency, thereby promoting deconcentration.
- Although these units have been increasingly entrusted with the authority/ power to command their operations, if the leader of a unit deems to be incapable MURIS intervenes by either replacing them or building their capacity to be better leaders.

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- Provided that the governor is responsible for all sectors ranging from education to health, the governor is also responsible for the decentralization process of these sectors. However, when the governor complains about the obstacles faced when implementing decentralization, how are citizens expected to respond? If the pipe breaks in their town, who do they address?
- There is no true sense of citizenship in Egypt because citizens do not know who is accountable to them. All officials want to help, however there is no plan on the local level.

- Decentralization is a culture and it must be cultivated among Egyptians in every level of society in order to guarantee the sustainability of this system.
- The role of NGOs in the decentralization process has been completely overlooked when there are many NGOs implementing decentralization projects, including in informal settlements.
- The real focus of change is institutional attitude not individual mindsets. For example, the Ministry of Finance insists on taking a percentage of all the returns on any given project when governorates are in dire need of these returns. We need legislative reform and institutional behavioral change.



From left to right: Dr. Nihal El-Megharbel, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdel Zaher, Prof. Samir Abdelwahab, His Excellency Eng. Mohamed Al Baba, Eng. Suzane Nader and Dr. Mohamed Nada

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Local Development:
www.mld.gov.eg/arabic/default.htm

UNDP technical support project to Ministry of Local Development:
www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/TechnicalSupportMinistryofLocalDevelopment.html

Ministry of Planning:
www.mop.gov.eg

Municipality of Saida, Lebanon:
www.localiban.org/article774.html



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- Plenary Session 1: National Urban Vision and Mega Projects
 - Plenary Session 2: International and Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation
 - Plenary Session 3: Towards the Habitat III Conference
 - Plenary Session 4: Identity, Culture and Heritage
 - Theme 1: Urban Planning & Renewal
 - Theme 2: Urban Governance
 - **Theme 3: Urban Housing**
 - Theme 4: Urban Service Delivery
 - Theme 5: Urban Economy



THEME 3/ URBAN HOUSING

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

2:30 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

knowledge, statistics, definition, gaps, demand, supply, vacant units, developers, rent, taxes, income, slums, marginal housing, strategy, landlords, residents, community, upgrading

SESSION 1 CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOUSING SECTOR

Introduction

The Egyptian housing market has been characterized as being dynamic and resilient, yet there are several challenges facing the housing market. Most importantly are the high number of vacancies, speculation and real estate bubbles, and a problematic rental market. However, one very basic problem is accurate knowledge on housing data and information in Egypt. Therefore, this session explored what is known about the housing stock including informal housing and interests and behaviors of key actors, and discussed possible policy options to common problems of the Egyptian housing market.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- Egypt Housing Profile: A first step in consolidating the knowledge base?
- Market behavior and gaps in knowledge? How to improve sector information?
- Existing housing stock: How to reduce the high level of vacancies?
- Rental markets: How to meet demand and improve market functioning?
- The extent to which accurate information is available on informal housing.

Panelists

Dr. David Sims

Economist and Urban Planner

Dr. Abu Zeid Rageh

Board Member, Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development

Eng. Hussein El Gebaly

Advisor to the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities

Eng. Hesham Gohar

Manager Information Center and Decision Support, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements (MURIS)

Moderator

Dr. Ihab Shaalan

Associate Professor of Urban Planning, Ain Shams University

Masaken Uthman, 6th of October City



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Egypt currently lacks knowledge and reliable data about the housing sector, its dynamics and actors.

Diverging assessments

- Currently, the housing market is distorted in the sense that the demand of housing exceeds the supply. There are two different approaches to address this issue. Some government actors and real estate developers believe that constructing new housing units is the solution, while other government actors and CSOs believe that availing vacant units and upgrading informal housing would immediately address housing demand.

Key findings

- If 10% of the vacant units (440, 000 units) were availed, it would contribute positively and immediately to the housing supply problem.
- Despite the new report to be published on Egypt's housing sector, knowledge gaps remain salient especially with respect to informal settlements.
- Regarding attempts to legalize informal housing; the most important aspect in transferring ownership is the readiness of the community.

Quote

“The government should be aware that the cost of keeping urban slums is expensive.”

-Laila Iskander

Panelists' propositions

- Create an information center specialized in producing and collecting housing data.
- Establish and share the list of developers and housing stakeholders, indicating their mandate, the types of housing constructed and the number of housing units developed for each stratum of the population.

Key comment

- When it comes to physically upgrading informal areas, we cannot have third rate or low standards public works. In other words, the developers of five star hotels and compounds should be involved in upgrading these neighborhoods.

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

Dr. Abou Zeid Rageh

Board Member, the Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development.

- Without sound statistic data on housing conditions and the market, it is difficult to properly understand housing problems and consequently find appropriate solutions. To be able to adjust demand with supply, the urban housing sector needs the following prerequisites:
 - a clear definition of the social strata and the range of their income so that subsidized housing is properly allocated according to need;
 - the number of housing units that each social stratum needs annually as well as the characteristics of the needed housing units;
 - a list of the public and private housing developers and correspondingly, the types of housing constructed and the number of housing units developed for each stratum of the population;
- In the realm of informal housing, it is critical to enunciate and agree upon clear definitions in order to frame appropriate responses: Slum areas and informal areas are two different concepts that are often used interchangeably and thus their distinctions need to be better understood. In addition, the definition of marginal housing -roofs, cemeteries, ruins- is rather vague and there is a need for clarity on the characteristics/ conditions of marginal housing.

Eng. Hussein El Gebaly

Advisor to the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities,

- According to studies conducted in 2007 on the housing sector, it was determined that (1) vacant units in Cairo had increased in 2006; (2) vacant units cannot be rented without the permission of the original owner; (3) in most cases these units were not rented as a return for investment; and (4) all studies proposed the establishment of a housing information center.
- The main benefit of vacant units is that they can potentially address Cairo's housing problem; 440,000 housing units can be provided promptly which is twice the number of housing units targeted for construction in the national housing program.
- To facilitate the renting of vacant units, a clear strategy and framework, including a tax system, should be developed to settle relations between landlords and occupants.

Eng. Hesham Gohar

Manager Information Centre and Decision Support, Ministry of State of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

- Slums are classified into four categories: unsafe areas; inadequate housing; tents or cottages that lack electricity and sanitation; and where occupants have insecure ownership of their living arrangements. Upgrading slums is

critical, either by the aid of the governorate or by the community. Accordingly, the main goal of MURIS is to reduce/ limit slums nationwide and to adopt a national plan for this action.

- The Ministry has a full database of information on informal housing, as well as national and GIS maps. For each parcel of land, the Ministry has data on its owner and legal status; the units and their inhabitants; and which units/ areas are ready to develop along with the resources available.
- The quality of information depends upon the technology available and the teams that collect the data. Also, data from unsafe areas are far from being accurate. In the effort to acquire more accurate data, the Ministry plans to collaborate with other sectors and entities in Egypt.

Dr. David Sims
Economist and Urban Planner

- In collaboration with various entities in the urban sector, UN-Habitat recently developed the “Egypt Housing Profile” report, which presents new information about the housing sector in Egypt. Despite this good effort there still remains a huge gap of knowledge, particularly about informal housing. For example, we have a geographical representation of informal housing in Egypt, however there is very little knowledge about the dynamics of these areas since the number of studies is rather small.

- More studies must be conducted to better understand the housing sector in Egypt. We should find answers to various questions such as: Who lives in high-rise buildings? How is informal housing built? Why is rent expensive for the middle-income population?

DISCUSSION

Comments from audience members include

- The importance of conducting a national poll on housing to address the gaps of knowledge raised by the panelists. Indeed, it is the absence of information that is the issue rather than the inaccessibility of information.
- Studies should portray the different housing patterns.
- The role and participation of civil society in the urban housing sector should be further emphasized.
- Minister Laila Iskandar: The most important aspect in transferring ownership is the readiness of the community. For example, in Manshiyat Naser the residents demonstrated their willingness to develop their commu-

nity by organizing several workshops, generating revenue and investing in education. MURIS works on building trust and legalizing their situation. Also, the cost of managing urban slums is expensive for people and for the government who should be aware of this. When it comes to physically upgrading informal areas, we cannot have third rate or low standards public works. In other words, the developers of five star hotels and compounds should be involved in upgrading these neighborhoods.

- Rental versus ownership: Considering the difficulty of people living in slum areas to generate enough savings to own their homes, tenancy should remain the solution, however residents should also be able to move easily from one unit to another based on their changing needs - i.e. a growing family.



From left to right: Eng. Hesham Gohar, Dr. David Sims, Eng. Hussein El Gebaly, Prof. Abu Zeid Rageh and Dr. Ihab Shaalan

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities
and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

Informal Settlements develop-
ment fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

Egypt's cabinet information
and decision support center:
www.idsc.gov.eg



THEME 3/ URBAN HOUSING

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

11:00 am : 12:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

low-cost housing, traditional housing, participatory design, cultural identity, cooperative housing, local economic development, sustainable development, recycling, sustainable landscape design

SESSION 2 ALTERNATIVE HOUSING MODELS

Introduction

Housing units built by the government are often criticized in many parts of the world for being too rigid and unable to respect the organic, social fabric of communities. Many citizens often prefer informal housing, not only due to affordable prices, but also because it preserves the original community and allows extended families to be accommodated under the same roof. Accordingly, housing models need to be redesigned in order to make public housing more attractive and suitable for the needs and priorities of local communities. This session explored different housing models in Egypt and around the world.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- The standard government housing model is very rigid and uniform. Should there be a broader range of unit sizes, and should there be more mixing of land use and social groups within a neighborhood (superblock)? What about row-housing and infill housing?
- What can be learned from the informal housing dynamic and the dominant owner-builder model? Is there a future for sites and services projects?
- What can we learn from the German experience in cooperative housing?
- What is the relation between livelihood and different housing models, formal and informal?
- What construction models are being discussed at MURIS?

Panelists

Dr. Asaad Salama

Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Dr. Amal Abdou

Head of Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts

Mr. Maher Boshra

Executive Director, Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development in El-Minya

Eng. Salma Khamis

PhD Candidate, Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

Moderator

Dr. Mohamed Salheen

Prof. of Integrated Planning, Director of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design Program & Lab, Ain Shams University

Izbit al-Haggana



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- In Egypt, many citizens often prefer informal housing instead of housing units built by the government. This is not only due to affordable prices but also because it preserves the original community and allows extended families to be accommodated under the same roof. Accordingly, housing models need to be redesigned in order to make public housing more attractive and suitable for the needs and priorities of local communities.

Diverging assessments

- While construction companies sometimes complain about low skilled labor force, government urban experts state that Egyptian builders have excellent productivity rates and Egyptian engineers are hired in the Gulf countries as a result of their excellent training.

Diverging responses

- Although Egypt has extensive experience in cooperative housing, the Ministry of Urban Development and Informal Settlements (MURIS) received negative feedback on this housing model by many citizens who felt a threat to their private ownership, particularly those residing in Upper Egypt.

Panelists' propositions

- The building code in Egypt should be updated to reduce the use of costly materials such as steel, and require the greater use of soft materials that are more resilient to crises such as earthquakes.

- The government should create policies where banks would provide mortgage loan opportunities for the poor since the poor are able and keen on paying for their own homes.

Quotes from panelists

“Building a house is building safety, security and human dignity.”

-Maher Boshra

“A house is not just a commodity, it's a right.”

-Maher Boshra

Key findings

- By neglecting the social dimension of housing and the cultural identity of citizens, the governmental housing programs created in the 1950s progressively turned into slums over time.
- After the 1993 earthquake, a lot of official buildings collapsed in Heliopolis, whereas the informal buildings remained intact and did not cause any casualty.
- A good way of reducing the cost of building materials would be to use palm trees like many other countries around the world; however Egypt would need to develop this culture and knowledge.

Key Comment from the audience

- The government doesn't manage its housing programs properly and lacks the ability to assess and evaluate past experiences in order to avoid points of weakness. Beneficiaries should be given the opportunity to assess what the architects and government provide to them.

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

Dr. Asaad Salama

Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

- The high cost of housing projects is due to the high prices of iron, steel and cement in addition to the large amount of materials wasted during the construction process.
- To reduce costs, the housing sector should consider different building techniques that reduce waste and use fewer quantities of steel, cement, and construction materials. Many of the new design techniques for low-cost housing were inspired by Germany's housing program after World War II in its effort to meet the housing needs of a massive population.

Dr. Amal Abdou

Head of Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts

- Up until the 1950s, the private sector was predominantly responsible for building houses. After the 1950's the government began implementing large housing projects, which did not take into consideration people's needs and social traditions. Consequently, residents did not respect governmental laws within their units and these areas eventually turned into slums through continuous modifications, which were presumably meant to improve the insufficiencies in the governmental housing designs.

- The Faculty of Fine Arts began an initiative to design sustainable housing units that could recycle grey water, include rooftop planting, or install photovoltaic cells. The objective was to improve the economic and social dimension of the housing units. The project sought a sustainable landscape design with open spaces and applied concepts inspired by Islamic architecture, which is characteristic for offering shade and cool temperatures.

Eng. Salma Khamis

PhD Candidate, Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

- Cooperative housing can be considered an intermediate solution between traditional housing and private sector prototypes. The cooperative housing projects in Berlin are great examples of how civil society can play an active role in the development of new housing areas.
- “Spreefeld Berlin” is a cooperative housing project in Germany led by architects and civil society who adopted a participatory approach to the development of the area and housing units. The design of the Spreefeld area incorporated both public and private spaces and the cooperative housing was designed with flexible spaces. The cooperative housing is home to a diversity of people and revenue is accrued by the use of commercial spaces on the ground floor.

Mr. Maher Boshra

Executive Director, Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development in El-Minya

Featured Initiative: Housing Improvement through Participatory Development in Minya

The Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development was established in 1995. Over the past 20 years the Association's work in Minya has adopted an integrated approach to development by providing literacy services for women, improving housing conditions by re-building and restoring homes, as well as building schools. This integrated approach advances living conditions and human rights, whether it is the right of housing or rights related to the protection of girls against genital mutilation.

The Association adopts a participatory policy for its housing improvement program, which also promotes local development in the following ways:

- A local micro-finance mechanism was established to issue loans to families for re-building or restoring homes
- Loans must be spent in the local village to maximize local economic benefit
- Architects and civil engineers meet with families that have applied for loans in order to custom design the homes based on the family's needs
- Raw materials are purchased from the village's merchants

- Labor is provided by locals and workshops are conducted if there is a shortage of skilled labor in order to build local capacity
- Legal support is provided to home-owners to assist in legalizing their homes and educating them about their constitutional and legal rights

The Better Life Association also encourages communities to use sustainable and green approaches when building their homes, such as the use of affordable solar voltaic panels. In coordination with the government, more than 1,000 homes have been improved from interventions ranging from building bathrooms, connecting water pipes to households, painting the interior of homes and fully rebuilding homes. By raising people's awareness on health, environment, and water use, projects aim to connect each house to its environment and its community. Through grants acquired from the private sector, the Association improved the housing conditions of more than 2,200 families in Minya. Despite these achievements, the Association continues to face major obstacles such as the government's complex bureaucracy which delays project implementation.



Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development in El-Minya, Before and after Intervention

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- The role of government must include providing services and facilities for local communities, promoting the use of recycled materials and putting an end to waste of resources.
- Participatory design is an important approach however it is more applicable to informal areas rather than governmental housing projects.
- It is important to raise awareness about the sustainability models and concepts discussed in the session since they are much more cost-effective compared to normal housing designs.
- It is better to apply sustainable techniques and models from the start rather than upgrading existing areas.



From left to right: Dr. Mohamed Salheen, Dr. Asad Salama, Arch. Amal Abdou, Eng. Salma Khamis and Mr. Maher Boshra

Learn more on this topic

Informal Settlements development fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development in Minya:
www.betterlife-egypt.org/index.php/en

Habitat unit at TU Berlin:
www.habitat-unit.de



THEME 3/ URBAN HOUSING

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

9:00 am : 10:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

appropriate housing, governmental vision, tenancy, legal framework, land-value market, low-income population, affordable housing, inter-ministerial coordination, building code, subsidies, interest rates, informal housing, vacant units, bureaucracy, community participation, private sector, purchasing power, forced evictions, e-government

SESSION 3 HOUSING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

Egypt's housing issues are numerous and prevalent across the country. Housing issues particularly affect large low-income segments of the population who have been compelled to seek inadequate housing in informal settlements. According to the UNDP, unplanned housing settlements make up 37.5% of Egyptian cities. While the Egyptian government is the country's largest landowner through its various state-owned agencies, Egypt has a deregulated housing market with a house price-to-income ratio of 11, making it one of the most uneven housing markets in the world. As low-income segments of the population increasingly seek informal housing, the international debate on the effectiveness, sustainability and impact of subsidized housing policies as opposed to deregulated housing markets is more than ever relevant for Egypt.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- Do existing policies and strategies adequately address housing challenges?
- What needs to be done to reform existing policies and strategies?
- Do housing policies reflect the needs of the many residents living in informal settlements?
- Are there coordination mechanisms between Egyptian ministries on housing strategies?

Panelists

Eng. Hussein El Gebaly

Advisor to the Minister of Housing, Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities

Mrs. Manal Al Tibe

Director of the Egyptian Center for Housing Rights

Eng. Yahia Shawkat

Co-founder & Research Coordinator, 10Tooba

Eng. Marwa Ahmed

Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Moderator

Dr. Shahdan Shabka

Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University

Dokki, Giza



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Public and private actors acknowledge that Egypt suffers from a housing crisis. This crisis is mainly attributable to the lack of housing units available for low-income populations as well as the mushrooming of informal areas. Informal housing is a popular response to the housing crisis and demonstrates the inability of the state and the private sector to respond to an increasing demand for housing over the past decades. Policies and strategies need to be rethought to ensure an effective provision of appropriate housing units to residents in line with their needs, their financial means and their cultural and geographical environment.

Diverging assessments

- The government believes that the forced evacuation of residents from their housing units and the destruction of housing units are implemented in compliance with the law. However, some NGOs have witnessed cases of compulsory evacuation that violated the law in the sense that residents should have been notified prior to evacuation and provided with an alternative housing unit.

Diverging responses

- To solve the housing crisis, some government officials prioritize job creation and incentivize the private and cooperative sectors to invest in low-income housing. However, other urban practitioners believe prioritize in the following way: increasing the purchasing power of

residents, revising of planning policies for new cities; and updating the laws and legislations related to housing and construction, including making 4 to 5 million vacant units available.

- NGOs disagree with the current government strategy on housing. They claim that it does not address human rights issues, nor does it consult with human rights organizations; they also claim it is not based on proper data, and that the government does not provide access to information on the issue. NGOs also point to a mismatch between policies and their implementation, and to a gap between legislations and realities on the ground.

Panelists' propositions

- The 2030 or 2050 governmental plans should set a national priority to raise the purchasing power of low-income segments of the population.
- The government needs to allocate land for usufruct to gain greater sovereignty over the land and allow investors to reduce their costs and residents to afford buying their unit.
- The government's policies and legislations should avail the 4 to 5 million vacant residential units.
- E-government systems should be implemented to solve the lingering problem of issuing licenses and ownership certificates.
- The government needs to adjust the real estate market and reconsider the laws allowing foreigners to own

land and real estate to preserve the social function of the land; similarly, a capital market tax for allocation of land would mitigate speculation on real estate.

- The government needs to rationalize subsidies for housing among all institutions such as ministries, real estate banks and companies to determine appropriate amounts, brackets, and audiences.
- Urban stakeholders need to learn from positive outcomes in informal housing such as affordability and access to tenancy.
- Urban stakeholders need to learn from global best practices, such as the case of Canada, where municipalities offer estimates of rental fees, and makes them available to the public, and where municipal committees settle disputes instead of resorting to courts.

Key findings

- 62% of housing units are not licensed (see Draft Housing profile by UN-Habitat), 53% don't have access to proper sewage system, 13% don't have access to water through a tap, 7% are unsafe and 7% are considered as overcrowded units.
- The government's strategy to counter the housing crisis includes solving funding issues through Central Bank loans, subsidizing interest rates for real estate, and allocating more desert land to build housing for the poor. The government also launched a new tax structure that encourages companies and banks to invest in construction, and created a national center for housing policies.

Quotes from panelists

“Low income people have been excluded from the real estate market by governmental policies that are biased towards the rich and the contractors.”

-Manal Al-Tibi

“To reduce the sprawl of informal settlements, preventive action is more important than curative action and consists in providing better and more appropriate housing than what the informal sector can offer.”

-Hussein El-Gebaly

Key comment from the audience

- Residents and beneficiaries of public housing programs face challenges in engaging with counterparts in the central government or the local agencies and districts. While this forum is a good opportunity to talk about their concerns, residents complain about the lack of information in general, the lack of opportunities to move to more spacious units and the lack of attention to cultural and social aspects of housing. In Aswan, 95% of the population lives in informal housing units and is not in any form of communication with the governor or local ministerial representatives.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Eng. Hussein El Gebaly

Advisor to the Minister of Housing, Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Development

- The housing sector in Egypt faces various development challenges including outdated rental and ownership systems, legal and legislative limitations on construction, the opaque land value market, and high interest rates for real estate.
- Aside from the need to update and modify legislation on rent and ownership, new policies should be created to attract private investment in the provision of adequate and affordable housing units.
- A much more coordinated division of roles between multiple stakeholders and decision-makers is needed to create an efficient housing development process. In addition, the government should develop a policy and corresponding criteria for rationalizing subsidies for housing among all relevant stakeholders to better respond to housing needs.
- Learning from Nairobi, Egypt should adopt e-governance systems to gather information and data on housing as well as for facilitating the licensing of homes.
- Concerning existing informal areas, proposed policies should include development programs and legislative measures that regulate the different aspects of the urban environment in these areas. Improving building and urban codes is crucial, as well as coordination between

different ministries associated with housing policies and their implementation.

- The Ministry of Housing was able to overcome some of its financial challenges through recent loans from the Central Bank; acquiring further resources remains a priority. Some positive initiatives have been undertaken in this regard, including the launch of the National Center for the Development of Housing Policies.

Mrs. Manal Al Tibi

Director of the Egyptian Center for Housing Rights

- The State's strategy for housing development is full of contradictions, and current laws and regulations do not provide equal nor sufficient protection to low-income groups, leading to massive social and economic consequences on society. For example:
 - It is a paradox that many vacant housing units in urban areas exist in parallel to growing informal settlements;
 - The distribution of subsidies is biased towards high-income groups while completely excluding low-income groups;
 - Eliminating informal settlements has more priority than providing adequate housing for all community members regardless of social background and income.
- The contradiction in the State's housing policy relates to the wide gap between what is offered by the state ver-

sus what is demanded by the community. The strategy is built on quantitative analysis with disregard to the quality and affordability of housing units for low-income groups. Hence, it is foreseeable that these government strategies based on inaccurate information have led to unnecessary and ineffective interventions.

Eng. Yahia Shawkat

Co-founder & Research Coordinator, 10Tooba

- The housing crisis in Egypt has been ongoing for several decades with no tangible improvement. The need for immediate concrete action is reflected by large populations that continue to live in substandard housing units. The lowest standard of formal housing units offered by the state do not reach nearly one third of the Egyptian population. Meanwhile the number of vacant housing units has reached staggering figures while the state continues to build new housing units and new cities unnecessarily. This situation is mainly due to two factors: the large gap between citizen income and the price of housing, and a market failure: there is a large disconnect between what is supplied by the government and what is demanded by society.
- International standards define appropriate housing based on a list of criteria: (1) security of possession – in Egypt 62% of housing units are not licensed; (2) adequate sewage - 53% of Egyptians are lacking proper sewage; (3) clean drinking water – 13% of Egyptians have no safe source of water and 5% have no access; (4) minimal crowding – 7.7% of households in Egypt live

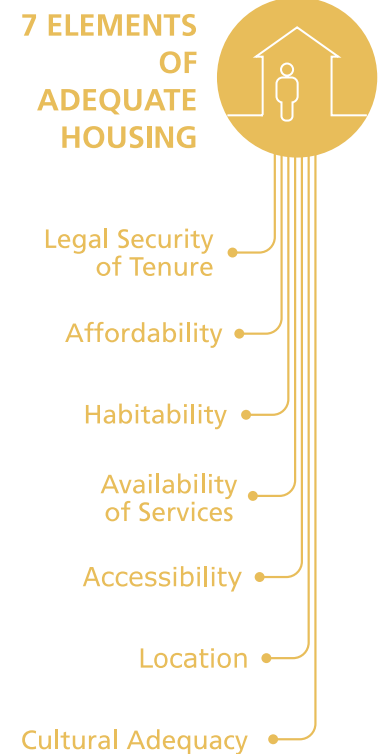
in crowded buildings; (5) safe houses– 7% of Egyptians live in unsafe houses; (6) purchasing power – in Egypt the richest have 3 times more purchasing power, while the poorest brackets pay 23% and the richest brackets pay 15%.

- Over the past three decades, the state has stopped selling official land in large Egyptian cities to build and develop in desert areas. In new cities such as New Cairo, the rich own two thirds of the land and while the middle and low-income communities own only 10%. These figures indicate why and for whom the new cities were built. Between 2003 and 2013, there was a 150% yearly increase in the price of land in new cities; and in 2007 the state removed all restrictions on foreign companies to own land and buildings. As a result, the market of official land shrank and prices increased, forcing people to build informal buildings and encroach on agricultural land. The state should reverse this situation and offer citizens official land at affordable prices.
- Given the current housing context, there is a pressing need for the government to revise legislations, regulations and the land value market, establish usufruct rights on public land, and disburse subsidies on the basis of financial need.

Eng. Marwa Ahmed

Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements (MURIS)

- Egypt’s housing policies and strategies over the past



decades have focused on middle-class and high-income housing. The needs of low-income groups were drastically ignored, resulting in the sprawl of informal settlements where more than 50% of Egypt's population currently resides.

- Communities living in informal areas were able to collectively address their housing needs by dodging burdensome bureaucratic procedures and implementing a system of community trust ranging from finance to construction. This is one of many examples of how the state can learn from informal areas and leverage these practices to further develop these areas. Nonetheless, informal communities continue to suffer from inadequate infrastructure and water and sewage systems.
- The state should not engage in forced restriction of residents. Even when residents should be relocated because their current living environments are unsafe, there are international conventions and legal procedures that guide the processes of moving residents. These must be complied with during these circumstances.
- MURIS is upgrading informal areas, while taking into consideration the challenge that every informal settlement is unique in scope and scale. In this effort, MURIS received governmental approval to use 25% of the real estate tax to fund and invest in informal areas. However, financing the upgrading of unsafe areas located on private land and establishing proof of land ownership remains a challenge.

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- The vision of MURIS regarding the forced eviction of residents does not represent the state as a whole. There are forced evacuations and destructions of units, many of which violate laws because there is no prior notification. This often happens even when the units are safe and the resident's life is not in danger. However, the law regulating forced evictions stipulates that the state must provide an alternative to residents prior to evacuations. Regarding evacuations, is there coordination between the ministries to prevent violations?
 - Response from Eng. Marwa: MURIS coordinates with the governorate to relocate residents, which only happens through participation and relocation with residents to build trust. The governorate as the implementation authority is responsible for coordinating with the Ministry of Interior to move residents.
- The government insists on building new cities and establishing new housing units; however, how can we ensure that the poor can afford the new residential units? We should make an effort to understand the needs of people in Upper Egypt, rather than imposing our model of luxurious houses as a standard.
- In Aswan, 95% of the population is living in informal housing and are lacking proper utilities. Despite requests to the governor, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Environment to provide services, people in Aswan haven't received any support or even an answer to their queries.

- How do you advise the Minister of Housing on appropriate housing, including on the cultural and social aspects? Building in the desert does not take the cultural context into consideration.
 - Response from Eng. Hussein El Gebaly: Advising the Minister does not mean telling the Minister what to do, but rather bringing the voices of the different actors and sources of knowledge to the attention of the Minister.
- The state and its local district agencies should communicate better with citizens about public housing programs. These are not informed of any construction or management issues. Moreover, residents also complain that moving to more spacious units is not happening.



From left to right: Mrs. Eng. Marwa Ahmed, Eng. Yahia Shawkat, Manal Al Tibe, Eng. Hussein El Gebaly and Dr. Shahdan Shabka

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:

www.moh.gov.eg

Informal Settlements development fund:

www.isdf.gov.eg

The Egyptian Center for Housing Rights:

www.en.echronline.org/index.php

10Tooba for applied research on the built environment:

www.10tooba.org/en



THEME 3/ URBAN HOUSING

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

4:30 pm : 6:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

government housing program, housing subsidies, targeting, disability, private sector, informal housing, transportation, access to markets, workplace

SESSION 4 GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROGRAMS

Introduction

Many governments have a long history of providing subsidized housing units. However, the success of these programs is controversial. Subsidized public housing is often located in poor and unreachable areas for target beneficiaries. In many cases the flats do not cover the needs of low-income families since they are too big and too costly. Accordingly, subsidized units remain empty or even unfinished as targeted beneficiaries resort to the informal housing market. This session aimed at exploring the public housing program that was implemented by the state over the last few decades, assessing its ability to achieve its stated targets, and discussing potential reforms and adjustments in the state policy towards insuring housing rights to all citizens.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss the following questions

- What is the rationale behind Government Housing Programs (GHPs)? Is the proper role of the state to be a housing provider or an enabler?
- Which groups are targeted by GHP? Are subsidized programs well targeted? Who is left out?
- Is mortgage finance for social housing the only path? What about micro-finance?
- What can international experience tell us?
- How is disability streamlined across programs?
- Have GHPs reached the target groups? Are GHPs poorly located? Must they rely on available State land? Is this a fatal flaw?
- What are the key challenges to GHPs and how can they be overcome? Should subsidized housing be aimed at the middle classes? Or should subsidies be for only the very poor and disadvantaged? How might this work for rental housing?

Panelists

Dr. Doaa Abouelmagd

Assistant Professor, Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University

Arch. Atef El Bassiony

Freelance Architect

Dr. Azza Sirry

Professor of Urban Planning, Housing and Building Research Center (HBRC)

Dr. May Abdulhamid

Chairman, the Mortgage Finance Fund

Moderator

Dr. Ahmed Shalaby

Professor of Architecture and Urban Development, Cairo University

10th of Ramadan City



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Government Housing Projects (GHPs) have not met their targets by a wide margin because they were poorly designed. Flaws in design include long distances to urban centers and job markets, the lack of access to transportation modes, the absence of markets and areas of socialization, poor adaptation of housing units to the needs to low-income families, and the lack of targeting the lowest income strata of the population.
- Consequences of these failed programs are twofold: first, eligible families resorting to the informal housing market, while non-eligible beneficiaries access GHPs; and second, the low occupancy rate of GHPs.

Diverging assessments

- Is the lack of success of GHP only due to poor planning and implementation, or is it rather due to deeper institutional challenges, such as the capture of the GHPs by private sector interests, and the lack of willingness of policymakers to invest resources in good planning and implementation?

Panelists' propositions

- Awareness campaigns and educational initiatives about the housing and mobility needs of disabled people should be organized to strengthen the voice of the disabled in local communities.

Quotes

“Public sector housing projects underwent transformations that made them look like informal areas”.

-Dr. Doaa Abu El-Magd

“Social housing programs after the 2011 revolution were more sensitive to people’s needs”.

-Dr. May Abdulhameed

Key comment from the audience

- Housing systems should be flexible in the sense that residents can easily relocate to other housing units as their needs and social status change

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Azza Sirry

Housing and Building Research Center (HBRC).

- From targeting the right groups and investors to providing sufficient financing and utilities to managing tenancies, government housing programs (GHPs) have been poorly designed to meet the housing needs of target communities. GHPs based on quotas of low-income families or on a system of small rental units were severely criticized for being poorly designed and located in a remote, disconnected and servicesless environment.
- Case in point: The Ministry of Housing's Ebni Baytak public housing project aimed to produce 500,000 low-income housing units in 6th of October City by allowing inhabitants to build their own houses. However, the areas allocated for the development of these units are far from major urban areas without available modes of transportation to access central services. Many of these housing units are not connected to utility grids and therefore inhabitants have no access to electricity. The state provided services and financing to those who were able to build three levels of the housing structure, however those who managed to do so were presumably not targeted by the project as beneficiaries.

Dr. Doaa Abouelmagd

Assistant Professor, Architecture Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University.

- When new GHPs were implemented, many residents from informal areas relocated under the anticipation that

their housing conditions and livelihoods would be improved. However, due to various shortcomings of government housing programs, living conditions became worse than informal areas and consequently residents relocated back to the informal areas where they originally resided.

- The bonds between place and identity and how this relation influences social formations were overlooked by government housing programs. Observations revealed that public housing residents do not socialize amongst each other as they lack strong family and community ties. Also, public housing units were developed in remote areas where there were no markets to facilitate development and provide jobs, in addition to the absence of transportation services leading to urban centers where job opportunities were available.
- In many cases, such as the Suzanne Mubarak housing project implemented after 2011, areas where public housing units were provided were converted into commercial use, which ultimately compelled residents to sell their apartments by informal means and relocate back to informal areas. In addition, after the revolution many public housing units were offered for rent which signaled a paradigm shift from former policies that favored selling housing units to potential owners.



Before transformation



Before transformation



After Transformation



After Transformation

The physical changes of Suzan Mubarak buildings, by transforming the ground floor into shops and adding new residential rooms in 2014 (right) compared to other buildings in 2009, before the start of the physical transformation (Photos taken in 2009 and 2014)

Mr. Atef El Bassiony
Freelance architect

- The definition of a disabled individual is inclusive to anyone who has difficulty residing in the area they live in which includes the elderly, mothers using baby carriages, and individuals living with diseases. To date, there are no national statistics presenting the number of disabled people in Egypt, which may be representational to the lack of attention and absence of services provided to the disabled. According to UN statistics, disabled individuals constitute 15% of the Egyptian population, which is more than 12 million people, 4 million of which are children.
- Three main obstacles need to be addressed in order to meet the needs of the disabled community: the absence of design codes for the disabled in public housing programs; the government's readiness to involve disabled individuals and groups (such as the National Council for the Disabled established in 2011) in the participatory development of their communities; and the establishment of building codes for the disabled in all public buildings and facilities.
- Despite their resilience and multiple talents, the disabled encounter many obstacles when searching for education or applying to jobs. Awareness campaigns and educational initiatives should be organized to address this issue and strengthen the voice of the disabled in local communities.

Dr. May Abdulhamid
Head of Mortgage Fund

- All relevant ministries including finance, planning, and social solidarity need to collaborate together to address issues arising from public housing programs. In parallel, communities and individuals need to play a greater role in communicating and raising awareness about their problems.
- Public housing programs have been beneficial in areas located no further than 45 minutes away from urban centers where employment opportunities are accessible. The new policies being developed will also ensure that units are not resold after units have been rented or sold to residents. However, in order to cater to the various needs of the community, the government should diversify public housing systems, such as developing a rental housing program for undergraduate youth who are constantly moving from one place to another and enforcing design codes for the disabled in all public housing facilities.
- Rather than cutting subsidies for certain groups in order to avert resources from being directed to those who are not in need, subsidies should be granted based on the individuals income and economic stability. In terms of mortgage financing, eligible clients should only pay 15% of their income, which is similar to the rental system in slums.

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- Involving other sectors of the community, particularly the private sector, in public housing programs and certain areas of urban development is critical.
- The distribution of housing units should be based on social, economic and gender quotas.
- Housing systems should be flexible in the sense that residents can easily relocate to other housing units as their needs and social status change.



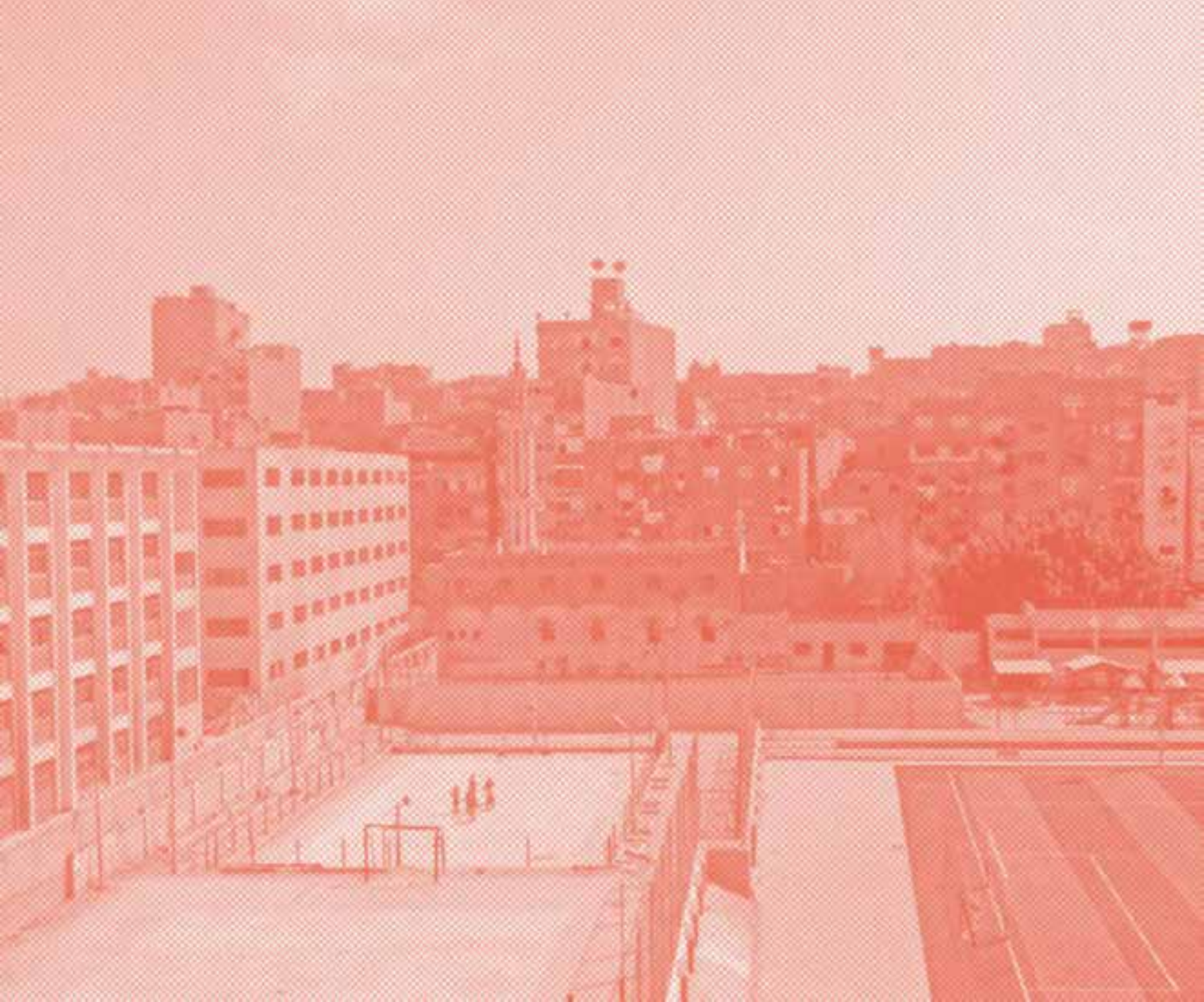
From left to right: Arch. Atef El Bassiony, Dr. Azza Sirry, Dr. Doaa Abouelmagd, Dr. May Abdulhamid and Dr. Ahmed Shalaby

Learn more on this topic

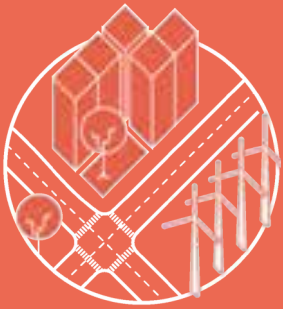
Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

The Mortgage Finance Fund:
www.mff.gov.eg

The Housing & Building National Research Center:
www.hbrc.edu.eg



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- Plenary Session 1: National Urban Vision and Mega Projects
 - Plenary Session 2: International and Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation
 - Plenary Session 3: Towards the Habitat III Conference
 - Plenary Session 4: Identity, Culture and Heritage
 - Theme 1: Urban Planning & Renewal
 - Theme 2: Urban Governance
 - Theme 3: Urban Housing
 - **Theme 4: Urban Service Delivery**
 - Theme 5: Urban Economy



THEME 4/ URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

2:30 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

integrated planning, bus rapid transit (BRT) system, coordination, decentralization, safety, metro, bicycle, disabilities, accessibility, land, facilities, high-speed, human beings, mobility, innovation, harassment, accidents, awareness campaigns

SESSION 1 URBAN MOBILITY

Introduction

Egyptians face urban mobility challenges every day. One key element is that the urban transport sector is fragmented, which in turns leads to an inefficient and poor quality system. The World Bank has looked at the necessary institutional structure to move towards an integrated system, and has released a discussion paper “*Strengthening the Institutional Architecture for the Management of Urban Transport in Greater Cairo.*” While the focus on the discussion paper is Cairo, many of the issues apply to the nationwide context. The session addressed the challenges of urban transport sector and how cities in Egypt could apply new innovations. It discussed the necessary institutional reform for a modern, efficient and integrated transport system to be in place. In addition, the session mainstreamed the discussion of how these issues affected people with disabilities.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- The future of public transportation in Egypt
- How the different transportation systems can integrate
- How to promote non-motorized transportation drawing on local and international experience
- The potential innovations that can be adapted
- The environmental considerations related to transport

Panelists

Eng. Samy Abozeid

Head of Infrastructure Department, General Organization of Physical Planning

Dr. Tarek Rakha

Assistant Professor of Architecture / CoE Faculty Research Fellow, Syracuse University / Syracuse Center of Excellence (CoE)

Mr. Khaled Hanafy Gomaa

Accessibility and Technology Empowerment Manager, National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA)

Eng. Ayman Sheta

General Manager, Ministry of Environment

Mr. O.P. Argarwal

Senior Urban Transport Specialist, World Bank

Moderator

Dr. Hamed Mobarek

Transportation and Traffic Specialist

Nasr City, Cairo



ANALYSIS

Quotes

“The focus of mobility planning has been vehicles for too long, now it has to shift to human beings.”

-O.P. Agarwal

“The urban mobility sector should give priority to human powered mobility, for cars continue to pollute the environment, create high levels of stress on citizens and cause deadly accidents.”

-Dr. Tarek Rakha

Common grounds

- The different means of transportation and facilities in Egypt are insufficient and unsafe for efficient urban mobility.
- The transportation plan prescribed in the National Urban Plan is outdated; today's transportation planning requires an integrated approach.

Panelists' propositions

- Public private partnerships (PPP) would improve the governance of the transportation sector by sharing responsibilities: the public agencies and authorities should design new and inclusive transportation systems, while the private sector should be contracted to operate and manage the facilities.
- Publishing and disseminating maps of transportation routes to the public so people can predict their commute time and organize accordingly.

Key findings

- A successful governance of public transportation requires a lead authority.
- Expanding the underground network would be instrumental to increase urban mobility in Egypt.
- Timid positive developments in adapting transportation means to the disabled population should be mainstreamed in order to address the needs of 15 million disabled people and up to 45 million people if we include their families.

Key comments from the audience

- Before encouraging citizens to use bicycles, the governing authorities should develop designated bicycle lanes.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Samy Abu Zeid

Head of Infrastructure Department, General Organization of Physical Planning (GOPP)

- The production of the Egyptian Urban National Plan was an important and necessary tool to foster national urban development thirty years ago. Although Egypt has one of the longest-standing transportation systems in the world, the current strategies for urban mobility are outdated.
- Constructing a high-speed train would be a new mode of transportation that is possible in Egypt and the government is currently studying how to establish connections from Cairo to Aswan, Suez, and Alexandria.
- In Greater Cairo, efforts to improve urban mobility include the construction of the third underground metro line, which is currently active; the fourth line which will be launched soon.

Eng. Ayman Sheta

Ministry of Environment

- The Ministry of Environment is working on various urban mobility programs, six of which are supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These include: adding new buses linking New Cairo to the old urban core and Cairo University; inserting electronic signs in downtown Cairo displaying information about available parking spaces; and increasing the number of buses using natural gas instead of oil.

Dr. Tarek Rakha

Assistant Professor of Architecture and CoE Faculty Research Fellow, Syracuse University and Syracuse Centre of Excellence

- Today there are many innovative transportation modes and vehicles, such as “connected vehicles”, “multiple car ownership” systems, and “Google’s self-driving car”. New Cities should be able to cope with these new technologies, while also taking into consideration that cars in general continue to pollute the environment, contribute to high levels of stress for citizens, and more importantly cause deadly car accidents.
- The design of infrastructures and the allocation of land use should give priority to non-motorized travel. In downtown or high-density areas, walking and biking is more convenient and healthier.
- To develop its urban mobility sector, Egyptian stakeholders should focus on human powered mobility; prioritize the human dimension of urban and transport planning; continue to support awareness campaigns such as the bicycle campaign that Egyptian President Al-Sisi initiated; and prevent harassment on public transportation by imposing strict laws and enforcement against harassment.

Mr. Khaled Hanafy Gomaa
*Accessibility and Technology Empowerment
Manager, National Council for Disability Af-
fairs (NCDA)*

- There are several manifestations of inequality in the Egyptian constitution, particularly concerning disabled people who represent a large percentage of the Egyptian population.
- Some of the positive developments in transportation include the new small buses with 27 seats that have speaking devices for the disabled and the new underground trains with facilities and spaces for the disabled.
- More efforts need to be made to ensure that transportation systems and vehicles in Egypt are inclusive and accessible to disabled people, while taking into consideration all types of disabilities.

Mr. O.P. Argarwal
*Senior Urban Transport Specialist, The World
Bank*

- The different means of transportation and facilities in Egypt such as street networks, bus systems, taxi systems, and road systems, are insufficient for efficient urban mobility.
- In order for urban mobility to accommodate multiple demands and audiences, a holistic, comprehensive, integrated approach is necessary, as well as a lead institution to implement mobility in a coordinated manner.

- In the planning phase of developing new transportation routes and systems, it is the responsibility of public agencies to ensuring that public transportation is available/ accessible to all types of people. On the other hand, the operating phase should be managed by the private sector.
- In India, the government recognized the strong relation between land use and transportation planning, and therefore the Ministry of Transportation became the lead authority for urban planning.

DISCUSSION

Remarks and recommendations from the audience include:

- Publishing detailed maps that portray the different transportation routes and the estimated duration for each destination in national journals and bus/ train stations.
- Appointing one institution to be responsible for the new roads system.
- Before encouraging citizens to use bicycles, the governing authorities should develop designated bicycle lanes; shading devices or trees along bicycle lanes to provide shade for cyclists; construct bike racks to park and lock bicycles; and provide information on where to purchase bicycles.
- The Governor's decision to remove the metro lines from Nasr City was unnecessary while the alternative to build the Tramway or the Bus Rapid Transit lane is still unplanned, which has consequently jeopardized the safety of pedestrians.
- The lack of clarity on whether transport is a national or local matter as well as the unclear division of responsibilities is detrimental to public transportation. For example, responsibilities are fragmented between far too many authorities such as the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Interior, the Governorates, the Railway Authority, and Authority for Bridges and Tunnels etc.
- The way we deal with the transportation of solid waste and commercial commodities in new cities is problematic.



From left to right: Dr. Hamed Mobarek, Mr. Khaled Hanafy Gomaa, Mr. O.P. Argarwal, Dr. Tarek Rakha, Eng. Ayman Sheta and Eng. Samy Abozeid

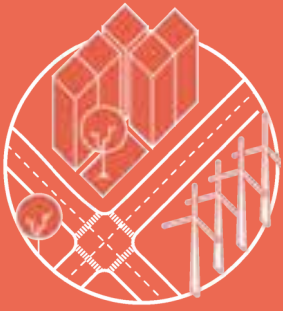
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General Organization for
Physical Planning:
www.gopp.gov.eg

Ministry of Transport:
www.mot.gov.eg

Ministry of Environment:
www.eeaa.gov.eg

Social initiatives of cycling in
Egypt (Cairo bike):
www.cairobike.com



THEME 4/ URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

4:30 pm : 6:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

integrated solid waste system, education, awareness raising, mindset, paradigm, services, taxes, health, Zabaleen, governorates, private sector, foreign companies, NGOs, agriculture and industrial waste, construction waste, medical waste, compost, renewable energy

SESSION 2 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (SWM)

Introduction

The Egyptian government has implemented different models of solid waste management (SWM) over the last few decades. Current models of informal waste management – *zabaleen*, state, and private contractors - have not proven to be satisfactory. Finding an effective, sustainable, and suitable model for Egyptian cities with their small alleys and high population density is a challenge. This session discusses current solid waste management policies in Egypt, challenges encountered, sustainable solutions, and how to attract investments from stakeholders.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss the following questions

- What are the challenges for implementing solid waste management systems in Egypt? What are the institutional arrangements?
- How important are public awareness support measures for clean cities?
- What are the experiences and possibilities of small-scale companies and organizations at the local community level?
- What are the current programs of solid waste management in new cities and what are the challenges?

Panelists

Mr. Michael Hanna Shukri

Solid Waste Sector, Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements

Dr. Guy Bonvin

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Swiss Confederation, Head of Infrastructure Financing Division

Mrs. Nazli Shahine

Secretary General, Zamalek Association

Dr. Hend Farrouh

Executive Director, Central Unit of Sustainable Cities & Renewable Energy, New Urban Communities Authority, the Ministry of Housing

Mr. Amir Roshdy

Development Unit, Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), Egypt

Moderator

Dr. Hossam Allam

Regional Programme Manager, Sustainable Growth Programme, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE)

Nahya, Village, Giza



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

The manifestations of the crisis of solid waste in Egypt are highly visible: garbage is piling in the streets, squares and public space. Other types of waste – agricultural, industrial, construction or medical waste - may be less visible but have considerable impact on citizens' health and the environment. Current responses to the crisis remain insufficient, despite the variety of actors and institutional arrangements that have been experimented in multiple types of settings. The absence of a strategic solid waste management vision leads to fragmented stakeholders and inconsistent approaches in addressing the problem.

Diverging assessments

- Is solid waste a problem or a resource? The government has traditionally viewed garbage collection as a burden and tended to undersupply facilities, equipment and personnel in this sector. To manage the garbage crisis successfully, a paradigm shift is required to consider solid waste as a resource that can generate profit and sustainability through renewed partnerships.
- On one hand, the government recognizes the role and tolerates practices of traditional collectors, such as the *Zabaleen*. On the other hand, it introduced new mechanisms of SWM through contracts with private consortiums. The policy direction remains unclear especially when experiences in districts such as Zamalek showed that the coexistence of both models in same area is not successful.

Diverging responses

- In the past decades, subcontracting private companies for SWM was the primary option of the government. However, the New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA) did not follow this trend because it considered these contracts to be too costly. MURIS also does not believe in the ability of private consortiums to operate in large districts.
- At the community level, NGOs promote a holistic and participatory approach to solid waste management through education and awareness of health and environmental issues.

Panelists' propositions

- The government needs to support and consult NGOs in solid waste management projects. NGOs are well informed and strongly linked to local communities and can help achieve better results.
- All projects on solid waste management, led by the government, the private sector or civil society organizations, need to include large awareness raising campaigns to encourage society to integrate recycling into their lifestyle.
- The government needs to increase its oversight and performance monitoring of private companies it contracted to collect and treat solid waste in specific areas.

- The government needs to support traditional collectors – such as the *Zabaleen* – given their effective collection and recycling capacities that have shown positive results in many urban areas.

Key findings

- The lack of strategic systems for solid waste management is the reason why Egypt still depends on open dumpsites. These have disastrous impacts on health and environment. MURIS is drafting a strategy to test alternative solutions in targeted governorates.
- Private investors will not invest if there is no value from solid waste proceeds.
- MURIS is focusing on a new project to turn 160 recycling plants for organic waste into more productive and well-maintained units through public-private partnerships.

Quotes

“It is striking to see that waste is seen as a problem rather than a resource.”

-Guy Bonvain

“Civil Society is not supposed to replace the state, but to help the community.”

-Nazli Shabine

Key comment from the audience

- The “Authority of Cleanliness and Beautification in Giza” did not contract foreign companies from Italy and Spain for solid waste management. The cabinet did. This shows that the many stakeholders intervening in solid waste management, ranging from ministries, NGOs, to the private and the informal sectors, need to find better institutional arrangements for collaboration.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Hend Farrouh

Executive Director, Central Unit of Sustainable Cities & Renewable Energy, New Urban Communities Authority NUCA, Ministry of Housing.

- The NUCA Central Unit of Sustainable Cities & Renewable Energy focuses on two main goals: developing an integrated system for solid and agricultural waste management, and encouraging local communities to adopt environmentally-friendly waste management practices by raising awareness. NUCA did not opt for contracting private companies because of high costs.
- Some of the successful outcomes of the Unit's efforts include:
 - an agreement of cooperation with the Arab Contractors Company to collect construction waste which began in 6th of October City;
 - the pilot house waste recycling project “ Zayed Green City”, which involved feasibility studies by the European Investment Bank about potential integrated management systems in Al-Shorouq and New Cairo;
 - a recycling campaign launched to encourage people to implement projects in their own cities, which led several schools to implementing a sustainable recycling system; and
 - an agriculture waste project, which resulted in 7 cities treating agriculture waste to generate compost.

Mr. Michael Hanna Shukri

Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements MURIS

- Solid Waste Management has been the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment. However some SWM responsibilities were transferred to MURIS, which conducted surveys in governorates to identify resources and capacities for new waste management systems. MURIS is also partnering with traditional collectors and NGOs in large districts where private companies are not suited to operate.
- Current issues that need to be addressed include:
 - the insufficient number of trash boxes and cans on the streets to cater to the urban context, which has resulted in a heavy reliance on open dump sites with major consequences on people's health and the environment;
 - the limited oversight and monitoring of private companies that collect waste;
 - 63 plants for organic waste recycling that lack maintenance and are in need of renovation;
 - high garbage collection fees in spite of unsatisfactory services and collection fees not tailored to different income levels;
 - the lack of knowledge and awareness about the different categories of waste (e.g., organic and inorganic, agricultural, medical and industrial) and the importance of sorting waste at all levels of society - household, city, and country.

Dr. Guy Bonvin

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Swiss Confederation, Head of Infrastructure Financing Division

- From an outside perspective, it is striking to see that waste is seen as a problem rather than a resource that can generate financial sustainability through partnerships and job creation. For example, investors are interested in waste sorting due to the value of materials collected and the potential for both parties to generate income from this process. In addition, people will be willing to pay taxes if the services are properly provided in return; and this further contributes to the financial sustainability of solid waste management systems.
- As an international cooperation partner of Egypt, the Swiss Confederation has been conducting projects on medical waste for the past 2 years. The main challenge is to reach financial sustainability of the medical waste handling and disposal.
- Raising awareness and providing education about proper waste disposal practices is the first step to changing mindsets and fostering an environmentally-friendly culture in Egypt. Experience and lessons learned could be transferred from various countries and regions, for instance from Latin America where Switzerland has invested around USD 3 million to implement various communication measures, including social media, aimed at changing mindsets on the importance of recycling and sorting waste.

Mrs Nazli Shahine

Secretary General, Zamalek Association

- In Zamalek, street garbage is directly linked to the illegality of public activities including unlicensed shops and cafes. In response to this, the Zamalek Association collaborated with the central and local governments on a number of initiatives. This included renting garbage buses and establishing a routine for pick up; buying and inserting garbage boxes and cans throughout Zamalek; and raising awareness about environmentally-friendly practices. Moving forward the government should support NGOs who have strong links with communities in order to achieve better results in all projects and to stay updated on issues arising at the local level.
- lek collecting solid waste from homes and shops and transporting them to their own sites for recycling. When the government sub-contracted an Italian company to collect and treat the garbage 15 years ago, the situation changed and residents started to sort waste in the street and leave the remaining garbage to the company to collect. However, this company lacked the quality and capacity to effectively collect waste in Zamalek. As a result, the Association intervened to pay for 2 additional trucks since the company provided only 3 of the 18 trucks described in their contract. The Association also equipped the sweepers with uniforms, brooms and bikes every two months. Since this contract will end in 2016, the Association advocates for setting up a new institutional arrangement.

- One of the Association's creative projects is the Garbage Monitoring Scheme project in which residents can take a picture of a garbage pile on the street and post it on the Zamalek Association's Facebook page with the location, date and time. Designated supervisors equipped with bikes provided by the Association attend to the location and ensure that the garbage pile is removed. Supervisors take a picture after the garbage is removed and then upload it on Facebook. The average pick up time is 5 hours from the time a picture is posted.



Before

After



Zamalek Association efforts in solving solid waste management problems in Zamalek

Mr. Amir Roshdy

Development Unit, Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS)

- The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) was established in 1960 by a priest who was actively working with large Muslim and Christian communities in Upper Egypt and the Delta. The “Development Unit” of the organization works with the poorest and marginalized segments of society to help them to claim their rights and improve their life conditions. The organization enhances the life of citizens through four strategies: awareness, participation, empowerment, and local initiatives.
- The difference between rural and urban waste is that rural waste is mainly agricultural waste. Accordingly, CEOSS supports farmers in turning agricultural waste into compost, which can then be used as fertilizer; farmers can then save costs on having to buy fertilizer as well. As a result of this organic and sustainable initiative, farmers were able to export agricultural products to EU countries.
- CEOSS also implements various solid waste projects in four of Minya’s districts which include:
 - Conducting surveys to understand how garbage collection systems work in high/ middle income and informal communities;
 - Conducting awareness-raising activities on how to minimize waste from the source and implement sustainable recycling practices, particularly focusing on

women and mothers in household who are often responsible for hygiene matters;

- Offering vocational training in solid waste management in order to build the capacity of communities where this a lack of government services;
- Supporting community infrastructure projects to ensure there are solid waste facilities and systems in place; and
- Supporting income-generating activities from solid waste collection and treatment.

DISCUSSION

- Question to MURIS: Why should people pay 22 EGP sums for solid waste collection fees? This was experimented in Dokki and the result was that it didn't work because people didn't pay. Also the fee does not include the price of transferring waste to the central dumping place or recycling area. Studies need to be more serious in taking into account all variables to determine appropriate fees and avoiding negative impacts.
 - Answer by MURIS: MURIS has conducted calculations with Ministry of Environment (MoE) and GiZ to determine how much people can afford for solid waste collection fees taking into consideration where people live. For example, the price of 22 EGP in Dokki is high compared to certain parts of Cairo. MURIS is also experimenting in Embaba to charge 10 EGP, and in Port Said 6 EGP.
- There are two entities, MURIS and MoE, in charge of tackling the garbage issue. Do we need to change this situation?
- The Housing and Building Research Center (HBRC) is in charge of the committee preparing a code for solid waste management; however how can we make sure that the new legislation and regulations will be enforced? We need the code to be mandatory and binding like “the building and construction code” which decides whether or not a license is given.
- Although civil society should not have to bear the responsibilities of the state, its responsibility is to help communities. Therefore, why don't we conduct solid waste projects in 4 to 5 governorate and replicate the success?



From left to right: Dr. Hossam Allam, Dr Hend Farrouh, Dr. Guy Bonvin, Mr. Michael Hanna Shukri, Mrs. Nazli Shahine and Mr. Amir Roshdy

Learn more on this topic

Zamalek Association:
www.zamalekassociation.org

Informal Settlements development fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Swiss Confederation:
www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch

New Urban Communities Authority, Ministry of Housing:
www.nuca.gov.eg

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency:
www.eaaa.gov.eg

Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), Egypt:
www.en.ceoss-eg.org



THEME 4/ URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

9:00 pm : 10:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

groundwater, non-renewable, rationalize, protect, pollution, sewage water treatment, soil, reuse of wastewater, work ethics, coordination, state budget, water meters, private sector, participatory approach

SESSION 3 WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Introduction

Piped water supply increased from 89% to 100% in urban areas and from 39% to 93% in rural areas between 1990 and 2010. In spite of this improvement, Egypt continues to face challenges in terms of the quality and efficiency of the water supply and sanitation system. For example, 5% of the population does not have access to water, but this figure rises to 13% for access to a safe source of water, such as the presence of tap water in the housing unit. Studies also suggest that almost 30% of the water is lost through mismanaged water systems.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss the following questions

- The relationship between underground water management, provision and sanitation systems
- Innovative cost-effective techniques for wastewater treatment and participatory water management projects in Egypt
- The challenges of recycling wastewater for landscaping
- Should communities share costs for infrastructure or is it merely the role of the government?
- Is there a vision for an integrated urban water management strategy for Egypt?

Panelists

Dr. Nahed Al Araby

*Water Resources Management and Groundwater Expert,
National Water Research Center*

Eng. Sameh Abdel Gawad

Cairo University

Dr. Khaled M. Abu Zeid

Regional Water Director, CEDARE

Mrs. Deena Khalil

PhD Candidate and Researcher, University College London and TADAMUN/Takween

Eng. Sameh Seif

Director General, Together Association for Development and Environment (TADE)

Moderator

Mrs. Salma Yousry

Programme Officer, United Nations Human Settlements Program, Egypt Office

Sewage treatment plant, Bani Sweif



ANALYSIS

Common Grounds

- Groundwater is a strategic reserve of non-renewable water. It should be rationalized and protected from pollution. Therefore, improving the water supply for Egyptians will require improving the sewage water treatment in both quantity and quality. The commitment to provide adequate water and sewage to all, as stipulated in the 2030 plan, will require the government to solve the budget issue and other stakeholders to provide alternative solutions.

Diverging assessments

- Government statistics indicate full satisfaction about access to water, especially in urban areas. However, some experts and NGOs argue that despite these figures, 13% of the population do not have a tap in their housing unit.

Diverging responses

- The state alone is incapable of delivering water services to villages and remote areas. Innovative ideas are therefore needed to increase access to quality water in these areas.

Panelists' propositions

- All governorates need to have their own water management plan.
- The government needs to conduct a study to determine the sources of water in new cities and to indicate the proper use for each source.

- The 2030 strategic plan needs to include the water sector, and specify how water can be acquired and provided to all areas of the country. It also needs to specify how the water supply system can be rehabilitated, encourage the use of treated sewage water, and set up desalination plants in coastal cities.

- Groundwater should only be used for irrigation in areas that do not have access to treated sewage water.

- The government should halt construction in agricultural areas, forbid the dumping of waste in the Nile, prohibit the cultivation of green areas on desert lands and promote desert landscaping instead.

Key findings

- Treated sewage water constitutes a large part of drinking water in Egypt. Therefore, it is critical to guarantee its quality and apply cost effective methods.

- The main dysfunctions of the water supply system are: the unfair distribution of water, the lack of maintenance of facilities and infrastructure, and the lack of treatment of sewage water.

- The sustainability of water supply projects in rural areas can only be guaranteed if the private sector and/or NGOs intervene to support and complement community efforts.

Quotes from panelists

“Sewage and water services should be delivered to all the people by 2030.”

-Dr. Khaled Abu Zeid

Key question from the audience

- How are we going to reverse problems of contamination due to the lack of sewage systems in areas such as Matrouh, Fayyoun or Siwa? Similarly, how are we going to carry out sewage system projects in informal areas to provide them with the right infrastructures?

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Nahed Al Araby

Water Resources Management and Groundwater Expert, National Water Research Center

- Groundwater is the second source of water in Egypt and the main source of water in desert areas. Given the non-renewable nature of groundwater, the National Water Research Center is concerned with the protection of groundwater from the numerous sources of pollution including agricultural, industrial and human use. The Centre possesses maps that indicate vulnerability to pollution and suggests ways to help prevent the pollution of groundwater.
- One of the advantages of Egypt's groundwater system is that it is only extracted when needed, thereby applying a system of demand management. However, the system can be further improved by properly identifying the uses, quantities and extractions of groundwater; studying the different compositions of groundwater; raising awareness about the proper usage of water; and collaborating with other stakeholders on the strategic use of groundwater.
- All settlement programs need to incorporate efficient sewage and wastewater disposal systems. These programs can take advantage of the Center's research on the proper reuse of wastewater as an alternative to extracting groundwater.

Eng. Sameh Abdel Gawad

Cairo University

- The state's budget does not provide sufficient funds to implement sewage plans in full. We must consider alternative ways to implement sewage systems in Egypt.
- NGOs have contributed to the provision of adequate sewage to villages and semi-urban areas with high levels of pollution that are disconnected from sewage systems. These projects adopted a participatory approach by involving the local community in the design of smaller and economical sewage systems; establishing local committees that would take over the project; and training the committees to properly manage and acquire funds to maintain the project.
- The sustainability of sewage projects can only be guaranteed if the projects were handed over to private companies or had the financial and technical support of private companies. On the other hand, the role of NGOs in bridging the gap between the community and official authorities is critical and the importance of this role cannot be underestimated.

Eng. Sameh Seif

Together Association for Development and Environment (TADE)

- The state is incapable of delivering water services to villages and remote areas on its own; innovative ideas are therefore needed to increase access to quality water for these areas. In addition, treated sewage water constitutes a large part of drinking water in Egypt, stressing the importance of quality and cost effective methods.

- There are currently two potable water reuse options: indirect potable reuse (IPR) and direct potable reuse (DPR). The first is by releasing treated wastewater into rivers, dam, lakes or aquifers and then reclaiming it and treating it to meet drinking water standards; the second is the process of treating wastewater to drinkable standards and distributing immediately to the raw water supply system without using an environmental buffer. Hence, the DPR saves an additional step so it is more cost effective.

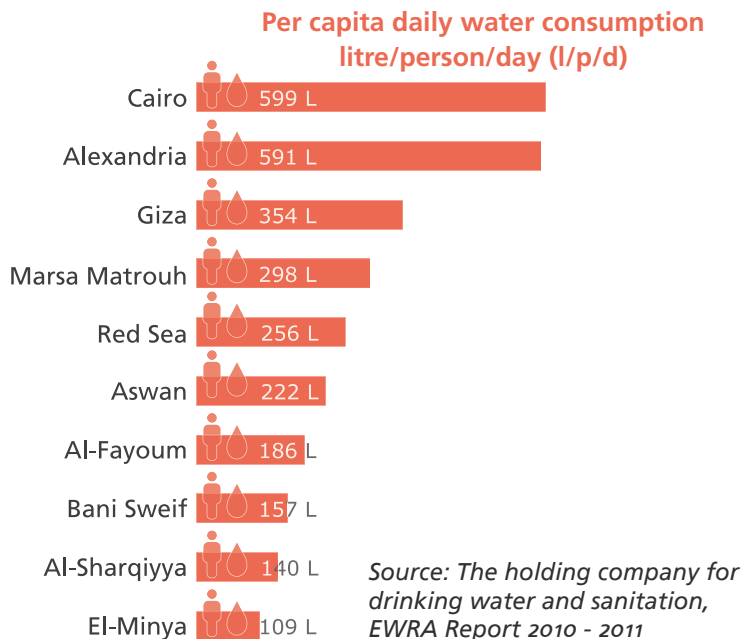


Treated sewage water station by Together Association for Development and Environment

Mrs. Deena Khalil

PhD Candidate and Researcher, University College London and TADAMUN/Takween

- Water should not be sold to people, as it is a right that should be granted to every individual, especially in the context of Egypt where there is a gap between what is spent on water and the cost of delivery.
- Due to the unfair distribution of water as well as the lack of maintenance and renovations, the water supply system in Egypt is inefficient in meeting the basic needs of Egyptians. In addition, there is also a lack of accurate data on the water supply system.



Dr. Khaled Abu Zeid

CEDARE

- In Egypt, only half of the sewage water produced is treated. CEDARE and six government ministries developed a strategic vision to upgrade all sewage water to a secondary level treatment by 2030, with full reuse mainly in agriculture.
- The government's plan should indicate the methods by which to provide water across the country; rehabilitate the water supply system through improved and cost effective technologies; encourage the reuse of treated sewage corresponding to its level of treatment; and set up desalination plants in coastal areas. In addition, a study should be conducted on the sources of water in new cities, suggesting the proper use of each source; and exceptionally important, all governorates should have a water management plan of their own.
- Water subsidies should be limited to low-income households, and an option to ensure equity could be that the basic needs of water could be free to every citizen, after which consumption above this free quantity would be charged.

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- Various regions in Egypt suffer from the lack of sewage water systems and urgent action is needed to protect these areas from contamination. For example, in the Governorate of Matrouh the first layer of underground water has become sewage water and several lakes in Fayy-oum are being polluted by sewage water.
- How are informal areas included and prioritized in the provision of sewage systems and who would be responsible for providing the necessary infrastructure and carrying out these projects?
- Data on groundwater reserves needs to be revised and updated on a regular basis.



From left to right: Eng. Sameh Abdel Gawad, Mrs. Deena Khalil, Dr. Nahed Al Araby, Eng. Sameh Seif, Dr. Khaled M. Abu Zeid and Dr. Salma Yousry

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Water resources and irrigation:
www.mwri.gov.eg/en

National Water Research Center:
www.nwrc-egypt.org

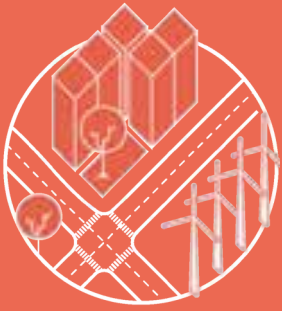
The holding company for drinking water and sanitation
www.hcww.com.eg

The Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe:
www.web.cedare.org

Informal Settlements development fund:
www.isdf.gov.eg

Together Association for Development and Environment:
www.together-eg.com/1/Start.aspx

Tadamun:
www.tadamun.info



THEME 4/ URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

11:00 am : 12:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

energy crisis, renewable energy, research and development, urban planning, subsidies, feed-in-tariff policy, solar panels, sustainable transportation, environmental regulations, awareness campaign, rationalization of energy, informal areas

SESSION 4 RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Introduction

Energy is essential for development and one of the main engines of urban economic growth. Cities around the world consume about 75% of global primary energy and emit between 50-60% of the world's total greenhouse gases. There is currently a mono-dependency on fossil fuels, which is unsustainable given that it is a limited resource and their depletion is a near reality. In Egypt, the state heavily subsidizes fossil fuel consumption, which has proven to be an unsustainable policy given the chronic budget deficit over the past few decades. This session discussed current energy policies, the future of renewable energies in Egypt and the ways to invest in sustainable energy resources.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss the following questions

- What is the sustainability of the electrical energy supply system? What is the government's role?
- What is the future of solar panels in residential and public buildings?
- To what extent is converting to efficient lighting systems resolving the current energy crisis?
- How is MURIS using feed-in tariff to upgrade informal markets and settlements?
- How can energy efficiency be integrated into transportation planning?



Panelists

Mr. Yaseen Abdel Ghaffar

Chief Executive Officer, Solarize Egypt

Mr. Mohamed Bayoumi

Assistant Resident Representative, Environment Team Leader, United Nations Development Programme, Egypt

Dr. Hany El Gazali

Head of Energy Center, Cairo University

Dr. Doaa Sherif

Executive Director, Urban Training Institute in the Housing and Building National Research Center

Moderator

Dr. Yasser Sherif

Consultant, Environics

ANALYSIS

Common grounds

Egypt is experiencing a multi-faceted energy crisis affected by and affecting all sectors of society from households to transportation and industrial companies. Thus, a viable response to reduce the consumption of energy should be comprehensive and target a wide range of urban stakeholders. New policies and regulations are needed and will require massive awareness-raising efforts to be effectively implemented.

Diverging assessments

- To avoid power cuts, many suggest developing new power plants and installing solar panels on household rooftops. However, rationalizing energy use is a quicker solution than opening power plants and further complements solar energy initiatives.
- As much as citizens are responsible for energy consumption, voices among environmental specialists also point to government and private sector companies, real estate sectors, architects and planners who are responsible for providing energy efficient infrastructure, updating manuals and building codes, improving road networks and providing clean energy public transportation.

Diverging responses

- The contradiction in Egypt's feed-in-tariff policy is that energy bills have increased by 10% for all citizens, which suggests that citizens are actually paying for the feed-in-tariff. This is an ineffective method of motivating Egyptians to invest in renewable energy.

Panelists' propositions

- Households, universities and hospitals should change their lightening systems in the effort to reduce 10% of our energy consumption.
- The government should use the feed-in-tariff policy to motivate citizens to invest in renewable energy and lower the subsidy rate from EGP 0.86 per kWh to a more reasonable rate of EGP 0.50-0.60 per kWh.
- The government should develop environmental regulations which enforce energy rationalization in private and public urban plans, taking into consideration all levels and functions of the city.

Key findings

- The urban planning project in Etay Al Baroud was able to successfully reduce travel time within cities by working with the community to identify congestion points and solutions.
- Solar light posts have proven to be a success in Sharm el-Sheikh and a nation-wide campaign is needed to expand this initiative throughout all of Egypt.
- Egypt has reached grid parity, meaning that the cost of power generated from renewable energy resources has become equal or cheaper than traditional non-renewable sources.

Quotes

“Egyptian households spend billions just for air conditioning and consume energy in ways that many rich countries cannot afford.”

-Mohamed Bayoumi

“Research and development is key to identifying the proper solutions to Egypt’s unique energy problems.”

-Hani El Gazal

“Planners, civil engineers and architects must always incorporate renewable energy in urban designs.”

-Hani El Gazali

Key comments from the audience

- Government solutions for energy conservation can succeed if they are complemented by large awareness campaigns to change people’s mindset and behavior.
- Two main obstacles prevent citizens from fully engaging in initiatives that aim at conserving energy: the lack of information about energy saving mechanisms and the fear of bearing the financial burden of using these mechanisms, especially in informal settlements.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Mr. Yaseen Abdel Ghaffar

Chief Executive Officer, Solarize Egypt

- Egypt's shift to renewable energy is caused by two factors: (1) the 50% reduction in the price of technology since 2011, influenced by China's emergence in the market and (2) the State's feed-in-tariff policy (announced September 2014) for electricity generated by new and renewable energy for households and private sector companies.
- Under the feed-in-tariff policy, the State pays households EGP 0.848 (\$0.118) per kilowatt hour (kWh); however this rate is too high. Instead of dispensing money into banks, we should encourage households to invest in renewable energy. A more reasonable rate would be EGP 0.50-0.60.
- Egypt has reached grid parity, meaning that the cost of power generated from renewable energy resources has become equal or cheaper than traditional non-renewable sources. Nonetheless, there is a need to diversify the sources of renewable energies such as solar, wind, hydro, biofuels, biomass etc. Research and development should play a role in this process, as well as building new value chains in the renewable energy sector that lead to exports and become competitive in global markets.

Dr. Hany El Gazali

Head of Energy Center, Cairo University

- Most solar panel projects in Egypt are implemented on the rooftops of residential homes or government buildings. Up until last year, most projects were in the range of 10-20kWh; now larger projects of 120kWh are being launched at the University Hospital in Asr el Ainy and as well as private schools. Also, new projects have been launched to help develop informal areas.
- The contradiction in Egypt's feed-in-tariff policy is that correspondingly, energy bills have increased by 10% for all citizens, which suggests that citizens are actually paying for the feed-in-tariff. This is an ineffective method of motivating Egyptians to invest in renewable energy.
- Research and development is key to identifying the proper solutions to Egypt's unique problems; and civil engineers and architects must always incorporate renewable energy in urban designs.

Mr. Mohamed Bayoumi

Assistant Resident Representative, Environment Team Leader, United Nations Development Programme, Egypt

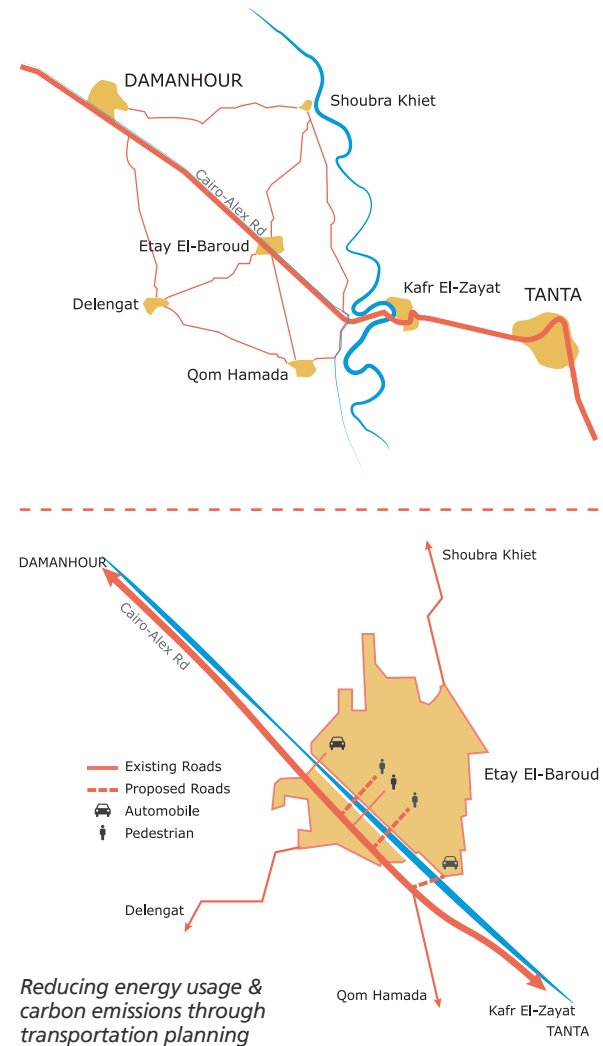
- The supply of energy in Egypt cannot meet the consumption patterns of households, which often peak after 6:00pm and have consequently resulted in frequent power cuts. For example, during the summer season, Egyptian households spend billions just for air conditioning and consume energy in ways that many rich countries cannot afford. Doors and windows are left open with ACs operating, directly contributing to the energy crisis.
- To avoid power cuts, many suggest developing new power plants or installing solar panels on household rooftops. However, rationalizing energy use is a quicker solution than opening power plants and further complements solar energy initiatives. For example, we can reduce 10% of our energy consumption by choosing to change the lighting system in our households, university and hospitals. The feed-in-tariff policy should also motivate citizens to invest in renewable energy.
- Research and development is critical for Egypt, without the need to reinvent the wheel, but build on existing research locally and internationally. Europe is leading in this sector and it does not nearly have the amount of sunlight Egypt has year-round. Thus, Egypt should be the most motivated to achieve progress in solar energy and technology and no longer wait on other countries to solve our unique problems.

Dr. Doaa Sherif

Executive Director, Urban Training Institute in the Housing and Building National Research Center

- The energy crisis extends to small cities that suffer from energy consumption patterns similar to big and hyper populated cities like Cairo. Reducing energy consumption requires a comprehensive approach: (1) energy rationalization or conservation should be top priority for private and public urban planners, taking into consideration all levels and functions of the city – i.e. population, land use, employment, households etc.- (2) and citizens should also develop the mindset that the more they rationalize the use of energy, the more they help contribute to long-term solutions.

- The transportation sector consumes a very high level of energy moving people from place to place. Even the lack of roads increases fuel consumption and leads to high carbon emissions, such as in medium-size cities where only one bridge connects the eastern and western bounds of the city results in traffic jams and carbon emissions. Thus, urban developers must incorporate transportation routes and services that reduce emissions before rather than after urban planning.
- The urban planning project in Etay Al Baroud was able to successfully reduce travel time within cities by working with the community to identify congestion points and solutions. For example, a pedestrian bridge was built over a major crossway, which reduced congestion and carbon emissions since vehicles no longer had to wait for pedestrians to cross. New routes were also created to enable vehicles to reach their destination without passing through the city.



Source: Dr. Doaa M. El-Sherif

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- As much as citizens are responsible for energy consumption, buildings in Egypt are not energy efficient to the extent that the weather outside may be good while the weather inside is very hot. This is partly the fault of the architect, but more so the haphazard/ reckless construction process. Improved manuals and building codes can help resolve this issue.
- Residents of informal settlements are often against development projects fearing that they will be burdened with financial costs. We need to ensure that renewable energy projects take this into consideration.
- From Asyut to Sohag, roads are completely dark yet Egypt has an abundance of sunlight year-round. Solar light posts have proven to be a success in Sharm el-Sheikh and a nation-wide campaign is needed to expand this initiative throughout all of Egypt. Factories and companies can also contribute by making this initiative a social responsibility. Solar cookers are also an untapped market for energy conservation.

- It is difficult for citizens to find out about the various initiatives aimed at conserving energy. NGOs working on these projects should have a greater voice in these types of conferences and the media/ information agency should be present to spread awareness.
- All malls should be required to use renewable energy and should close down at 10:00pm like most of the world, rather than continuing to consume energy up until midnight.
- In London, government solutions for energy conservation are complemented by large awareness campaigns to change behavior. When Japan was hit by a tsunami in 2011, nuclear power plants shut down and energy production dropped by 30%; Japan responded by launching an awareness campaign on the rationalization of energy consumption and succeeded in changing people's behavior. Egypt can learn from these initiatives, given that there seems to be no incentive or motivation for citizens to turn off lights and ACs.

Learn more on this topic:

Ministry of Electricity and renewable energy:
www.moe.gov.eg/english_new/home.aspx

Solarize Egypt:
www.solarizegypt.com

the Housing and Building National Research Center:
www.hbrc.edu.eg

United Nations Development Programme, Egypt:
www.undp.org

Energy Research Center, Cairo University:
www.eng.cu.edu.eg/en/ener



From left to right: Dr. Hany El Gazali, Dr. Doaa Sherif, Mr. Yaseen Abdel Ghaffar, Mr. Mohamed, Bayoumi and Dr. Yasser Sherif



THEME 4/ URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Date and Venue:

14 June 2015

2:30 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

urban governance, services, e-Government, economic development, citizens, smart phones, applications, trust, social needs, youth, collaboration, data collection, urban vision, digital culture

SESSION 5 SPECIAL UNDP SESSION ON THE ROLE OF ICT IN URBAN PLANNING AND URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

Introduction

The United Nations Development Program in Egypt (UNDP) has been supporting the Government of Egypt in its efforts to improve the delivery of public services and to foster socioeconomic development through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) since 1998.

As ICT enables the government to meet its objectives faster, more effectively, and less costly, UNDP has been promoting the use of ICT in its different areas of work including the development of forward-thinking urban and rural areas. UNDP is committed to continue to support the socioeconomic development of Egypt by enabling the design of smarter cities that can offer a better quality of life for their residents while being more sustainable and cost efficient. The objective of this session is to discuss the role of ICT in Urban Planning and Urban Service Delivery in order to provide alternative and innovative visions for the development of Egyptian cities of the future.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- How is ICT true to the betterment of urban development and urban service delivery?
- What are the bottlenecks in utilizing ICT in urban development and urban service delivery at the national level - especially rural and remote areas, as well as slums - and what are the suggestions to tackle these challenges?
- How can we establish a necessary cooperative network among different entities in order to take full advantage of ICT in urban Planning and urban service delivery?

Panelists

Eng. Hoda Dahroug

Member of the Presidential Advisory Council for Community Development, National Director of ICT Trust Fund.

Mrs. Ghada Khalifa

Citizenship Lead, Microsoft

Mr. Amr Abdel Aziz

Founder & CEO of Crowd Dynamix

Moderator

Dr. Sherif Morad Abdelmohsen

Assistant Professor of Digital Media and Design Computing in Architecture Department of Construction and Architectural Engineering, The American University in Cairo (AUC)

Street Paving in Mit Uqba, Giza



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

Considering the number of Internet and mobile phones users in Egypt, there is plenty of room to boost a digital culture applied to relationships between citizens and state institutions in charge of delivering public services.

Key findings

ICT can help reduce costs and improve the effectiveness of public services provided that policy makers and citizens collaborate in the design of digital tools.

Panelists' propositions

- Include the role of ICT in the national vision on urban development and the operational steps.
- Consolidate Egyptian data and information on urbanism, demography, and public services.
- Introduce legislation where data collection and updating is prioritized.
- Conduct capacity-building initiatives for civil servants.
- Encourage bottom-up governance through social participation.
- Invest in creating a digital culture, especially among children and youth, as well as in increasing trust between citizens and government.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Sherif Morad Abdelmohsen (moderator)

Assistant Professor of Digital Media and Design Computing in Architecture Department of Construction and Architectural Engineering, The American University in Cairo (AUC)

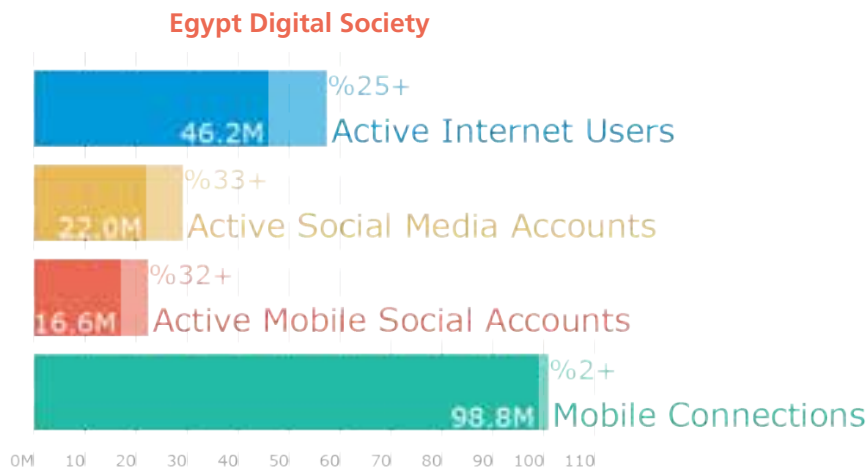
- Since 1988 UNDP has helped develop and improve urban planning and services, and assess governmental progress to reach goals of rapid and effective service delivery.
- While designing smart cities is currently a hot topic in Egypt, technology can be used to provide a better quality of life through environmental and economic sustainability.

Eng. Hoda Dahroug

Member of the Presidential Advisory Council for Community Development and National Director of ICT Trust Fund

- The UNDP and the Egyptian Ministry of Telecommunications collaborate on an ICT Trust Fund and other programs to foster social and economic development in light of the growing role of information, communication, and technology (ICT) in promoting development and contributing innovative solutions. This is relevant in the context of Egypt where 46.3 million Egyptians are using the Internet and 98.8 million are using mobile phones.

- Examples of how knowledge can be created and employed through ICT to foster economic development includes enhancing public service; helping farmers learn more about fertilizers and connect with agriculture experts; helping disabled students obtain academic materials; and developing programs aimed at achieving a higher degree of economic and social inclusion for women, including women who are illiterate or reside in informal areas.
- All projects need to apply a participatory and needs-based approach with their partners by understanding the latter's specific heritage and culture of innovation.



Source: Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Mrs. Ghada Khalifa
CSR Manager/Citizenship Lead, Microsoft

- Technology, and in particular smart phones, has proven to be effective in facilitating urban governance and services such as using applications from Microsoft on Windows to gain access to e-government services and using social media to create a dialogue between citizens and government. Also, in the United States, VoIP (voice over internet protocol) was used to form a dialogue between senators and mobile applications were used to enable public servants to access documents from their office computers.
- To enable cities to be more sustainable, secure, healthy, and environmentally-friendly, policy makers and citizens need to unite to share and integrate ideas and collaborate on initiatives through the use of ICT. It is important that the opinions and needs of citizens determine the design of a particular public service, and ICT can help to facilitate this.

Mr. Amr Abd El-Aziz
Founder & CEO of Crowd Dynamix

- Crowd Dynamix specializes in how technology can impact government performance, citizen engagement, community development, urban governance and urban development. The Heron city in Spain is considered “a town that runs on social media”. This city is a great example of how using technology as a tool of city management positively impacted the development of the city,

and led to a greater citizen engagement. To run a city as big as Cairo, we need to use a technological infrastructure that can provide the four requirements as follows:

- Access to information on what and how big the problems are.
- Prioritizing these problems according to the needs of the citizens.
- Defining the impact of solving these problems on the community and how to communicate this impact to the people.
- Organizing sustainable mechanisms.
- The government needs to produce big, fast, and tangible impact to gain the people’s trust and support. Technology can help solve an existing problem with less tools and better performance. Also, it creates opportunities to save costs, and produce tangible results.
- What kinds of technology can we use?
 - Web technology
 - Mobile technology
 - Internet of things
 - Social media
 - Big data
 - Cloud computing

- With the use of ICT solutions:
 - Communities can be empowered to solve their problems and create new opportunities for themselves;
 - The Government can share responsibilities and decision-making with citizens; and
 - The Government can improve workflow and internal processes, increase citizens' participation, improve automation processes, and enhance performance management teams.



From left to right: Mr. Amr Abdel Aziz, Mrs. Ghada Khalifa and Eng. Hoda Dahroug

Learn more on this topic:

Egypt ICT Trust Fund:
www.ictfund.org.eg

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT):
www.mcit.gov.eg

Microsoft CityNext:
www.enterprise.microsoft.com/en-us/industries/citynext

Egypt's Government Services Portal:
www.egypt.gov.eg/English/General/about.aspx



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- Plenary Session 1: National Urban Vision and Mega Projects
 - Plenary Session 2: International and Regional Inter-Arab Cooperation
 - Plenary Session 3: Towards the Habitat III Conference
 - Plenary Session 4: Identity, Culture and Heritage
 - Theme 1: Urban Planning & Renewal
 - Theme 2: Urban Governance
 - Theme 3: Urban Housing
 - Theme 4: Urban Service Delivery
 - **Theme 5: Urban Economy**



THEME 5/ URBAN ECONOMY

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

9:00 am : 10:30 am

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

informal labor, citizen needs, right to the city, street vendors, roof gardens, food security, informal markets, recycling, legalization, investment, decentralization, participatory planning, holistic development

SESSION 1 INFORMAL ECONOMY, GROWTH AND EQUITY

Introduction

In developing countries, the informal economy plays a crucial role in providing diverse job opportunities that are more accessible to the labor market. While the informal economy is an important survival strategy for the poor, it is often regarded as problematic since informal businesses evade taxes and operate outside of state control, which further provides leeway to engage in illegal activities. Research suggests that the informal economy in Egypt constitutes up to 40% of the economy and is resilient in the sense that informal jobs continued to be offered during the economic downturn that occurred after the 2011 revolution. This session explored the current state of the informal economy in Egypt, highlighting its advantages and disadvantages; the state's policy on informal activities; and the need for legalizing and integrating the informal economy into the formal one. The session further discussed the geographical and sectorial inequities in Egypt, drawing on local and international experiences to address these issues.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- Who participates in the informal economy and why is it growing?
- How can local food production contribute to food security in the urban context?
- What is the government policy towards informal street vendors?
- How is the informal recycling economy integrating into the formal one?
- Equity: What are the needed reforms to address geographical and sectorial inequities in Egypt? What are the best practices - local and international?

Panelists

Eng. Omar Nagati

Architect & Urban Planner, Co-Principle, CLUSTER

Dr. Sherif El Gohary

Manager, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Unit, Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements (MURIS)

Mrs. Hala Barakat

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)

Mr. Ezzat Naeem

Managing Director, Spirit of Youth

Dr. Reem Abdel-Halim

Senior Economist, TADAMUN/ Takween

Moderator

Ms. Safa Ashoub

Institutionalization Advisor, Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas (PDP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Vegetables Market in Damietta



ANALYSIS

Common Grounds

- The informal economy represents an excessive share of the Egyptian economy, which undermines both state capacities and citizens' rights in the long term.
- Informal jobs primarily meet functions and are located where the needs are.

Contrasting views

- While the government continues to invest a substantial amount in new cities to promote development, other urban stakeholders have observed that this approach completely neglects the poorest communities and exacerbates the informality problem in inner cities.
- Street vendors are often evicted by government forces seeking to prevent illegal activity; however urban studies have suggested that street vendors can be integrated into the city by developing urban guidelines for their activities.

Panelists' propositions

- Policy makers and the private sector must shift from the old paradigm of development (trickle-down effect) to the new paradigm (bottom-up, decentralization) to meet the objective of economic development and shared growth.
- The government should legalize and organize a smooth integration of street vendors and markets in the city.

- The government should legalize informal solid waste collection initiatives to help solve the garbage crisis in the country.
- The government should create a one-stop shop for industrial workshops and SMEs from all relevant ministries and agencies.

Quotes

“The power of informality is to work within a system that is already on the ground.”

-Omar Nagati

“Public space in Egypt is a grey area where everything is negotiable.”

-Omar Nagati

Key findings

- The informal economy at the macro-economic level is caused by spatial injustice: the unbalanced distribution of public spending between sectors and regions according to their investment and service needs.
- In the absence of effective local governance in Egypt, a two-year study from CLUSTER shows that developing negotiation mechanisms among local stakeholders can help manage complex issues and suggest comprehensive solutions that take into consideration legal, technical, and policy aspects.

- Local residents have proven that roof gardening is an innovative, practical, and cost-effective approach to fostering urban food security.
- Informal areas are not only problematic locations, but rather offer examples of successful informal entrepreneurs that have viable economic models which can be replicated.

Key comments from the audience

- By decentralizing and adopting a bottom-up approach, informal economies and isolated communities can successfully be integrated in long-term solutions and plans.
- Egypt's Ministries are fragmented and operating in silos, which is wasting resources and expertise. In light of the new constitution, Egypt is in a prime situation to apply a holistic approach that integrates all sectors and stakeholders and properly assigns roles and responsibilities in development.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Eng. Omar Nagati

Architect & Urban Planner, Co-Principle, CLUSTER

- In Cairo, the spatial distribution of street vendors is particularly concentrated in the downtown area and the typology and behavior patterns of street vendors change according to season. For example, behavior patterns differed during the month of Ramadan compared to other months.
- Street vendors can affect the cultural character of the city and the privacy of surrounding users and spaces, but rather than forcefully evacuating street vendors from certain streets in downtown Cairo, there should be rental spaces officially designated for street vendors, as well as urban guidelines that include street vendors as a right to the city.
- Designating spaces for street vendors should be managed collectively by the government and stakeholders, including the opinions of retail shop owners, pedestrians and street users.

Dr. Sherif Al-Gohary

Manager, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Unit, MURIS

- The main causes behind the emergence of informal markets are attributed to poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and rural-urban migration. Informal markets face many challenges including the lack of urban services, safety and security, garbage collection and waste manage-

ment as well as overlapping activities and facilities with poor conditions. In Cairo, the different types of informal markets are broken down as follows: 75% food, 33% miscellaneous, 22% commercial, and 4% crafts.

- Upgrading informal markets is challenging due to different types of markets in the sector. Market profiles vary dramatically according to vendors' needs, hours of operation – often inconsistent - and the market relationship with the rest of the city, and its location and connectedness with means of transportation such as metro stations, buses and microbus stops.
- The MURIS strategy for upgrading markets includes vendors and users' safety, use of solar energy and respect of the neighborhood character.



Informal Market in Dar Al-Salam, Cairo

Mrs. Hala Barakat

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights

- In the city, producing food depends on access to space. Public or semi-public places such as schools, clubs, mosques, churches, and parks can easily allocate space to grow gardens the way public authorities in Morocco and Abu Dhabi planted fruit trees in streets and public spaces.
- One of the main factors contributing to food insecurity in urban areas is the uneven distribution of food within cities. After the 2011 Revolution, several initiatives emerged to promote local food production in urban areas. For example:
 - Schaduf, a leading organization in Egypt is helping people and communities create green spaces such as rooftop farms, roof gardens, vertical wall gardens and other eco-products.
 - The Roof Gardening initiative by Ice Cairo began with one person who started planting on her roof and sharing her techniques with others via word of mouth and through events organized via Facebook. Thereafter, a group was formed and several workshops were organized to educate people on roof gardening and build their self-confidence to participate in something that was unthinkable a few years ago.

Mr. Ezzat Naeem

Managing Director, Spirit of Youth

- Despite Egypt's garbage collection crisis, the government does not support many local groups, including the Spirit of Youth, aimed at collecting garbage and establishing a sustainable system for collection. Instead, the Spirit of Youth receives support through its network of 85 informal SMEs.
- Local activities run by these groups should be formalized with the support of the government in providing the necessary documents to facilitate the process and as well as facilities for these groups to effectively operate. These steps should be taken prior to taxing these groups.

Dr. Reem Abdel-Halim

Senior Economist, TADAMUNI Takween

- Spatial justice is related to the equitable distribution of public funds across sectors and regions. Spatial injustice occurs when large populations become concentrated in certain areas consequently creating poverty pockets.
- Achieving shared growth requires a needs-based funding formula, which Egypt desperately lacks. For example, the unequal allocation of investments is reflected by the huge investments allocated to new cities that disproportionately absorb resources, while inner cities increasingly deteriorate and become informal areas and rural areas continue to be in dire need of adequate housing.

- Regarding infrastructure and sanitation, around 43% of these investments in the 2014/ 2015 plan are concentrated in Greater Cairo, mainly in new cities; only 16.8% are allocated to Upper Egypt governorates, limiting the availability of clean water in these regions.
- The economic literature on improving the economic standards of citizens has experienced a paradigm shift. Instead of promoting the trickle-down effect, the new literature recognizes the greater impact of the bottom-up approach for planning and budgeting, which incorporates participatory development and community need-based assessments; and decentralization, including the redistribution of grants from central to local. Accordingly, public and private urban stakeholders should align their policies and practices with this new approach.

DISCUSSION

Comments/questions from the audience included

- In reference to academic research conducted on informal markets in Giza where the results were disregarded by the government; is there an implicit or explicit agreement between the government and municipalities to keep informal markets instead of relocating them?
 - Response from Dr. Sherif Al Gohary: The Ministry is striving to formalize the informal sector. Street vendors are constantly relocating where consumers are to increase sales. Thus, relocating informal markets is not always a perfect solution; there is a need to formalize and regulate the framework of the informal economy and markets. MURIS is also partnering with academia and the Ministry of Planning to formalize informal markets, and thus far 92 projects are being implemented in this effort.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Planning, MURIS has developed a program called “one village, one prod-

uct”, which aim to improve local economic development and link rural and urban areas through new value chains.

- Eng. Omar Nagati: While informal areas often encroach on agricultural land, in many cases informal communities have made use of agricultural land to run economic activities that respond to people’s needs and at the same time are harmless to the environment. For example, some informal communities have developed sports fields which involved investing in fences and other equipment. The fields would be rented out per hour to the teams, and proved to be a sustainable economic model because there was demand for recreational activities. We should explore the opportunities to replicate such economic models in informal areas.
- Mrs. Hala Barakat: In comparison to sports fields, promoting roof gardening as an economic model in informal areas is challenging because urban Egyptians do not really practice gardening any more. Therefore there is a need to raise awareness, re-train citizens, and mainstream these experiences across informal communities.



From left to right: Eng. Omar Nagati, Dr. Sherif El-Gohary, Ms. Safa Ashoub, Mrs. Hala Barakat Mr. Ezzat Naeem and Dr. Reem Abdel-Halim

Learn more on this topic

Cairo Lab for Urban Studies,
Training and Environmental
Research:

www.clustercairo.org

Schaduf:

www.schaduf.com

Informal Settlements develop-
ment fund:

www.isdf.gov.eg

Ministry of Planning:

www.mop.gov.eg

Egyptian Initiative for Personal
Rights (EIPR):

www.eipr.org/en

Tadamun Initiative:

www.tadamun.info



THEME 5/ URBAN ECONOMY

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

4:30 pm : 6:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

low income housing, business model, interest rates, affordability, global best practices, land, nationalization, bureaucracy, informal settlements, corporate social responsibility, social entrepreneurship, job creation, holistic development, training

SESSION 2 PRIVATE SECTOR ADDED-VALUE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Introduction

Public facilities in Egypt have been decaying for many decades and the construction of new facilities such as hospitals, schools, social housing and universities are unable to meet the needs of a growing population. Given that the state has been unable to provide an adequate number of public facilities, services and employment, the importance of involving other actors such as the private sector becomes more apparent. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a means of cooperation between the state and private sector is discussed as a potential solution to constructing new public facilities and providing services more efficiently and economically.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- What has been the impact of PPPs in Egypt in the past 10 years? What have been the most successful examples of PPPs? What are the lessons learned from previous and existing initiatives?
- Should PPPs be widely adopted by local governments?
- How has the role of the private sector and the state evolved in relation to the provision of housing units? Are we moving in the right direction?
- What are the benefits and challenges of working with the private sector? What is the enabling environment for meaningful and effective partnerships with the private sector?

Panelists

Dr. Ahmed Hassanein

*Associate Dean for Undergrad Studies and Administration,
School of Business, American University in Cairo*

Mrs. Jackie Kamel

Managing Director, Nahdet el Mahrousa NGO

Eng. Omar Sabbour

*Managing Director, Sinai Management and Development
(SMD)*

Moderator

Mrs. Nahla Zeitoun

*Assistant Resident Representative, Poverty Team Leader,
United Nations Development Fund*

Palm Hills Katameya, Egypt



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- The current governmental approach is unsuccessful in providing affordable housing to millions of low to middle income communities, who also lack mechanisms to access credit.
- CSOs are well positioned to engage in PPPs for two main reasons; they are aware of citizens' needs and demands and they provide technical expertise to both their partners and beneficiaries.

Diverging assessments

- The government believes that public housing programs are a suitable tool to provide housing for the poor, whereas some companies in the private sector believe that the State is not suited to be an “investor” but rather a “regulator”.
- Given that the government is the only entity that can sell new portions of land, some real-estate companies think that the private sector should be authorized to sell land directly to people because its business model would better accommodate the needs of all social categories from low to high incomes.

Diverging responses

- According to certain NGOs and private companies, the governmental policy of building new communities as a response to the housing crisis was a failure because it

did not provide populations with an integrated environment where they can find jobs and services.

- According to private companies, the current initiative from the government to launch a “one million unit program” through a partnership with ArabTech will not succeed in meeting the needs of low-income social categories because of the excessive cost per unit.

Panelists' propositions

- Urban stakeholders should look at how global best practices have solved housing crises through public private partnerships (PPPs) such as in Mexico and Morocco, and implement appropriate solutions to the Egyptian context.
- The government should equip and license more land, lower interest rates, and simplify the burdensome regulations for purchasing land, which is currently a 9-month process.
- Mainstream the collaboration between civil society, the government and the private sector in solving economic and social issues to benefit from CSOs' closeness to citizens, technical expertise, training capacities and innovative approaches such as social entrepreneurship.

Key findings

- There is a scarcity of land available for sale, yet 94% of Egypt's land is vacant. This is due to the nationaliza-

tion of land in 1952 which practically eliminated the role of private real estate companies in selling land, and currently only one state agency has the monopoly for selling land.

- The private sector cannot properly contribute to affordable housing in Egypt because opportunities to generate profit in this sector are jeopardized by issues related to land value, high interest rates, bureaucracy and insufficient workforce skills. However, corporate social responsibility can be an effective tool for the private sector to experiment new ideas.

Quotes from panelists

“Creating jobs is not just about training but also about providing appropriate salaries and ensuring proximity between residence and work places; it requires a holistic approach to development.”
-Jackie Kamel.

“In Egypt, the private sector is restricted instead of being involved in the housing projects for the poor, which is a recession proof business.”
-Ahmed Hassanein

Key question from the audience

- Why doesn't the private sector respond to increasing demand for housing by adapting its supply to the needs of low-income segments of the population, which are now being driven into the informal housing market? By targeting the “basis of the pyramid”, it would expand its market share and increase its profit while addressing pressing social needs.



Housing and Development Bank

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Eng. Omar Sabbour

Managing Director, Sinai Management and Development

- In Egypt, there is significant need of affordable housing for the low-income population but yet this need is not considered as a demand because of the lack of purchasing power among these populations. As a matter of fact, many households can't afford to rent or purchase adequate housing units and live in cemeteries and slums.
- There is currently only one state entity that is responsible for selling land, making it incapable of meeting housing demand and provoking a rise in the land prices, particularly in the new communities. During Ibrahim Melheb ministerial era, for the first time in decades, a new strategy was under discussion to allow the private sector to acquire one big piece of land and sell it to the public. However, this strategy hasn't been implemented yet.
- Egypt needs to apply a system similar to many foreign countries where the private sector's business model of affordable housing is used. In this model, standard housing prototypes are developed upon mortgage loan so that housing units can be built faster without compromising quality. In addition, the government should provide more portions of lands that are equipped and licensed, adopt a new system towards financing the land with low interest rates and simplify the administrative cycle to purchase and register the land, as it currently it takes 9 months.

- Global best practices: In Mexico, a housing company "Echale a tu casa" was successful in providing affordable housing units for up to 10 million people in rural Mexico. Their initial strategy, which was fundraising to build homes, had resulted in many people abandoning their housing units because it was passed down to them as charity. The company then changed their strategy to offering the best houses possible at the lowest price, providing design and financial workshops, building the capacity of people to build their homes with support from the company's staff, and facilitating government subsidies for eligible home buyers. Charging for affordable housing enabled the company to make three times the impact, reinforcing the importance of ownership in any development approach.

Dr. Ahmed Hassanein

Associate Dean for Undergrad Studies and Administration, School of Business, American University in Cairo

- Egypt needs to follow the example of developing countries like Mexico, India, South Africa and Morocco that identified the housing problem and took radical measures to resolve it.
- In Mexico, it takes about 40 days to build a unit, which indicates a rapid, standardized and profitable cycle of development. In contrast, the private sector in Egypt is restricted in the sense that there is no economy of scale in building several units because each unit requires starting from scratch and going through the same lengthy, costly, and complicated administrative procedures.

- In the case of Morocco, which experienced a housing crisis 10 years ago, the government introduced a policy guaranteeing eligible homebuyers 80% of their mortgage. This further increased the role of the private sector in the construction and resale of housing.
- Egypt needs millions of units to be built and the state and private sector must work together to achieve this. However, the government must create an enabling environment for PPPs by: establishing simple business regulations; guaranteeing mortgage loans; ensuring institutional coordination and logistics; facilitating participatory policy making; and investing in viable solutions inspired by global best practices.

Mrs. Jackie Kamel

Managing Director, Nahdet el Mahrousa NGO

- 50,000 civil society organizations are working at the grass-root level by focusing on demands from local communities and investing in sustainable projects. In addition to charity, CSOs intervene in all aspects of development including housing. Concerning housing for the poor, even if CSOs cannot afford construction initiatives like the private sector, they can effectively work on providing social utilities especially in the context of new cities where buildings did not come with proper services.
- CSOs have a deeper understanding of people's demands and needs such as the issue of employment. Accordingly, over the past 5-6 years CSOs have collaborated with government and the private sector to enhance the employability of youth.

- Egypt faces many development challenges such as the migration of young people from the Governorate of Suez. In response to this, the Nahdet el Mahrousa NGO collaborates with the local government to help develop the City of Suez and assist youth in identifying employment and investment opportunities.
- The success of the Nahdet el Mahrousa NGO in collaborating with the private sector lies in its capacity to bridge the gap between citizens' needs and corporate goals, and to promote concepts of "return on investment" to encourage companies to invest in professional training for human capital and know-how are the most valuable resources for the private sector.

DISCUSSION

- The private sector in Egypt makes huge profits in the housing sector; a flat for low-income communities is at a high cost of EGP 400,000 and a villa costs EGP 12 million versus EGP 1 million in the United States. We should consider best practices from the United States, Russia, and Germany where investors built housing units near factories and housing units were adapted based on the profile of people living in the area -i.e. single, couples, or families.
- What is the balance between Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and profitable work in the private sector?
 - **Answer by Eng. Omar Sabbour:** CSR can only solve a small part of Egypt's urban issues; we need economic and sustainable solutions for sectors like health and education. Informal settlements appeared due to Egypt's land reform in the 1950's, which was based on a socialist model. Prior to this reform, several companies would develop new neighborhoods like Maadi and sell real estate. The land reform made the State the only authorizing entity to sell land, and consequently the State was unable to meet the housing demand of a growing population, resulting in the emergence of informal housing and settlements. The idea of a State investor was a wrong decision; the state should be a market regulator, creating an enabling environment for the private sector and citizens to invest according to their needs and interests. CSR in Egypt is currently like charity. By simply funding schools and mosques, CSR does not solve any structural problems, empower people, or build the capacity of communities to improve their livelihoods.
 - **Answer Dr. Hassanein:** It is not enough to just build housing near factories because people need public facilities such as schools and hospitals. The private sector cannot fund these services and this is why new communities like the 10th of Ramadan have failed. In other words, new communities require both private and public investment.
- Considering the challenge of informal settlements and their continued growth in the country, has the private sector studied the needs of informal communities and ways to respond independently from the approach of government housing programs? Informal settlements were able to do what the private sector could not do, which is understanding the needs, the potentials and the resources people have. We do not have an adequate understanding of the problems and needs of the poor. We think that they randomly accept anything offered to them; but this is not true.
 - **Answer Mrs. Jackie Kamel:** We cannot wait on the government for everything. A few years ago *Nahdet el Mabrousa* was the first and only NGO promoting social entrepreneurship in Egypt. After much awareness-raising on how social entrepreneurship creates job opportunities, the government became interested on how it could help.
- What can we do as civil society and the private sector without waiting for approval of the government to start doing something? What are the steps we can take?



From left to right: Eng. Omar Sabbour, Dr. Ahmed Hassanein, Mrs. Jackie Kamel and Mrs. Nahla Zeitoun

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities:
www.moh.gov.eg

United Nations Development Program:
www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home

Nahdet El Mahrousa NGO:
www.nahdetelmahrousa.org



THEME 5/ URBAN ECONOMY

Time and Venue:

14 June 2015

2:30 pm : 4:00 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

over-population, pressure, decentralization, coordination, demographic transition, democratic transition, migration, contraceptive, planning, sub-urbanization, "rurbanization"

SESSION 3 URBAN POPULATION

Introduction

Egypt's population reached 87 million in 2014. The population growth rate has been on the rise since the mid-90s. The time it takes to add an additional million Egyptians to the population pyramid has decreased from almost 1 year in 1990 to less than 6 months in 2013, when 2.6 million new Egyptians were born. Likewise, the total fertility rate has risen to 3.5 children per woman in 2014, which brings the country back to the level witnessed in 1995/2000, despite 20 years of sustained decreases in crude birth rates. At the current fertility level, the total population would reach 169 million in 2050. With 62% of the population below the age of 30 and the potential for further increases make investing in young people and reap the potential benefits of the demographic dividend an imperative. Internally, the country is characterized by important urban-rural and socio-economic differences and by a consistent gap between Upper Egypt and the rest of the country.

The strong demographic pressure explains the high urban density rate, not only in Cairo and Alexandria, but also in middle and small-sized cities, which are developing in a "conurbation" process. Planning strategies have to be revisited to contain demographic growth and to respond to the intensification of international migrations due to the regional crisis.

The aim of the panel was to discuss

- What are the drivers of urban population growth in Egypt? And how does that affect the hierarchy of cities in Egypt?
- To what extent is there inequity between rural and urban populations, between different governorates and regions, and between genders?
- What are the current trends of internal and external migrations? What is the impact of migration on urban populations? What are the needs of migrants in urban areas?
- What is the link between the demographic dividend and economy? Population is essentially about people; but it also affects – and is affected – by the economy.
- What is required for enhancing women and youth's economic empowerment?
- What has been the government strategy in relation to population growth? What is expected role of the different development partners in implementing this strategy?

Panelists

Dr. Hala Youssef

Minister of Population

Dr. Magued Osman

Baseera

Dr. Walid Bayoumi

Cairo University

Mr. Amr Taha

*International Organization for Migration (IOM) Egypt
Coordinator*

Dr. Isam Taha

United Nations Population Fund, Regional Unite

Moderator

Dr. Roman Stadnicki

*Geographer, Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation
Economiques, Juridiques et Sociales (CEDEJ) & Tours
University*

Izbit Al-Haggana, Cairo



ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- Because Egypt has rolled away from its demographic transition for two decades, it is urgent to reduce the rapidly increasing birth rate in the coming years.
- The country needs to implement decentralization in order to develop all areas of the national territory and reduce internal migrations to over-populated cities.

Diverging views

- Without investing in local economic development through decentralization, grouping villages and strengthening public services and education in 280 small cities, Egypt will not succeed in managing its demographic growth by simply redistributing population from the core to the outskirts of big cities.
- Reclassifying villages into cities is criticized as detrimental to the protection of agriculture land and as a driver for migration to bigger cities. Merging villages into one large city would rather provide local opportunities and stabilize the population.
- While Egypt's policies have focused on family planning, regional observers think that leaders should prioritize reproductive health to decrease the rising mortality rates among children.

Panelists' propositions

- The role of youth as engines of growth should be recognized as a priority for Egypt's development and the focus of relevant investments in education and training.
- Egypt should promote the migration of Egyptians abroad as part of a development strategy through remittances and investments.

Quotes

“Some demographers such as Youssef Courbage think there is a relation between demographic transition and democratic transition.”

-Roman Stadnicki.

“Our youth is a demographic gift.”

-Magued Osman.

Key findings

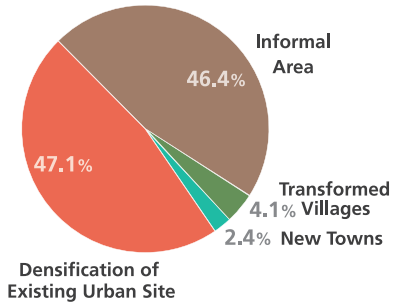
- The consequence of demographic growth is currently resulting in infrastructural inadequacies and social inequalities.
- Positive effects of the youth's exposure to social media include an increased engagement in solidarity initiatives and innovative solutions to community and development issues.

Key question from the audience

- What is the relation between population, sustainability and resources? Maintaining inner cities is more sustainable than redistributing population in the outskirts where services are lacking and people need to commute anyway.

PANELISTS MAIN POINTS

Location of urban population increase 1986 - 2006

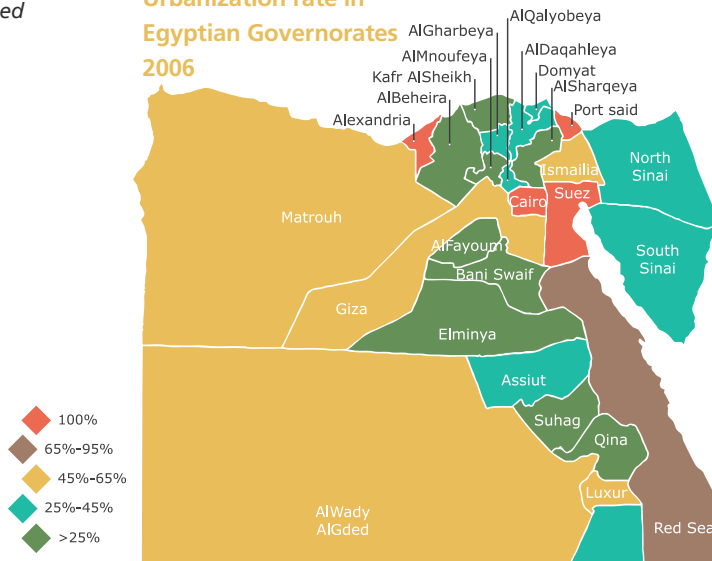


Source: CAPMAS And Ministry of local Development: the population of slum areas in the Egyptian cities, unpublished report, 2012

Dr. Walid Bayoumi Cairo University

- The main drivers of urban population growth are: increased connectivity between urbanized and suburbanized areas; emerging daily commuters for work purposes; the continuity of high urban polarization - where 14 megacities have become so dominant they limit urban development at the expense of 184 cities; unequal distribution of public investments and social delivery across Egypt; city competitiveness and attractiveness for local and foreign investors and the city's capacity to create adequate jobs; and the continuity of rural-urban amalgamation or reclassifying villages as urban areas.

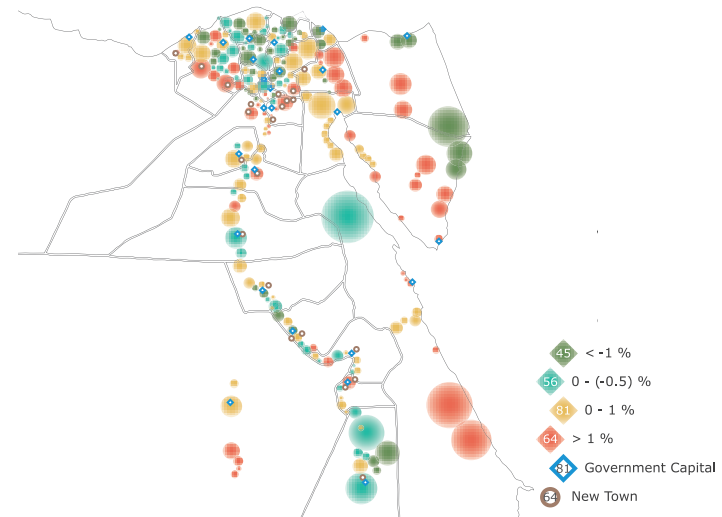
Urbanization rate in Egyptian Governorates 2006



Calculated by the researcher based on CAPMAS 2006

- "If the village is not a city, we should not turn it into one". The notion of reclassifying villages into cities and urban areas has led to massive problems with urban administration. In the past 50 years, 112 villages in Egypt were turned into weak and unsustainable cities. An increase in population should not be a criterion for turning a village into a city, but rather a criterion for extending infrastructure and services for urban settlements. Accordingly, the agglomeration of villages or merging villages into one large self-sustaining city can help limit the flow of people to Cairo and other dense urban centers.
- To attract foreign direct investment, Egypt needs to promote the competitiveness and attractiveness among different cities across the nation.

Population Pull / Push Cities (Markaz Urban Level)



Calculated by the researcher based on CAPMAS 1996, 2006

Dr. Magued Osman
Baseera

- Egypt's growing population, which has nearly doubled its original figure in the past 70 years, has put pressure on Egypt to provide national and local services. Thus, efforts should be made to reduce the birth rate in the country.
- In areas that are considered rural and poor, especially in Upper Egypt, the use of family planning methods and contraceptives are below the national average. The lower economical level of these areas suggests a correlation between poverty and large family sizes in Egypt.
- The urban community in Egypt is not homogenous but rather accounts for unequal conditions, quality of life and services and several law violations. For instance, the difference between planned and informal areas constitutes a great challenge that is not yet reflected in statistics, nor documented in a way that increases our understanding of the factors that establish informal areas.
- Due to the lack of indicators and accurate statistics for the city level, we don't have the right tools to diagnose the actual problems of our 300 cities and exert proper urban planning.
- Urban population is increasing rapidly because of high birth rates and rural migration. This results in a high percentage of youth, which produces various effects on unemployment and the use of social networks.
- The relation between demographic transformations and democratic transitions has clearly appeared during the revolution when the youth were empowered by their

knowledge of new technology and social media. Positive aspects of the relation between youth and social media should be investigated in the future in order for youth to use their creativity to solve development issues and to invest in volunteer work and social initiatives.

Mr. Amr Taha
IOM Egypt Coordinator

- In Egypt rapid urban population growth due to internal migration (rural-urban) and external migration - approximately 1 million incoming migrants- has resulted in infrastructural inadequacy, ensuing in a lack of access to jobs, quality education, sanitation and government services in general. For instance, Cairo is roughly hosting 20 million individuals, most of who came from different areas, therefore causing pressure on the city's overall urban setting.
- The lack of opportunities that causes migration from rural to urban areas also explains the migration of Egyptians to foreign countries, especially youth and sometimes minors.
- Poor sanitary facilities lacking sewage systems; the fluctuant availability of quality water and inadequate hygiene practices in dense areas could lead to water-borne and food-borne infections. This mostly affects the development and education of children. Although private and non-for-profit primary health care providers are available, their services are not affordable for the majority of vulnerable migrant communities.

- Egypt must promote international migration, where currently 8 million Egyptians are working abroad and contributing to the economy through remittances - \$20 billion in 2013 and one of the top recipients globally - and encourage Egyptians living abroad to not only send currency but invest with development project ideas that can alleviate poverty and boost the economy.

Dr. Islam Taha
UNFPA Regional Unit

- Egypt needs to prioritize reproductive health to decrease the rising mortality rates among children. In comparison to other Arab countries such as Lebanon and Jordan where the mortality rates of children have decreased as a result of prioritizing this issue, Egypt has been focusing more on family planning and demographic development.
- The role of youth in national development should be prioritized, as they are the engines of growth. Accordingly, Egypt should focus on enhancing education and promoting accessibility; providing non-discriminatory and equal employment opportunities; enabling a skilled and qualified workforce; involving youth in national policies and empowering youth in national decision making; and providing special attention to demography and alleviating poverty.

Dr. Hala Youssef
Minister of Population

- After developing a national strategy for development, the Egyptian government recognized the importance of establishing a Ministry of Population (MoP) based on the ineffectiveness of previous development efforts, which lacked the resources and facilities to effectively respond to demographic issues. The function of the MoP is to develop and implement strategies based on a needs-based approach and co-operation with relevant community-based NGOs; and unlike other ministries the MoP does not offer services.
- To address the challenges facing Egypt's growing population and uneven geographic distribution due to rapid urban population growth, Egypt should implement strategies/ incentives to decrease the birth rate and enable the conditions that would distribute the population to other areas. This requires decentralization and comprehensive development across Egypt in terms of developing/ improving infrastructure, services, and roads as well as empowering youth through education and training that would develop a middle class that meets the needs and requirements of the job market.

DISCUSSION

Comments from the audience include

- By turning villages into cities agricultural land is often compromised and there is a need to consider the impacts of this process; abundant desert land can be exploited instead of destroying scarce and valuable agriculture land.
- The transformation of the population needs to be interpreted not only in terms of quantity but also in terms of the direction of growth, whether towards an agricultural community or an urban or industrial center.
- The role of the Ministry of Population within the broad institutional landscape is to coordinate with other national plans and actions as well as customize interventions based on the context of each governorate.
- As Egypt's urban sector continuously changes and oscillates between conservation and construction, the concept of urban identity is overlooked.



From left to right: Mr. Amr Taha, Dr. Walid Bayoumi, Dr. Hala Youssef, Dr. Roman Stadnicki, Dr. Isam Taha and Dr. Magued Osman

Learn more on this topic

Baseera, The Egyptian Center for Public opinion research:
www.baseera.com.eg

International Organization for Migration, Egypt:
www.egypt.iom.int

United Nations Fund for Population, Egypt:
www.egypt.unfpa.org



THEME 5/ URBAN ECONOMY

Time and Venue:

16 June 2015

11:00 am : 12:30 pm

Marriott Hotel Zamalek

Keywords

*coordination,
decentralization,
investment fund,
governorates, hyper-
centralization, local
revenues, central funds
allocation, negotiation,
business, bureaucracy,
transparency, statistics*

SESSION 4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

Local governments are suggested to be closer to citizens compared to the central government, and are thus better able to design and implement local economic development strategies and collect revenues and local taxes. Since 2007, the Egyptian constitution has incorporated the need for decentralizing and empowering local governments, however local government budgets continue to suffer from chronic budget deficits and are heavily depended on central transfers. In addition, most investments related to enhancing economic development are being implemented by central agencies. This session discussed the financial context of local governments and their ability to finance strategies for local economic development, as well as the needed reform to effectively empower local governments.

The aim of the Panel was to discuss

- What are local economic development (LED) strategies and who implements them?
- What are the obstacles that local governments face in implementing LED strategies?
- What is the status of local government budgets (revenues/ expenditures) in relation to the national budget?
- To what extent have intergovernmental transfers been able to support local government budgets?
- What are the needed policies and reforms to enhance local government resources and processes?

3 Distribution to different Governmental Entities

Panelists

Dr. Mohamed Al Shawi

Local Public Finance Expert, Former General Secretary of the Ministry of Planning

Mrs. Marwa Mahgoub

Associate Operations Officer, Trade and Competitiveness, International Finance Corporation

Dr. Ebtehal Abd El Moaty

Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University

Moderator (53/1973)

Dr. Khaled Zakaria Amin

Public Finance Expert, Faculty of Political and Economic Science, Cairo University.



Illustration by TADAMUN (© TADAMUN)

ANALYSIS

Common grounds

- The Egyptian government and international organizations have exerted efforts to foster local development since the 1960s; however these efforts did not result in tangible achievement.
- Egypt has a hyper-centralized economic and financial system, which has placed it in a vulnerable position to advance and develop.
- There are regional disparities in development between the different Egyptian governorates as well as an inadequate effort from the central state to reduce this gap.

Diverging assessments

- Local development does not fall under one entity, but rather among several different ministries, agencies, and authorities. For some observers, hyper-centralization is partly due to the Ministry of Planning who determines the share of expenditures transferred to the local level. For some civil servants in the Ministry of Planning, governors and governorates do not effectively cooperate with other local entities for local development. According to experts, governorates cannot be held accountable because their budgets are insufficient to enable local economic development.

Diverging responses

- Experts disagree with how the government allocates funds arguing that the current approach has not reduced the gap and disparities between governorates and has not enabled nationwide development to take place. They recommend aligning the national vision with local plans and to open a fund for each governorate based on its specific needs and context.

Panelists' propositions

- Given that governorates are bound by pre-assigned budgets from the central government, governorates should mobilize and diversify financial resources through special local funds, such as the Housing Fund, the Agriculture Land Reclamation Fund and the Local Development Fund. This will enable governorates with the agency to implement context-specific initiatives and play an overall effective role in urban development.
- Governorates need to facilitate and streamline procedures for issuing construction permits.

Key findings

- Economic studies have observed that governorates with lower poverty rates receive higher central transfers; on the contrary governorates with lower revenues are receive less resources.
- The balance of power between central and local authorities in the negotiation process of allocating public funds is clearly in favor of the central government.

- New physical boundaries for governorates can potentially provide possibilities to develop remote desert areas.
- The presence of “one- stop shops” in some governorates potentially explains why they rank better in the “Doing Business Index”; however, a one-stop shop is still needed for issuing construction permits.

Quotes

“Egypt ranks very low on the scale of decentralization”

-Dr. Mohamed El Shawi

Key comments from the audience

- Applying “e-government” (electronic government) in Egypt would solve problems related to bureaucracy and complicated procedures.
- If governorates need more funds for urban development projects, then the governance of these funds is critical so that they do not become misused, such as in the case of Ismailia’s National Housing Fund.

PANELISTS' MAIN POINTS

Dr. Ebtehal Abd El Moaty

Faculty of Urban and Regional Planning, Cairo University

- There are discrepancies in function and vision between national strategic plans and local plans developed by governorates. Consequently, local governments do not get disbursed adequate financial resources to implement projects and respond to the needs of local communities.
- To effectively enhance urban development across Egypt, the State should (1) formulate a national framework for urban development in which national and local strategies are aligned, while taking into consideration the different contexts and needs of different local communities; and (2) develop and launch an investment fund for every governorate in order to coordinate and guide investment projects according to local needs.

Dr. Mohamed Al Shawi

Local Public Finance Expert

- Local governments are extremely dependent on central government financing where 90% of expenditures is financed by the central government and the remaining 10% is financed by local sources. While acquiring public funds is also a lengthy and tedious process between central and local authorities, local governments are reluctant and unmotivated to seek additional funding from local sources.
- Public expenditure in all local budgets does not exceed 14-15% of total national expenditure while revenues of

local budgets account for only 2.3% of total national revenues, indicating a wide gap between expenditures and revenues. One major factor causing this wide gap is the disproportionate breakdown of local budgets where almost 80% is allocated to overhead (salaries and wages) and only 20% is allocated to current expenses and new projects.

- Central funding is also unevenly distributed among governorates, where Upper Egypt in particular receives the lowest disbursement of funds per capita and also ranks second for the widest gap between expenditures and revenues. Interestingly, governorates with a smaller gap between expenditures and revenues had high human development indicators, suggesting that the financing gap has little to do with poverty and human development.

Mrs. Marwa Mahgoub

Associate Operations Officer, Trade and Competitiveness

- The “Doing Business Index” is an instrument developed by the World Bank to measure regulations directly affecting businesses at the country level. The Egyptian government became interested in introducing a similar index at the local level and coordinated with the International Finance Corporation (an affiliate of the World Bank) to develop five major indices that would be applied in 15 major cities across Egypt. The five indices were: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, enforcing contracts, and trading across borders.

DISCUSSION

- The analysis of these indices did not yield the same ranking across all five indicators for each of the 15 governorates. For example, the ease of starting a business was ranked highest in Cairo, while the ease of acquiring construction permits was ranked highest in Suez. Accordingly, the governorates had different overall rankings due to the different services and procedures available in each governorate.
- The Governor of Alexandria became interested in applying a more detailed index to assess the business environment in Alexandria and develop recommendations to attract both local and foreign investment. The Governor and the IFC have begun collaborating on this effort.

Comments from the audience include

- The move towards decentralization should be gradual as local authorities are not ready to either mobilize more resources locally or undertake development projects on their own.
- The lack of coordination among government entities in charge of data collection is an obstacle for stakeholders involved in local economic development.
- Are Egypt's problems system-related or do we lack resources?
- The housing sector attracts far too much public investment compared to agriculture and industry, which helps boost the economy.



From left to right: Mrs. Marwa Mahgoub, Dr. Mohamed Al Shawi, Dr. Khaled Zakaria Amin and Dr. Ebtehal Abd El Moaty

Learn more on this topic

Ministry of Planning:

www.mop.gov.eg

Ministry of Finance:
www.mof.gov.eg/english/pages/home.aspx


Ministry of International
Cooperation:
www.moic.gov.eg

Doing business – World bank
group:
[www.doingbusiness.org/
data/exploreeconomies/egypt](http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/egypt)

Ministry of investment:
www.investment.gov.eg/EN

General Authority for
Investment and Free Zones:
[www.gafi.gov.eg/English/
Pages/default.aspx](http://www.gafi.gov.eg/English/Pages/default.aspx)

PART 3
ACTIVITIES
AND RESOURCES

- 
- **EUF Original Research on Parallel Urban Practice in Egypt**
 - **EUF Cairo Urban Tours**
 - **The EUF Exhibition**
 - **The World Urban Campaign (WUC) Workshop**

EUF ORIGINAL RESEARCH ON PARALLEL URBAN PRACTICE IN EGYPT

Why an original research on parallel urban practice?

The EUF steering committee wanted to offer a knowledge product that would go beyond existing sources of information on the urban sector in Egypt. It was interested in identifying examples of urban “best practices” or “best fit” initiatives and projects that responded successfully to a specific problem and which could be replicated elsewhere. A partnership between **UN-Habitat** and **10 Tooba Applied Research on the Built Environment** was established to further investigate the topic and publish a report that would be disseminated to EUF participants.

The report authored by Yahia Shawkat, Omnia Khalil and Ahmed Zaaza mapped 15 urban initiatives and projects across Egypt in accordance with the five themes of the EUF: Urban Planning and Upgrading, Urban Governance and Legislation, Urban Housing, Urban Service Delivery and Urban Economy. Practices were also chosen to represent five main regions in Egypt: Alexandria, the Delta, Greater Cairo, the Suez Canal & Sinai, and Upper Egypt & the Red Sea.

How do we define parallel urban practice?

While government agencies are known to be the main actors in the built environment by providing social housing, infrastructure and services, as well as being the sole actors responsible for planning and policy, there are a number of non-governmental actors that have had an impact on the lives of many, especially after the January

2011 Revolution that produced a resurgence in community-based initiatives.

Charitable organizations have rebuilt or repaired housing and extended services such as water and waste-water in many deprived communities. Activist architects and planners have helped communities prepare participatory urban plans for their neighborhoods. Civil society think tanks have presented policy recommendations and raised awareness on key issues.

Although, these contributions represent a drop in the ocean compared to the scale of government-sanctioned work, they have usually taken place where government agencies have not been able to intervene or, represented alternative ideas and practices, which partnered with government agencies, but that mainstream practice can learn from. However, most of these non-governmental interventions are undocumented, while a lot more have been out of the limelight and remain unknown.

15 Examples of Parallel Urban Practice

Where urban planning and upgrading has long been the realm of government action, two initiatives worked on submitting their own community-based urban plans to government authorities. The “Maspero Parallel Participatory Plan” involved a local popular committee, an urban planning initiative and a rights NGO to propose a local area upgrading plan, which later became a formal project adopted by the Ministry of Urban Renewal. The Beni Hilal Village plan involved a community based NGO working with the local government to plan a new vil-

lage from scratch. A third initiative in this theme, “Just and Sustainable Planning Norms in Habitat III” worked on reforming global planning policies in relation to local planning needs.

For the urban governance and legislation theme, it was natural that all of the initiatives worked on policy reform, though with varying approaches. The “Mahaliat initiative” worked predominantly on policy reform, though it was based on massive community support through locally-based offshoots. The “Tadamun Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative” operates more as a think tank, releasing policy recommendations, though it also profiles local initiatives in Greater Cairo. “Save Alex” is predominantly a campaign to preserve Alexandria’s architectural and urban heritage, but its work has involved lobbying for legislative reform.

The housing theme profiled three different approaches to housing provision for the poor and marginalized. The “Minya Micro-financing project” focused on how small loans were made to extremely poor rural families who could not generally qualify for credit, in order to rebuild dilapidated housing. On the other hand, the “Ezbet al’Assal project” used donations to rebuild or restore a cluster of dilapidated homes in a poor neighborhood in Cairo. The “Mahalla Workers initiative” profiled how legal support to a group of workers who faced eviction from their homes could be also considered as a form of housing provision.

It is no surprise that the urban services theme profiled three initiatives that implemented physical interventions. In Sheitan Village, Fayoum, a compact community-run

wastewater plant was built using technology its promoters believe can solve the massive problem of unsanitary drainage in rural Egypt. Secondly, the community-built Wadi Gahrba dam showed how drinking water could be efficiently provided to the remote Bedouin settlements of Sinai. The last initiative of this theme profiled the community-led provision of public space through the Allenby Garden rejuvenation project in Alexandria.

Concerning the urban economy theme, again all three initiatives were activity based. The “Al-Amal Agriculture Development Project” worked to increase the profitability of agricultural land to boost income for extremely poor farmers in Minya, who would otherwise sell the land for the construction of informal housing. The “Athar Lina” initiative saw that the most sustainable form of heritage conservation was through the development of the local economy. While also focusing on heritage, the Port Said “Ala Qadimoh” initiative has worked to promote the city of Port Said to local and foreign tourists as a way to boost its fledgeling economy.

EUFC AIRO URBAN TOURS

Throughout the six distinct itineraries of the tour participants were exposed to the incredible diversity of the urban fabric of Cairo, from the architectural gems of Islamic Cairo and downtown, to the new cities of 6th of October and New Cairo, and the informal settlements of Izbit Khayrallah and Ard El Liwa. They gained a concrete understanding of the mutation of urban settlements over time, of the harsh realities of low-income residents of informal settlements and the growing gap between them and the upper income gated compound dwellers.

Designed and organized by CLUSTER Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research, the urban tours explored areas, initiatives and pioneer projects in different parts of the city, featuring itineraries through Cairo's typical urban conditions: the deteriorating urban core, encroaching informal areas, and expanding desert cities. Unveiling the characteristics and features of these areas, as well as engaging active institutions and community-based organizations within, these tours highlight some of Cairo's most pressing urban issues and the priorities of local communities. Within the context of the Egypt Urban Forum, these tours sought to enrich and ground the urban discourse and academic concepts in local practice and everyday experience. The CUT tours seek to provide a framework for discussion of current urban policies, and point towards more responsive programs and effective projects.



Ard al-Liwa, Giza

Downtown Tour led by Ahmad Al-Bindari

The city center comprises the area adjacent to the historic core to the east, as well as its planned western and northern extensions undertaken in the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, including urban renewal projects dating from the mid-20th century. The Downtown Tour will examine locations and typological conditions, as well as challenges and opportunities, found in the urban core in general and the city center in particular. This tour highlights Downtown's architectural heritage

and cosmopolitan cultural legacy, drawing attention to the impact of rapid political and urban changes over the past few years on public space downtown. The Downtown Tour investigates the causes and manifestations of urban deterioration, while exploring recent projects for revitalization and development by local authorities, the private sector, and civil society organizations, with particular emphasis on the role of art and cultural institutions as urban catalysts.



Downtown, Cairo



Islamic Cairo Tour led by Dr. May al-Ibrashy

The capital of Egypt was relocated from Alexandria in the north to the southern tip of the Delta with the Islamic conquest in 641 AD. Over the next three centuries, the capital shifted northward from al-Fustat in the south to walled al-Qahirah in 969 AD, when the new Fatimid capital was founded. Cairo continued to expand in all directions, while retaining an Islamic core along its main spine (Qasabat al-Mu'iz), as a vibrant living settlement. The Islamic Cairo tour concentrates on the

history of this urban core, including the residential quarters and adjacent historic cemeteries, and their shifting relationship to the modern city. It also looks at issues of conservation, and their relationship to wider questions of policy and governance, conflicting rights to heritage and public space, and the politics and economics of urban development and upgrading. The Islamic Cairo tour draws special attention to the rapid political and urban changes over the past few years and their impact on the historic fabric.



Qasabat al-Mu'iz, Cairo

Ard al-Liwa Tour led by Eng. Omar Nagati

Ard al-Liwa is one of the informal areas located in the Giza Governorate, which has been developed on agricultural land since the early 1970s. It is located between Bulaq al-Dakrur to its south and Imbaba to the north. Ard al-Liwa demonstrates a strong relationship between informal areas and the planned city, as it is bordered by two traffic arteries and regional roads: the railway and al-Zumur Canal that separate it from al-Muhandisin to the east, and the Ring Road separating it from al-

Mu'tamidiya village on its western edge. The area covers around 470 acres, and its population has reached approximately 300,000 people. The area contains numerous services and small industries, including print shops, woodworking and metal shops. The interface between Ard al-Liwa and al-Muhandisin presents an example of the juxtaposition and interdependence between informal and formal areas, despite the often distressed relationship at their interface, as exemplified by the railway crossing.



Ard al-Liwa, Giza



Izbit Khayrallah Tour led by Dr. Hassan El-mouehli

Izbit Khayrallah is located on a rocky plateau to the north of Ma'adi district. It covers 480 acres, and is part of four different administrative districts. By the mid-1970s residents from Upper Egypt and rural areas began populating this desert stretch, in search of affordable housing in close proximity to work opportunities in Cairo, building their own residential units without services or planned infrastructure. In 1984, the residents filed a lawsuit de-

manding their rights to own the land on which they live, and a ruling was made in their favor in 1999. During this period, the Ring Road was constructed, dividing the area into two parts. The larger area remained to its north, with the smaller southern section often referred to as "Istabl 'Antar". The Ring Road construction resulted in an improved connectivity between Izbit Khayrallah and other parts of the city, and consequently a substantial increase in real-estate value in the area. The current population of Izbit Khayrallah is estimated to be approximately 650,000 inhabitants.



Izbit Khayrallah, Cairo

6th of October City Tour led by Nabil El-hady

Founded in 1981, and located to the west of Greater Cairo, 6th of October City is the largest new town, approximately 400 km² in area with a target population of 5.5 million inhabitants. In comparison with other new towns outside Cairo, 6th of October City has experienced the most rapid growth, providing an insight into broader development trends among the eight new towns planned around Cairo. A cross section of the city reveals a range of activities and services, including universities, hospi-

tals, office parks and commercial strips, in addition to an industrial zone and a variety of housing development types, from public housing to gated communities. Despite being fairly close to central Cairo (about 35 km via the 26th of July corridor), construction and population growth in 6th of October City has been disappointingly slow compared to the original plan. Thirty-two years after its founding, there are fewer than 200,000 permanent residents in the area, with a majority of newly constructed houses and apartments either unfinished or unoccupied.



6th of October City, Giza



New Cairo Tour led by Dr. Dina Shehayeb

Located 15 km from Ma'adi, and 10 km from Nasr City, New Cairo occupies an area of 350 km². Its total population is 119,000 inhabitants, according to the census of 2006, with a target population of 6 million inhabitants. New Cairo contains a total of 187,000 housing units; 34,000 of which were implemented by the New Urban Communities Authority, the other 153,000 of which were built by the private sector. One of New Cairo's main

features is the Ninety Spine (*Shari' al-Tis'in*), which is flanked by major commercial and office towers and high-end residential mansions. New Cairo hosts a large number of universities and learning institutions, and despite the lack of an industrial zone (compared to 6th of the October city), its proximity to al-'Ubur City as well as the Suez and 'Ayn al-Sukhnah regional roads offers the potential for extension and access to land for future development.



New Cairo

THE EUF EXHIBITION

Why an EUF Exhibition?

Art is another way to convey to EUF participants that beyond government discourses and development actors' narratives, urban development is everyone's business. In the spirit of broadening the lens of urban development issues to include additional modes of expression, the EUF steering committee decided to organize an original exhibition featuring artistic work from cultural institutions and individual artists on the theme of the city and the urban fabric. Successful and innovative practices by urban stakeholders at global, national and sub-national levels were displayed.

In recent years there has been a growing interest around the world in mobilizing urban cultural resources for economic revitalization, as evidenced in the popularity of concepts like "urban renaissance" and "creative cities". There is also recognition that emphasizing the urban cultural qualities of cities is what will make them desirable in an increasingly globalized economy, where knowledge, creativity and innovation are the driving forces for economic growth and prosperity.

The EUF exhibition featured visual art through four projects "Beyond the Lines", "Architectural Visions", "Envisioning the Unseen" and "60 Solutions Against Climate Change"; the urban design exhibition "A New Informal Architecture" and urban technology with the "Eco-citizen World Map Project (EWMP)"; and two installations, the "Eco-house" and "Green Wall". The exhibitions took place in different locations of Cairo, the patio of the Marriott Zamalek Hotel, and two areas

within Al-Azhar Park, the Sunken Garden and the EUF tent by the lakeside.

The EUF exhibition was produced through the creativity and vision of a number of partners: Cairo Lab Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research – CLUSTER- who produced and/or curated three of the above mentioned exhibitions as well as the live performances.; the Faculty of Fine Arts of Helwan University who contributed two exhibitions involving professors and students; and the French Development Agency (AFD) and Schaduf respectively contributed to the photo exhibition and an installation of a green wall.

Visual Art

1. Beyond The Lines – Exhibition, curated by Hamdy Reda and produced by CLUSTER

This exhibition featured paintings by three Egyptian artists Ayman Elsemary, Ibrahim Ahmed and Ibrahim Khatab. The exhibition was produced by CLUSTER and curated by Hamdy Reda for the Egypt Urban Forum. It included thirteen paintings in mixed media. Drawing from a pastiche of urban experiences, the work of these artists speaks abstractly to the interconnectedness of the human experience, and viscerally to the detritus of urban environments. In particular, their work is reflective of their experience working and living in the informal neighborhood of Ard-il Liwa, where two of the artists share a studio, and where curator Hamdy Reda lives and works at Artellewa -the art space he founded in 2007-.



2. Architectural Visions- By Artists: Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim, Dr. Eman Abdou & Dr. Rania Elhelw, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University

The Painting department of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Helwan University presented the work of visual artists on Egypt's past, present and future urban and architectural visions. Rania El Helw presented “Doors of Life: Let the eyes seek for the golden light”, a group of acrylic paintings of old deserted buildings. Eman Abdou presented the project “Compoundia”, a series of sketches and prose studying the promise of a dream through advertisements for countless compounds around Cairo and Alexandria. Ahmed Ibrahim's glass paintings presented artistic visions of architectural elements and units.

www.facultyoffinearts.com



3. Envisioning the Unseen. Painting Exhibition by the Students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University curated by Dr. Doaa Abouelmagd, Dr. Eman Abdou and Dr. Rania Elhelw

This exhibition is the result of a workshop where painting, architecture, urban planning and social practice intersect and collaborate to reach innovative visual solutions. Through the workshop students were introduced to a series of lectures on “Future Art and Concept” by Dr. Eman Abdou, “History and Informal Settlements, the area of El Darb el Ahmar” by Dr. Doaa Abouelmagd and “Art, Design and Architecture” by Dr. Rania El Helw, followed by a field trip to the area of El Darb el Ahmar. During the workshop students painted a portrait that reflected facetious visions of El Darb el Ahmar.

www.facultyoffinearts.com



4. 60 Solutions Against Climate change- Photo Exhibition by Agence Française de Développement

AFD and the GoodPlanet Foundation are using images to highlight innovative and effective solutions combining the fight against climate change and economic development in AFD’s 71 agencies worldwide. The exhibition comprises 21 photos by Yann Arthus-Bertrand from his famous “Earth from Above” series and presents concrete initiatives in four sectors: cities, agriculture, energy transition and climate change adaptation.

www.afd.fr

www.climat.afd.fr

www.goodplanet.org



Urban design and Technology

1. A New Informal Architecture - Exhibition by MAS Urban Design ETH Zurich and CLUSTER

CLUSTER, in partnership with MAS Urban Design ETH Zurich presented the outcome of a multi-year partnership, which included workshops, design studios, and exhibitions on the theme of Resistance – Relevance – Resilience.

In Cairo, lower-middle and lower-income citizens have settled in the so-called ‘informal’ areas at the city’s edge. Referred to by the pejorative term *ashwayi’at*, these unplanned housing blocks are home to approximately 60% of the twenty million inhabitants of the biggest city on the African continent, and seventh largest metropolitan area in the world. Illegal urban sprawl has taken a dramatic turn as it expands on limited agrarian land. Marked by incremental construction, settlements predominantly follow property lines and the subdivisions of *feddans* – the base unit of agricultural fields in Egypt comprising roughly 4,200 square meters of land, apportioned in narrow strips approximately 100-300 meters long and 6-17 meters wide, and framed by irrigation canals. Persistent urban growth shows that, while lacking services and public infrastructure, informal settlements are nonetheless successful in generating dense and affordable housing for the popular classes.

The ETH Zurich Master of Advanced Studies Program in Urban Design at the Chair of Marc Angelil and directed by Charlotte Malterre-Barthes with Something

Fantastic, in collaboration with CLUSTER, initiated an investigation on informal settlements in Cairo, looking into designs for affordable housing units in the neighborhood of Ard al-Liwa. This exhibition highlighted three projects to show how an improved architectural design can lead to new urban forms beneficial to the whole city.

www.angelil.arch.ethz.ch
www.clustercairo.org



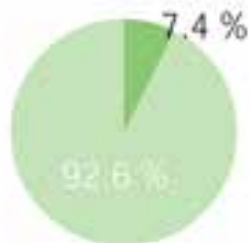
2. The Ecocitizen World Map Project (EWMP): Partnerships, Platform and Pedagogy” by the Department of Architecture, Cairo University, Faculty of Engineering and Ecocity Builders

The Ecocitizen World Map project (EWMP) started in the districts of Embaba and Zamalek in Cairo in 2014 and was implemented in cities such as Casablanca, Medellin, Cusco and Lima using new methods of crowd-sourcing and crowd mapping. Residents were encour-

aged to participate in data gathering with the help of the project team and local Community Based Organizations and to assess the condition of their neighborhoods. Geographic information systems (GIS) and urban metabolism information systems (UMIS) are the two primary methods employed for organizing and displaying data in visually accessible ways.

www.ecocitizenworldmap.org

This Chart Represents the percentage of the building of 4 levels or less to the building of height more than 4 levels



Building Heights

- Less than 4 levels
- More than 4 levels



Installation

3. Ecohouse Exhibition by CLUSTER, in cooperation with the Embassy of Denmark. Supported by State of Green and UN-Habitat

The Ecohouse exhibition modeled a typical household in Egypt, incorporating environmental design features specific to the local context. It sought to raise awareness about the range of innovative and affordable eco-friendly design solutions for Egypt's housing market. Reflecting the broader debate that academics, designers and policy makers had been developing globally about eco-friendly architecture and sustainable development over the past two decades, the exhibition offered visualizations and resources that were accessible to specialists as well as a general audience.

A key component of environmental design is the careful selection of energy, water and waste efficient building features, as well as the use of non-sensitive, non-toxic, locally-sourced materials. CLUSTER partnered with local initiatives to produce the Ecohouse resource center, which featured local resources, as well as international best practices, related to a range of eco-friendly design features. These included:

- Solar Photovoltaics
- Ecogardening
- Organic Farming
- Bioenergy
- Solar Thermal Energy

Local contributors to the Ecohouse displays included: Nawaya/Slow Food, Arab Consulting Company, Nafas, Schaduf, and +50.

www.clustercairo.org
www.egypten.um.dk
www.stateofgreen.com
www.unhabitat.org



Live Performance

For the second day of the EUF, CLUSTER organized a music and performance program for attendees in an open air setting at Al-Azhar Park.

1. El Mashrabya Band

The Egyptian band played traditional music –*Tabkt*– during lunch at the Lake-View restaurant and during the reception of the Ecohouse opening.

2. Hassan Saber Hassan

The company offered folkloric performance including *Tanura*, the Sufi dance of spinning continuously, Bedouin and Upper Egypt traditional dancing *Sa'idy*.



Showcase of Urban Practices

Sponsors

- Palm Hills: www.palmhillsdevelopments.com
- Housing & Development Bank: www.hdb-egy.com
- Mountain View: www.mountainview-eg.com

UN-Agencies

- UN-Habitat ROAS & Egypt office:
www.unhabitat.org/roas & www.nhabitat.org/egypt
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP):
www.eg.undp.org
- United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF): www.unicef.org/egypt

Bilateral Cooperation Agencies

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA):
www.jica.go.jp
- Participatory Development Programme in Urban Area (PDP)-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ): www.giz.de

Government

- The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities: www.moh.gov.eg & General Organization for Physical Planning: www.gopp.gov.eg
- Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements:
www.isdf.gov.eg

Universities

- Technischen Universität Berlin:
www.campus-elgouna.tu-berlin.de
- Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD), Ain Shams University: www.iusd.asu.edu.eg
- Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University: www.eng.cu.edu.eg
- Arch'16 Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University:
www.facultyoffinearts.com

Non-Governmental Organizations -NGOs

- Coloring the Grey City:
www.facebook.com/coloringagreycity
- Helm Organization: www.helmegypt.org
- Ezbet project: www.ezbetproject.com & The Model of the American Congress' 15, Cairo University:
www.facebook.com/ModelOfAmericanCongress
- Schaduf: www.schaduf.com

Think Tanks

- Takween Integrated Community Development:
www.takween-eg.com
- Housing and Building Research Center:
www.hbrc.edu.eg

THE WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN (WUC) WORKSHOP

The World Urban Campaign (WUC) is a platform of partners who are willing to advocate for sustainable urban development and engage in activities to prepare for the “Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development” called Habitat III. In 2016, Habitat III will assess the state of our cities and propose solutions through a new global urban agenda. The goal of the WUC is to place the urban agenda at the highest level in development policies in each country. The message of the WUC is that cities need to be more livable as they will host a growing number of people and cities’ capacities need to be reinforced, as they will be playing a key role in generating solutions for a sustainable future.

The WUC Workshop: Towards a National Urban Campaign in Egypt

Mrs. Christine Auclair presented the objectives and toolkit of the WUC to a variety of attendees representing the Egypt Habitat Committee: civil society organizations, private sector companies, media, local authorities, and youth to brainstorm on a national campaign on urban issues in Egypt. At the global and national level, the campaigns are meant to catalyze the engagement of all partners, articulate pressing urban issues, propose solutions, and commit to shared goals and actions towards Habitat III, by:

- Sharing solutions and inspiring change for a sustainable urban development.
- Convincing public, private, and social sectors that in-

vesting in creative, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities is essential to the shared future.

- Rallying all partners around the same cause of better city, better life.
- Engaging all partners to become active ‘City Changers’ and to commit to shared goals and actions at Habitat III.

Two discussion groups were formed to brainstorm respectively on slogans and activities that could potentially be implemented in a future Egypt campaign.

Slogans

- The group dedicated to slogans and social media had a vibrant discussion about the title of the first EUF “My city, my responsibility” questioning the allocation of roles and responsibilities of urban matters in the very context of Egypt. Addressing the relationship between government and citizens, suggested slogans revolved around two notions: **rights and inclusiveness of marginalized rural communities.**

- Slogans related to **rights** were:
 - “haqqi fi madinati” (“my right to my city”)
 - “madinati haqqi” (“my city is my right”) or (“my city, my right”)
- Slogans related to **inclusiveness of marginalized rural communities** were:
 - “baladi, haqqi w mas’uliyati” (“my country, my right and my responsibility”)
 - “shareana Mas’oulity” (“Our Street, my responsibility”).

A final vote based on a shortlist of slogans selected “My Country, My Responsibility”.

Activities

- The group dedicated to activities discussed potential strategies to engage the media and the public in an Egypt urban campaign such as organizing events and competitions. The group agreed on a list of fifteen initiatives to be undertaken along the year, including a competition on the “Urbanism of the Future”; awareness raising campaigns among school and university students; initiatives to teach kids how to use recycled materials to make toys; and an event to assess the gaps in implementing the Habitat II recommendations and present them during Habitat III.

Steering Committee

- While drawing a road map which starts with the launch of the campaign during the EUF closing session and ends with the Habitat III conference in October 2016, participants agreed on forming a steering committee to follow up on establishing an Egypt National Urban Campaign.

More information:

www.worldurbancampaign.org

Contact: **Christine.auclair@unhabitat.org**

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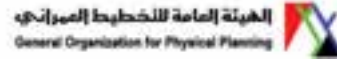
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Beyond a traditional conference, the EUF was designed as a dynamic platform allowing a meaningful dialogue and an active participation of all Egyptian stakeholders in raising the challenges of sustainable urbanization. The EUF was a three-day event that took place on June 14-15, 2015 and hosted up to 700 participants, and was concluded with the reading of the **Cairo Declaration for Habitat III**. This report includes the documentation of the event; highlighting different thematic discussions, activities and key conclusions. The EUF achieved an enabling dialogue insisting on its inclusive, empowering and participatory approach, and stressed the importance of implementing the forum's declaration, and on the central role of citizens in an incremental urban development process.