SESSION DESCRIPTION

SP1 Advancing global frameworks through local action: The view from 2016

Sub-plenary discussion

Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2016
Time: 14:30-16:00
Room: S30-32

Language: English
Contact: Sarah Reed and Matthias Garschagen
E-mail/web: sarah.o.reed@gmail.com; garschagen@ehs.unu.edu
Organized by: ICLEI

OBJECTIVE

This session considered the implications for urban resilience of recent and ongoing international processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Change Agreement from COP 21, and Habitat III. Speakers provided an overview of key conceptual issues in applying resilience theory to urban contexts. They considered how each of these international agreements conceptualizes or uses the discourse of urban resilience; how the "resilience renaissance" is shaping the international urban development agenda; and what might be the key opportunities, gaps and risks for urban stakeholders in implementing this emerging agenda. This included reflection on the rights agenda and commitments, including the Right to the City, in relation to the growing dominance of resilience.

OUTCOMES

- Participants gained a better understanding of how key international processes – SDGs, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, and Habitat III – conceptualize urban resilience, and what are the key opportunities, gaps and risks they present for this field of practice.
- Panelists reflected and participants learned on the implications for this "2016 consensus" for social justice in cities, in particular how local governments may respond to and implement it.

METHODOLOGY

- Facilitator provided session framing and introductions (10 minutes);
- Short inputs from 4 speakers on four key global agreements, based on key questions (20 minutes);
- Additional panelists responded to the introductory speakers (10 minutes);
- Panel discussion moderated by facilitator (20 minutes);
- Audience questions (30 minutes)

Guiding questions:

- How is urban resilience being applied (consistently or inconsistently) in key global agreements? What are new commitments that national and local actors must honor, as a result? What are some of the key outstanding questions about how it should be applied?

- What are the opportunities and risks associated with resilience taking a central role in international development agreements around development and urbanization?
- How will local governments respond to and implement these global commitments?
- How can we assure that city level commitments to resilience address broader concerns around poverty, well-being, and social justice?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator   *Matthias Garschagen, Head of Vulnerability Assessment, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany*

Speakers provided an overview of four key development frameworks and their relationship with urban climate change resilience, based on the guiding questions outlined above:

Panelist   *Jerry Velasquez, Chief, Advocacy and Outreach, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Geneva, Switzerland – on the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction*

Panelist   *Robert Kehew, Unit Leader, Climate Change Planning Unit, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya – on Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda*

Panelist   *Laureline Krichewsky-Simon, Associate Programme Officer, Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC – on the Paris Climate Change Agreement*

Panelist   *Christoph Graf von Waldersee, Program Finance Director, The Ecological Sequestration Trust (TEST), London, UK – on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

Additional speakers will reflect on and respond to the initial inputs:

Panelist   *Matthias Garschagen, Head of Vulnerability Assessment, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany*

Panelist   *David Dodman, Director, Human Settlements Group, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London, UK*

Further recommended reading

- From the MDGs to the SDGs and Habitat III. Environment and Urbanization. April 2016, Volume 28, Number 1. http://eau.sagepub.com/content/current
- Frediani, A.A. and Lima, R. S., (2015). Habitat III National Reporting Processes: Locating the Right to the City and the Role of Civil Society. https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/habitat-III/outputs/Habitat_III_National_Reporting_Processes_-1.pdf
- Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADDRN) and Saferworld Communications (Breaking down global frameworks for resilience action (2016) http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/48776?&a=email&utm_source=pw_email

---