FAITH BASED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign (WUC)

DATES: Nov. 13-15, 2017

LOCATION: Singapore

OBJECTIVES: Religious communities are key stakeholders in the world's urban future. Although UN-Habitat and WUC has been open to religious organizations with urban interests and expertize engaging in the Habitat III and World Urban Campaign process, participation by faith-based organizations has been limited. Consequently religious communities and organizations, which have a longstanding historical concern, in-depth involvement, and comprehensive understanding of urban contexts, lag in their understanding of the significance of the *New Urban Agenda* for the global common good. Moreover, religious communities currently have limited capacity to help contribute to supporting the issues highlighted by the *New Urban Agenda* within their specific community. The objective of the proposed *Faith Based Engagement With the New Urban Agenda Thinkers Campus*, therefore, is fourfold:

- **Education and Religious Reflection on the New Urban Agenda:** Inform religious leaders about the importance of the *New Urban Agenda* and its key principles. Reflection and discussion about the *New Urban Agenda* from religious perspectives.

- **Supporting Statements and Commitments:** Discuss, write, and promote supporting religious statements and commitments around themes highlighted by the *New Urban Agenda*.

- **Religious Implementation Plans:** Develop priorities, strategies, and practical action plans by which each religious community represented can contribute to supporting the issues highlighted by *the New Urban Agenda* within their specific community. In addition, explore ways to build bridges to support areas of shared concern around the *New Urban Agenda* that are ecumenical and multi-faith.

- **Mutual Understanding and Collaboration Between Religious and Non-Religious Entities to Implement the *New Urban Agenda.*** Before religious and non-religious entities like UN-Habitat and the WUC can build bridges and collaborate mutual understanding must be established. This Thinkers Campus is an opportunity for mutual exchange, listening, and learning so a long-term partnership can be developed between UN-Habitat and the religious community.

URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS PROGRAM

The program is designed in accordance with UTC requirements A-J. The programing will be kept simple and focused on the UTC's four specified goals. Some overview elements are:

Plenaries:

Daily plenaries during the multi-faith working days (i.e., two total) will comprise of short talks by international leaders (religious and non-religious) focused on key cross-cutting urban issues that key religious communities should be aware of and evaluated according to their own traditions and teachings.

In addition, plenaries will weave together the outcomes of the labs, Thinkers Sessions, partner group sessions, and roundtables so key results are delivered to all participants; thereby ensuring everyone is on the same page in the process.

Urban Labs, Urban Thinkers Sessions, Roundtables & Tracks:

These technical labs, workshops, seminars and roundtables are organized to facilitate exchange on critical areas of action. These will be a combination of content selected via an open invitation and application process, and carefully curated content planned by the organizers.

Multiple topical sessions of some labs, workshops, and seminars will be organized into focused tracks specializing in issues, e.g., land rights, sustainable design, slums, etc..

Multi-Faith Statements and Publication:

Using the model of the **_Bristol Faith Commitments_** developed to facilitate UNDP's religious engagement with the SDGs by our UTC partner, ARC, each faith community will work on their own distinctive priorities, strategies, statements, actions plans, and commitments for supporting the objectives of the **New Urban Agenda**.

Each faith's commitments for supporting the objectives of the **New Urban Agenda** will be complied into a side-by-side compendium and published in a single volume.

Mutual Exchange and Bridge Building With UN-Habitat and WUC:

Intentional opportunities will be structured into the program for mutual dialogue, learning, and trust building between religious communities and UN Habitat and WUC.

This will lay the foundation for ongoing collaboration between religious groups and UN Habitat and WUC.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (ACTION AREAS)

Some expected outcomes include:

1. Statements and commitments distinctive to each faith supporting issues and concerns highlighted by the *New Urban Agenda*.

2. A published multi-faith compendium of distinctive faith statements and commitments supporting issues and concerns highlighted by the *New Urban Agenda*.

3. Publicity campaigns on these issues within religious communities and institutions, e.g., WEA member churches, national alliances, and religious colleges and universities.

4. Set the priorities and goals for developing the capacity of religious organizations individually, or in collaboration with other organizations, to work with the *New Urban Agenda*.

5. The specific drivers of change and solution areas this Thinkers Campus will engage are checked in the application section below.

A. CAMPUS POSITIONING	
☑ Select the different areas that your Campus will address in the frameworks below:	
1. **New Urban Agenda (Quito Implementation Plan)**	The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development: ☒ 1 Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty ☒ 2 Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All ☒ 3 Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development Effective Implementation: ☒ 1 Building the Urban Governance Structure: Establishing a Supportive Framework ☒ 2 Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development ☒ 3 Means of Implementation
2. **Sustainable Development Goals**	☒ 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture ☒ 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all ☒ 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls ☒ 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all ☒ 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

	☒ 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
	☒ 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
	10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
	☒ 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
	12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
	☒ 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
	14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
	☒ 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
	☒ 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
	☒ 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
3. The City We Need PRINCIPLES	☒ 1 The city we need is socially inclusive and engaging
	☒ 2 The city we need is affordable, accessible and equitable
	☒ 3 The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive
	☒ 4 The city we need is collectively managed and democratically governed
	☒ 5 The city we need fosters cohesive territorial development
	☒ 6 The city we need is regenerative and resilient
	☒ 7 The city we need has shared identities and a sense of place
	☒ 8 The city we need is well-planned, walkable and transit-friendly
	☒ 9 The city we need is safe, healthy and promotes well-being
	☒ 10 The city we need learns and innovates
4. The City We Need DRIVERS OF CHANGE	☒ 1 Governance and Partnerships
	☒ 2 Planning and Design
	☒ 3 Finance
	☒ 4 Land, Housing and Services
	☒ 5 Environment
	☒ 6 Health and Safety
	☒ 7 Economy and Livelihoods
	☒ 8 Education
	☐ 9 Technology
	☐ 10 Monitoring and Evaluation
5. The City We Need SOLUTION AREAS	☒ 1 Financing tools and promotion of social capital
	☒ 2 Empowerment in the urban space
	☒ 3 Optimization of urban access and flows
	☒ 4 Sharing and pooling
	☒ 5 Environmental regenerative urban processes
	Other solution area: (please specify) ………………………………………………………………………………………………………. ……….