



Partners for Resilience

9th World Urban Forum Kuala Lumpur – Report

7-13 January 2018

PfR participation at the 9th World Urban Forum

The 9th World Urban Forum convened in Kuala Lumpur 7-13th February, following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016. The conference met with four key goals: -

1. Raise **awareness of sustainable urbanization** among stakeholders and constituencies, including the public;
2. Improve the **collective knowledge** of sustainable urban development through inclusive open debates, sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of urban solutions and good policies;
3. Increase **coordination and cooperation** between different stakeholders and constituencies for the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanization;
4. **Platform** to incorporate the inputs of multilateral organizations and stakeholders into the reporting of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

PfR Highlights

PfR participated at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur with the aim to **advocate** on IRM principles and **highlight PfR's work** in urban areas, and **network** with diverse stakeholders, much in line with the WUF9 goals.

1. Inclusion and equality as key to Sustainable Development: The Netherlands Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ms. Sigrid Kaag stressed that sustainable development will not be achieved if development is not inclusive of all society members and if inequality dominates. Talking about access to affordable housing and basic services (health and education), she stressed that same conditions must be provided in every place where people live. She also said that 'Slums' (informal settlements), are sadly a sign of failure to provide and that while Governments are working hard, more must be done together with civil society to make cities citizen- friendly.



PfR, through the Humanitarian Diplomacy Coordinator (HDC), Thandie Mwape, briefly met Minister Kaag and reiterated PfR's focus on inclusion in all programming and the role PfR is playing to empower civil society to engage on resilience and disaster risk reduction as a contribution to sustainable development. **The HDC also mentioned PfR's Steering Group interest in the on-going review of the NL Development & Aid Policy in The Netherlands and looking to Ms.Kaag's leadership and accommodation to include civic voices in this process. Follow up will continue at NL level.**





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- 2. Cross-learning between countries:** PfR Teams in Philippines and Indonesia organized meetings between local governments from the two countries to discuss areas that the two countries can collaborate on. Jakarta's Deputy Governor for Spatial Planning (Mr. Oswar Mungkasa) met with Philippines Head of Cebu Provincial Risk Reduction Office (Mr. Baltazar Tribulano Jr) and agreed for cross-learning opportunities between the two country programs. The municipalities identified common issues of interest including sharing modalities for community engagement, how to address/optimize challenges and opportunities in collaborative processes. This initiative would fit into the Regional plan on cross-country learning exchanges.
- 3. Advancing IRM through interventions:** PfR Teams actively participated in various sessions, raising questions that prompted speakers to address IRM principles. In the session *on affordable Housing led by UN-Habitat*, PfR, through RCCC Urban Resilience Advisor, Julie Arrighi, raised the issue of risk-screening for climate and disaster risks to help ensure future affordable housing has minimal exposure to risks. The session, which looked at the development of an Africa-wide housing policy seemed more focused on the access issue with little reference to incorporating the disaster risk aspect.

PfR, through CARE Philippines' local partner ACCORD, John Carlos Quijano, intervened in a session on Climate Resilient Informal settlements and emphasized how critical it is in disaster risk reduction to ensure that institutionalized platforms for dialogue be made accessible especially to vulnerable communities. In the session on "Making room for urban expansion: planned extension as an antidote to disorder and sprawl", Rocelyn De Vera of CARE Philippines highlighted the importance of making the process of identifying growth areas inclusive and participatory and bearing in mind not just disaster risks, but also climate change and environmental aspect in planning.

Case studies were presented on Uganda and Kenya, information that opened discussions within the PfR Team present at WUF9, for opportunities for PfR engagement in urban work. Kenya Red Cross Society is keen to pursue these opportunities with PfR Kenya.





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4.SDGs and the 2018 Voluntary National Review : PfR attended a session that focused on countries' progress on the SDG agenda, the so-called Voluntary National Reviews. With a scheme where different countries present in different years, 2018 will see the Mali government (as only PfR country) present its report. Apart from highlighting the urban goal in these reviews (11: Sustainable Cities and Communities), it also explained how the VNR process is organized, from national level up to the UN High-Level Political Forum in July. Goals that will be highlighted in this year's edition of the HLPF and that are of particular relevance to PfR are SDG 6 (Water Security), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 15 (Terrestrial Ecosystems).

During the WUF many sessions made specific reference to linkages between the New Urban Agenda on the one hand and the SDGs and Paris Agreement on the other. Not only does this suggest that there are opportunities for PfR to (also, and particularly) stress linkages with the Sendai Agreement and the WHC's 'Grand Bargain' (especially regarding 'localisation'), but also that for the participation at the HLPF is particularly relevant, as the focus will cut across all global framework it focuses on.

5.Urban-Rural linkages: In a session on urban-rural linkages, panelists emphasized that centralized national plans exclude people at sub-national levels from being part of national decision-making. Dialogues must cascade to sub-national levels to demonstrate that integrated territorial approaches must be vertical & horizontal. PfR highlighted that as an alliance, it is active in supporting Governments translate the 'integrated territorial approach' into reality, by working with sub-national government and local communities develop risk reduction strategies to implement global policies (Sendai Framework for DRR, UNFCCC, New Urban Agenda).

6.WUF9 Declaration and PfR's Agenda: <http://wuf9.org/kuala-lumpur-declaration/>

While few PfR focus countries are engaging in the urban agenda, there are many opportunities for PfR to link our current work to the urban agenda. Some of the highlights from the conference, including the following among other priorities:-

*ensure continuous **dialogue among different levels**.....

*Responding to **environmental degradation and climate change** concerns.....

*Building **inclusive partnerships and strengthening age and gender** responsive environments to ensure meaningful participation and engagement at all levels.....

***Adopting integrated territorial development**, including through appropriate urban planning and design instruments, to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and land, appropriate compactness and density, diversity of uses, and revitalization of cultural heritage.

*Promote **multi-stakeholder constituency-based coalitions**...

***Encourage the formulation of implementation** frameworks for the New Urban Agenda.....



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PfR Participants to the Conference: Thandie Mwape (PfR/HDC), Raimond Duijsens (PfR/NLRC), Retchel Sasing (PfR/Cordaid Philipinnes), Yohan Santosa (PfR/Cordaid Indonesia), Rocelyn Devera (PfR/CARE), Celso Dulce (PfR/CARE), John Carlos Quijano (PfR/CARE/ACCORD), Suada Ibrahim (PfR/Kenya Red Cross), PfR), Donna Lagdame (PfR/RCCC), Julie Arrighi (PfR/RCCC)



PfR Team members at the Kuala Lumpur Convention centre