

Meeting of Preparatory Committee for Habitat III in Nairobi

Prof Chryssy Potsiou, FIG president, and Ms Gerda Schennach, FIG Commission 7 chair, participated in the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM2) for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14-16 April 2015. Habitat III is scheduled to take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016 and will focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

Close to 800 participants from 90 countries attended the preparatory meeting, while more than 100 partner organisations were represented. Stakeholders and partners discussed the most important topics for the New Urban Agenda in 36 side events, and 21 exhibitors demonstrated their work around the world. The Future of Places was represented in several ways during this event.

Dr Joan Clos, UN-Habitat executive director, described the meeting as the opportunity to solidify UN-Habitat's responsibilities in leading the New Urban Agenda before the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016 as well as the establishment of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the climate change summit later this year. In her capacity as board member of the Advisory Group on Gender Equality Issues across the work of UN-Habitat advising the secretary-general Dr J Close, vice-president Diane Dumashie also attended the opening of the UN-Habitat General Assembly, where Kenya's president Uhuru Kenyatta delivered a keynote speech to mark the start of the five days of proceedings and assemblies.



▲ Photo taken during the visit to Mashimoni, Nairobi, Kenya.

During the FIG president's trip to Nairobi the continuation of the Agreement of Co-operation between FIG and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) was signed for 2015 regarding FIG's role in supporting the GLTN Phase 2 implementation programme including tool development, capacity development, initiatives and knowledge awareness. The general project goals of the Global Land Tool Network focus on the development of pro-poor, gendered and large-scale land tools which currently do not exist systematically at country and global level. It is expected that, when identified and sufficiently supported, these land tools will unblock current development obstacles and enhance the delivery of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In addition, FIG president Prof Chryssy Potsiou, FIG Commission 7 chair Ms Gerda

Schennach and Cyprian Selebalo from GLTN/ UN-Habitat visited Mashimoni in Nairobi, an informal settlement of 4,000 families. GLTN/ UN-Habitat is supporting implementation of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) in co-operation with the community leaders and the 4,000 families in the area. The STDM is a pro-poor, participatory and affordable land tool for representing a person-to-land relationship along the land rights continuum. The STDM can be used by communities such as slum dwellers, and has already been implemented in settlements in Uganda, Kenya, Colombia, Zambia and Congo. The software and its applications were discussed during this visit. ◀

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