

## Networking session

### Contribution of Participatory Budgeting to Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

Abu Dhabi, Wednesday February 12, 2-4pm

[draft 15 /1/2020]

#### 1. Summary of the event

Participatory budgeting (PB) processes were introduced in municipalities in Brazil in the 1980s and it has been expanding over the last 30 years, from one experience to over 5000 in municipalities worldwide. PB is an innovative and democratic exercise in where it gives people power over the allocation of public financial resources designated to their living area, enabling them to be actively involved in the making and shaping of their neighbourhoods, while allowing them to examine the most pressing needs and have financial resources to support them. The principles and ideas associated with PB appeal to a broad spectrum of citizens, civil society activists, government officials and international agencies, which helps explain why it has expanded so quickly.

Ultimately, PB practices should address the most urgent problems in the communities, while constructing a new social, political, and spatial justice and order. Climate change impacts are massively felt all around the world, mostly in urban areas and impacting especially the most vulnerable groups, worsening their vulnerability. However, in the PB practices in around 45 countries across the globe, very few that has developed an approach dedicated to climate change action. The challenges and opportunities of 'greening' PB is worth discussing over, while its sustainable future and scaling-up should be formulated together among experts, civil society, international organisations, private sectors. The Networking Session will feature and reflect upon some of the leading practices of integrating climate change action plan into the PB process from around different regions and cities in the world [Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America; Russia] drawing primarily from the IODP [International Observatory of Participatory Budgeting] network.

The session aims to discuss some of the challenges and opportunities in integrating climate mitigation and adaptation into local projects that answer the immediate needs of citizens. It will also discuss and share knowledge, know-how, and methodology to introduce and formulate climate change approach in the PB process- so that it'd effectively allocate financial resources for action but also act as a space for articulation and mobilization of citizen participation in the planning and development process, helping to unite disparate communities, overcome differences and create shared ownership of the resilience program in the future.

Finally, through sharing of experiences, the session aims to discuss the high potential for replication and scaling up of the green PB practices globally.

## 2. Objectives of the session

The Networking Session on the topic of participatory budgeting and climate change adaptation aims to introduce and disseminate innovative experiences and practices from around the world. It hopes to discuss in detail, the current challenges and opportunities of promoting participatory budgeting and civil society action to respond to one of the most pressing urban problems out there, climate change and its impacts.

Being one of the first platforms that make deliberate connection between the culture/tradition of participation and democratic governance, urban financing, and climate change adaptation, the session aims to promote the bottom-up approaches and innovation in doing climate change-responsive budgeting in cities. It will explore the tradition of participation and governance in each country/city and what kind of innovations have been recently applied to support and improve the practices. It will expose at the same cutting-edge experiences from local governments and cities from different regions in the world

The session, co-organized by, and inviting partners representing academia, municipal networks, local governments, and civil society organizations, aim to strengthen multi-stakeholder, global partnership, and alliances on the particular issue.

Finally, the Session aims to identify and discuss the interlinkages of PBs and climate change adaptation to the fulfilment of several goals in SDGs, primarily Goal 11 ('inclusive, safe, and resilient cities and communities'), as well as Goal 1 ('no poverty'), Goal 8 ('urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'), Goal 10 ('reduced inequalities'), Goal 16, and Goal 17 ('fostering partnerships').

## 3. Dialogue Themes to which your event is relevant

Dialogue 2: Driving Sustainable Change in Cities through Culture and Innovation

Dialogue 6: Partnerships and Initiatives Supporting Culture and Innovation in Cities

For the first time at the World Urban Forum a session will focus on the direct, multiple and evolving contributions that participatory budgeting is making to the fierce challenges of climate adaptation and mitigation. The session will explore, in line with dialogue 2, **Driving Sustainable Change in Cities through Culture and Innovation**, and through the various presentations how it could be expanded as a prime and innovative instrument to drive sustainable changes in cities of different types and sizes, with the perspective of leaving "no places and no one behind", primarily women and men, affected by the effects of climate changes in poor neighbourhoods

Participatory budgeting (PB), under its multiple and adaptive forms, has been a major innovation in participatory governance worldwide, with more than 5,000 experiences listed across 40 countries. At its core, a form of decision-making that actively involves the citizenry in prioritizing spending of public resources. What is unique and directly linked to **dialogue 6 Partnerships and Initiatives Supporting Culture and Innovation in Cities**, is that PB is about partnerships between Local and Regional Governments [more rarely with central Governments] and a wide range of organized and non-organized citizens. The session will highlight as well how in certain cases, international organizations and private sector initiative are involved as well to set in motion a multiplying financial mobilisation effect, that allow to do more with scarce, or limited public resources. PB generates an innovative democratic and

management culture both within the government sphere [acting as a modernizing factor] and in the city as a whole, generating new form of multi-stakeholder governance.

#### **4. Promotion of the event**

The co-organizers consist of a network of international organizations with members from around the world whose work focuses on sustainable urban development. The Session will be promoted by the lead organizer and its partner organizations, through digital invitation to the contacts' database and using social media channels of each partners. The co-organizers will be producing and distributing flyers/brochures, first to be distributed digitally and in print, to be disseminated during the WUF 10.

#### **5. Monitoring strategy**

After the event, a report from the Networking Session will be produced and disseminated within the lead organizer and its partners' networks. It will be a reference and guiding document for the potential future collaborations.

The experts that would have come together for the Networking Session in WUF 10 will be the first cohort of experts, local governments and organizations with an interest in Greening Participatory Budgeting. It will be a joint task force committed to the ideas and courses of action that will be agreed upon during events and activities that we'd work on together. This implicates in distribution of tasks, follow-up on agreements, and a timeframe to show expected outputs.

#### **6. Partner organizations and co-host(s)**

- **Kota Kita Foundation, Indonesia, Host**
- The Bartlett Development Planning Unit / University College London
- FMDV (Global Fund for Cities Development), Paris
- International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP), Barcelona
- C 40 [to be confirmed]

#### **7. Speakers [Provisional]**

1. **Yves Cabannes**, DPU-UCL & FMDV, Moderator
2. **Rizqa Hidayani / Ahmad Rifai**, Kota Kita, Indonesia / Asia
3. **Lisbon Municipality** / Europe [tbc]
4. **Bachir Kanoute**, Enda Ecopop OIDP África/ Senegal
5. **Dinorah Cantú Pedraza** [tbc], Secretaria de Participación y Atención Ciudadana, Municipality of San Pedro Garza García, Mexico/ Latin America [tbc]
6. **Ivan Shulga, Anna Sukhova**, World Bank / Russia
7. **Pauline Véron**, Paris City Vice Mayor, in charge of Local Democracy, Citizen participation, Associativism and Youth.
8. **Marco Kamiya**, [tbc] Head of Urban Economy and Finance Branch, UN-Habitat, Kenya