Implementation News

Implementation Guidelines and Indices
At the GAP ExCo meeting in January, the UN GAP Coordinator, Ana Moreno, discussed the current work of UNH on the SDGs Goal 11 and other targets and the NUA in drafting guidelines and implementation of indices for UN Nation Members. Once completed, these documents will be a valuable tool to assist in the promotion of the NUA in each country.

World Urban Forum
Ana Moreno also informed us that GAP will play an important role in the World Urban Forum, that will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2018. The General Assembly resolution 70/210 indicates it will be the first session to have a thematic focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The CSO Partner Group and other GAP groups will be tasked with convening stakeholder roundtables as occurred in Habitat III. We should begin thinking about themes, participation, and objectives since.

Australia-Asia-Pacific Implementation Conference
Notwithstanding the work on the GAP 2.0 constitution, there have been some initiatives undertaken by GAP CSO and other PCG members towards influencing governments towards domestic policy absorbing the NUA principles and aspirations. In Australia, some Quito participants have formed a committee for holding a New Urban Agenda conference and inviting governments and other stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific Region. The organisations involved in developing the conference, 4-5 May 2017 in Melbourne, are Compass Housing, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the state of Victoria Department of Planning. We were delighted that Dr. Joan Clos (UN Under Secretary General and UNH Executive Director) has accepted to open the conference. This is great support from the most senior officer of UNH Agency.

World Urban Campaign
UN Habitat’s World Urban Campaign will also meet prior to the Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi in May. Many members of the CSO group have been planning Urban Thinkers Campuses around the world in preparation for the WUF and to help implement the New Urban Agenda. A complete list of Urban Thinkers Campuses can be found on the website http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/

Keeping Informed, Inspired & Influential
Are you planning or undertaking something in your area to help bring awareness of the New Urban Agenda. Please let us know, so we can encourage all our members.

New Urban Agenda – Status
On behalf of Jane Katz and Greg Budworth, we are pleased to give an update on the UN General Assembly of Partners (GAP) and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Partner Constituent Group (PCG), of which you are a member.

As you know, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) outcome document was adopted by the member states at the UN Habitat III conference in Quito in October 2016. The NUA was then remitted to the UN General Assembly for final adoption and this occurred on the 23 December 2016.

It was an historic and truly memorable occasion in Quito and its spirit is enshrined in the aspirations of the NUA, which now needs to be implemented across the world. In this way, the NUA adoption was a successful completed outcome for all those who contributed from our CSO and colleagues from GAP, but in another sense the work has only just begun.

It was this ‘new beginning’ that was part of the discussions held during the GAP plenary session in Quito and have occupied the work of GAP since Quito. At Quito, the UN Habitat agency offered to continue to offer administrative support for GAP if GAP chose to continue and have a role in the implementation of the NUA. The vote of the plenary was that GAP would continue and a revised Constitution and mission would be developed. The Executive Committee (ExCom) of GAP met in New York in January 2016, to finalise discussions with UNH as to resourcing assistance and to undertake work on designing new constitutional documents and administrative arrangements for what is euphemistically being called ‘GAP 2.0’ – as the GAP role in the NUA development has now concluded and its new role in NUA implementation has only just begun.

The GAP ExCom will deliver the proposed GAP 2.0 constitution to members in May 2017 at the next GAP plenary on Sunday, May 7, immediately prior to the Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. Non attendees at the plenary will also be afforded the opportunity to comment on the GAP 2.0 Constitution.