

Towards Habitat III – Global political economy challenges for real estate and urban informality

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The proposed conference contribution is part of an ongoing collaboration between City Alliance and N-AERUS, the latter a pluri-disciplinary network of researchers and experts on urban issues in the Global South. This partnership facilitates the link between institutional knowledge generation and global policy making such as by commenting on the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda complemented by a City Alliance/N-AERUS policy paper. This paper comprises of three interlinked focus areas: Informality, Urban Governance, and Housing & Planning, where real estate markets constitute a crosscutting theme of central importance.

The High-level Workshop on Sustainable Real Estate would see as complementary the pressing urban issues and the suggested recommendations for future research and policy making prepared by City Alliance/N-AERUS for the UN-Habitat Conference in October 2016 in Quito. At the same time, our policy paper would benefit from feedback from other stakeholders in the workshop.

The envisioned long paper shall discuss the following urban issues that directly link to the topics of interest of the event:

- Insights over the political economy of urban policy making, regulation setting, and urban development in the aftermath of the great recession;
- Challenges for inclusive stakeholder participation in policy making, planning and implementation;
- On the challenges for governments in addressing different modalities of real estate provision including informal urbanisation, incremental and sub-standard;
- Equity through planning: Who pays for planning? Who gains from the multiplier?
- Land markets as drivers of inefficiency and inequality;
- Access to real estate finance and its limits;
- Finally, how the above informs the tensions between the need for local solutions and for economies of scale in a context of internationalisation of real estate practices.

Each problem will first be situated in a global perspective and addressed by equally accounting for its economic, social, and environmental dimensions. In a second step, we provide insights of local examples mainly from the Global South illustrating their specific challenges and developed answers.