

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

GHANA URBAN FORUM (GUF 2016)

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DRAFT FORUM REPORT

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COLLABORATORS:

- Cities Alliance
- German International Cooperation Agency (GiZ) Support for Decentralization Reforms (SfDR), People's Dialogue
- Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS)
- Department of Planning of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
- Local Government Service Secretariat (LGSS)
- Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
- British Department for International Development (DfID)
- United Nations Habitat
- Brong Ahafo Regional Coordinating Council

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SECTION ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) institutionalized the Ghana Urban Forum (GUF) as an integral part of implementing the National Urban Policy responsively and in a participatory manner. It has been one of the key initiatives of the Ministry instituted to continually enrich the capacities and outlook of key actors in urban development and management. To this end, the action plan provided for a series of fora to enhance policy dialogue amongst the key players including national government actors, local government functionaries and practitioners, community representatives, civil society entities, private sector interest groups and other stakeholders. The 2016 Ghana Urban Forum (GUF) was critical coming at a time when the country was preparing towards the third Preparatory Committee (PrepCom3) meeting and the Habitat III Conference in Surabaya, Indonesia and Quito, Ecuador respectively.

In the effort to make development relevant and responsive, MLGRD and its allied agencies recognised the need for a national platform to meet periodically to discuss relevant urban issues and provide inputs for strengthening urban governance and management. Earlier efforts prior to the formulation of the National Urban Policy evolved into the Ghana Urban Forum (GUF). GUF was institutionalized and has run consistently since 2012. Five (5) events have been organized with support and participation from state agencies, civil society, the private sector, research and training institutions as well as development partners. Ordinary citizens and inhabitants of cities have also participated in these events to make inputs into the governance of metropolises and municipalities.

As the process continues to mature, the GUF has taken inspiration from the World Urban Forum which allows for deliberation by key stakeholders and practitioners in international urban development for informed and sustainable urban processes, as these processes are replicated at national and sub-national levels. The 2016 Forum was held on Tuesday 12th July 2016 in Sunyani, Brong Ahafo Region, with the theme: **“Localizing the New Urban Agenda: A Catalyst for Financing Urban Infrastructure for Equitable Economic Growth in Ghana”**.

1.2 Objectives of the Forum

The forum was intended to afford practitioners and stakeholders, including women and marginalized groups the opportunity to understand the processes and activities undertaken leading to the New Urban Agenda. In line with the main objective for institutionalizing the GUF, the forum was to offer practitioners, governments, opinion leaders, civil society and the ordinary Ghanaian the opportunity to have a say in the governance of their communities and more importantly, their urban space.

1.3 Content and Process of the Forum

The Forum was structured in four (4) parts: an opening ceremony, the main segment and a discussion segment and the closing. The opening was chaired by Prof. Nana Agyewodin Adugyamfi Ampim, Omanhene of Acherensua Traditional Area. It set

the tone for the forum with statements from the host Regional Minister and a representative of the partners, Dr. Hartmut Krebs, Programme Manager, GiZ-SfDR. The keynote address delivered by the Hon. Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Alhaji Collins Dauda (MP) outlined the context of the forum and the MLGRD's urban initiatives.

The main segment consisted of expert presentations on the imperatives for city governance, the New Urban Agenda and the national long-term planning process and resource mobilization for urban infrastructure financing. These were delivered by Prof. Ahwoi, Dr. Daniel Inkoom and Dr. Eric Oduro Osae, whose submissions provided insights into national urban challenges and opportunities.

The presentation that followed shared lessons and perspectives on optimizing the urbanization process for local economic development, provided by Mr. Alloysius Bongwa. This was followed by an intervention by the Federation of the Urban Poor, providing insights into how participation and planning efforts could be made more inclusive.

Reflections were provided by a panel on what the New Urban Agenda was; what it meant for Ghana alongside national priorities; and why Ghanaian policy makers and urban stakeholders should be interested in it. The resource persons for this session were Messrs Sylvanus Adzornu and Bernard Abeiku Arthur. The panel was moderated by Mr. Kwasi Poku.

The Forum concluded with summaries and observations on the way forward. In the main segment and the discussion session, participants made rich contributions and offered their perspectives. Amongst others, urban practitioners, representatives of interest groups such as Slum Dwellers/People's Dialogue, traditional authorities and assembly members gave feedback on the issues raised. See Appendix One for the Forum Programme.

1.4 Forum Outcomes

- Participants were better informed about the Habitat III Processes and the New Urban Agenda
- The National Habitat Report and the priorities and instruments for the way forward were widely disseminated
- Inputs were generated for ongoing research into metropolitan governance and responsiveness of institutional and governance structures
- The perspectives of key interest groups such as Federation of Urban Poor and People with Disabilities were elicited and provided wider discussion of the informal economy and imperatives for social protection

1.5 Forum Participants

A wide range of participants were drawn from across the country and attended the programme. They were drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with urban programmes and responsibilities, international and national development organizations working in urban development, civil society organizations (CSOs), local authorities and the media.

1.6 Forum Conveners

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and its collaborators namely the Cities Alliance through which the Land, Services and Citizenship Project (LSC) and the Future Cities of Africa (FCA) is being implemented. The partners under whose auspices the Forum was organized were the German International Cooperation Agency (GiZ) Support for Decentralization Reforms (SfDR), People's Dialogue, the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), the Department of Planning of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the Local Government Service and Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). RMG Ghana and Zoomlion were the other private sector organisations that supported the event. The United Nations Habitat is the other development partner collaborator.

1.8 Organisation of Report

The report is structured in three main parts. The first section introduces the report and provides an overview of the Forum, how it was organized and the key issues emerging. The second part focuses on the proceedings of the forum and discussions. The third component presents the conclusions of the forum and the appendices.

SECTION TWO: FORUM ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS

2.1 OPENING SESSION

2.1.1 Start of Proceedings

The Moderator of the Forum, Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye initiated proceedings by welcoming all participants to the Ghana Urban Forum (GUF) 2016. She observed that the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) had instituted the GUF to provide a multi-stakeholder platform to reflect on urban issues for effective governance. GUFs, which had been organized annually since 2012, had allowed representatives of the different interest groups in city management to have their voices heard; be updated on new concepts and programmes; coordinate their ideas and build consensus on actions and advocacy that was required.

The Moderator stated that GUF 2016 was a special one because it was occurring during the journey to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, scheduled for 17 to 20th October, 2016 in Ecuador. The road to Habitat III had been characterised by considerable reflection and interaction, including in Ghana and it was expected that these processes would allow nationals to own the emerging documents such as the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Therefore, GUF 2016 was an opportunity for stakeholders to be informed about it and share ideas with the several experienced city development and urban practitioners and other parties that had come to Sunyani.

She introduced the dignitaries for the Opening Ceremony: the Chairman for the function, Agyewodin Adu-Gyamfi Ampem, the Omanhene of the Acherensua Traditional Area (known in private life as Prof. A.G. Kese), the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Alhaji Collins Dauda; the Honourable Deputy Minister for Brong Ahafo Region, Mr. Justice Adjei; the Programme Manager of GiZ-SfDR Programme, Dr. Hartmut Krebs; the Chief Director of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Mr. C.K. Dondieu. She also recognised some of the resource persons for the programme.

2.1.2 Chairperson's Remarks: Prof. Nana Agyewodin Adugyamfi Ampim, Omanhene of Acherensua Traditional Area

The Chairperson for the Opening Session emphasized the importance of the event, particularly the opportunity for participants to be updated on international processes for urban development and the consensus that had been built around the New Urban Agenda. He illustrated the importance of knowledge and diligent application with a poem/carol. He stated that if participants wanted to contribute positively to national development, it was important to be informed about relevant policies and programmes. He reflected on the Forum theme "**Localizing the New Urban Agenda: A Catalyst for Financing Urban Infrastructure for Equitable Economic Growth in Ghana**" and said that though it appeared onerous, financing urban infrastructure for equitable, economic growth was achievable. With leadership, motivation and commitment, the present problems were not insurmountable. He had no doubt that given the calibre of resource persons indicated; the Forum would be a success.

2.1.3 Welcome Address: Hon. Justice Samuel Adjei, Deputy Brong Ahafo Regional Minister

The Deputy Regional Minister for the Brong Ahafo Region, Hon. Justice Samuel Adjei, welcomed participants to Sunyani. He commended the leadership of the Ministry and its partners on the conduct of the GUF and indicated that it demonstrated commitment to effective urban governance. This he said was laudable. He described Sunyani as the cleanest city in the country and welcomed participants to enjoy the city and the venue. Mr. Adjei described the theme as appropriate and timely – emphasizing the need to create healthy, vibrant cities abounding in opportunities for all. This would arise from deliberate efforts to participate and opportunities affecting families, communities and the nation at large. Current circumstances indicated a skewed situation favouring a few large urban centres. The system had not promoted socio-economic development for the rural areas, thus putting pressure on a few urban areas and their limited spaces. The pressure on land and infrastructure manifests as problems of crime, security and the emergence of slums.

The Hon. Deputy Minister suggested that mechanisms were required for equal opportunities for all peoples; there was the need for resources and avenues for sustained socio-economic development at all levels. Street-naming and property addressing had immense advantages for planning, easy identification of properties and resources, revenue mobilization and could lead to rapid urbanization. He congratulated the chiefs and people for the overwhelming success that the national street-naming and property addressing programme had chalked, given their cooperation with the government and the assemblies. This initiative could be taken advantage of to achieve rapid urbanization and equitable development. He urged participants to be committed to the Forum and to allow new ideas to emerge; given the topics the nation should be poised to do things differently. He wished participants well, on behalf of the Brong Ahafo Regional Coordinating Council (RCC).

2.1.4 Partner's Statement: Dr. Hartmut Krebs, Programme Manager, GiZ-SfDR

Dr. Hartmut Krebs, Programme Manager, GiZ-SfDR submitted that the theme and events in the international urban agenda raised some critical questions that participants could reflect on. For instance, what is the new urban agenda? Why is new? How can it be used for catalysing development in Ghana? He went on to offer the Forum some thoughts on the concept of localization, particularly in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda. He summed it as how local governments can work towards the SDGs as practically as possible. It was in reference to local governments' roles in the implementation of these goals. For instance, the 11th Goal required the provision of basic services to citizens; however this would require resources and other capacities to achieve satisfactorily.

Dr. Krebs reflected on the burden that would come with localization. These responsibilities could be pursued through new partnership arrangements, operationalization, monitoring and evaluation. The NUA would influence and guide developments over the next two decades and support should be focused on achieving effective governance mechanisms. He reiterated the questions what made

the Urban Agenda new and what should be localised? He observed that Habitat II had called for sustainable human settlements and the adoption of the Habitat Agenda had influenced aspects of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as the provisions for cities without slums. With the SDGs, it was important to correlate the urban-related provisions particularly with SDG 11 – inclusive, safe and resilient cities, in which access to basic services would be ensured for all.

Dr. Krebs noted that all the unfinished business of the old goals as well as the emerging priorities – transport, participation, planning, safeguarding cultural resources and heritage, protecting environmental and power resources, inclusive growth, green and public spaces – required a localised agenda and SDG 11, translated into a national and local goals. According to him, a catalyst by definition, causes change. Therefore, this agenda would be a catalyst if it could be implemented as agreed. He identified action in three concentric layers, the inner zone of the circle relating to human well-being; then the natural environment; and infrastructural requirements and sustainable growth and aligned the SDGs along these lines. He concluded on the note that the Urban Divide therefore played a critical role in Ghana’s growth as urbanization created opportunities for improving living conditions and increased and equitable access to resources. Could Ghana use the NUA to achieve these benefits? He proposed that the Forum focus on finding some answers to this question as well as what would be required to translate the NUA into a local agenda.

2.1.5 Keynote Address: Hon. Collins Dauda (MP), Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)

The Honourable Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Alhaji Collins Dauda began his address with a reference to the importance of the GUF for discussing urbanization, the effects of developments on cities and topical trends, such as climate change. These concerns were indicated in the SDGs to which Ghana had committed. Given that His Excellency the President, John Mahama was the Co-Chair of the Eminent Persons championing the SDGs and the Chairperson of the African Urban Agenda, it was important to get things right, support his efforts and enhance his and the country’s image.

He described the theme and choice of discussion issues for the Forum as timely, particularly when there were a number of important, related policies in place such as the Local Economic Development (LED) Policy. The Honourable Minister observed that there was a gap between the demand for infrastructure and the capacity of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to provide the required services. While the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF), the District Development Fund (DDF) and the Urban Development Grant (for municipalities and metropolitan assemblies) had contributed critical resources, these have been complemented by other provisions. Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP), the Urban Environmental Sanitation Project (UESP) and the Ghana Urban Management Pilot Project (GUMPP) amongst others had sought to improve planning, address the infrastructure deficit and enhance financial autonomy of urban local authorities.

Through the national Public-Private Partnerships Policy (PPP), MMDAs have been encouraged to raise alternative resources and create employment opportunities,

particularly for young people. The Government was going to considerable effort to promulgate the Local Government Borrowing Bill and the Minister hoped that the Bill, when passed would enhance MMDAs' capacities to finance services and deliver them equitably.

Hon. Dauda indicated that the theme also represented critical milestones. Negotiations on the NUA would be concluded in Indonesia at the end of July. It was important for the nation to buy into it and ensure that the provisions would be optimised to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life. The NUA seeks to re-think the provision of infrastructure and services. The implementation of a comprehensive Urban Policy represents a bold attempt to address challenges and sustainable solutions. The participation of the Ministry, the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) and city officials in the planning meetings and preparatory committees point to the importance of the process, including addressing negative stereotypes. The Minister referred to three (3) vectors - development of a comprehensive policy; provision of multi-stakeholder platforms; and reviewed the urban economy agenda.

He said that meaningful spatial planning and provision of spaces would be required. Waste management had to be dealt with and water supply and other infrastructure provided more efficiently. The Ministry had been working with national and local stakeholders and development partners to accomplish the above strategies.

Hon. Dauda stated that as part of the preparations towards Habitat III, a report had been compiled. A Steering Committee had been established composed of various MDAs and non-state actors to direct and support the team, hold events to mobilize news and build consensus on the challenges of urbanization. From Vancouver (Habitat I) to Istanbul (Habitat II), the world was on route to Quito, Ecuador (Habitat III). It was agreed at Istanbul that cities would be engines of growth and there would efforts at problem-solving to address solid waste collection, water provision and education infrastructure. Participatory approaches would be adopted to develop the solutions. These commitments are still relevant.

The GUF's proceedings and outcomes would be used to firm up Ghana's agenda and inputs into the international process. Ghana's contribution has been widely recognised including in the selection of experts for the Policy Units to contribute to the drafting of inputs for the issues papers and ultimately, the NUA. The Minister concluded with words of gratitude to the development partners and other parties who had supported the urban process, the provision of technical and other support as well as the conduct of the GUF. He said that Ghana and the Ministry cherished the partnership and the relationship. The full text of the Minister's speech has been provided in Appendix Two.

2.2 MAIN SEGMENT: PRESENTATIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2.2.1 Imperatives for City/Metropolitan Governance: Lessons from the Past and Opportunities for the Future

The first expert presentation on the above subject was made by Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi, Consulting Member to the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on

Decentralization (IMCC-OD). The full text of the presentation has been provided in Appendix Three.

Prof. Ahwoi began with an acknowledgement of the work UN Habitat had done in Ghana since Habitat I and in operationalizing Habitat II, having been in charge of MLGRD up till 1999 (which had also included the environment portfolio). His presentation shared the highlights of ongoing research to review the management and administrative structures and options for metropolitan assemblies and municipalities.

Prof. Ahwoi noted that Ghana was urbanizing very fast and the statistics provided interesting insights and projections, including that by 2030, 65% of Ghanaians would be living in urban areas. After 25 years of operation in an increasingly urbanized context, the decentralized structures for urban areas were now out of touch with the realities. For instance, the metropolitan governance structure and its board system needed to be reviewed for efficient and effective delivery of infrastructure and municipal services. No special arrangements had been made for municipalities because they were supposed to be one-town settlements. However, there were currently 55, some consisting of several settlements. Therefore, zonal council arrangements were not appropriate, but rather provisions for town councils could be considered.

Some of the concerns were generic; others peculiar to particular assemblies. Some of the required improvements were legal – such as:

- harmonizing and making easier the processes for confirming a Chief Executive and appointing a Presiding Member
- reconfiguration of sub-metropolitan district councils, since in the three new metropolitan assemblies there were parallel sub-district structures
- and addressing the jurisdictional challenges of several new municipalities
- various Legislative Instruments (LIs) were not implementable and had to be reviewed
- the need for a system for effective inter-sectoral collaboration at the local level particularly with non-state actors. Therefore, organizations in services provision could work at cross-purposes and often to dysfunctional effect
- The composition of the sub-district structures (town councils) did not always allow them to perform the envisaged functions; for instance, they did not have enough human or infrastructural capacity
- The inability of metropolitan assemblies to hire and fire the personnel they needed limited their control and suffer where transfers of staff had been effected. However, it would appear that the local authorities were not fully ready to do this.

From the field, some of the ideas emerging were:

- Practitioners proposed that membership of assemblies should be between 30 and 65 members
- The current system of sub-committees should be retained; several, major non-statutory committees had been established by assemblies in their areas of

concern including revenue mobilization, health, gender, agriculture, education, tourism and environment

Focus group discussions had indicated that there were numerous boundary disputes because of the lack of detailed boundary demarcations. The metropolitan assemblies were polarised almost into action between elected and appointed members and in line with the partisan traditions. The absence of a conflict resolution mechanism to address relations between Chief Executives and Coordinating Directors needed to be resolved. LI 2223 was yet to be implemented.

The town council concept had been found to be obsolete and the metropolitan board system was non-functional and proposals from the field were that they should be scrapped. Where the RCC was in the same location as the capital of a particular assembly, there was scope for conflict and dualism as RCCs got involved in local government functions. There were overlapping jurisdictions in the departments provided for in LI 1961 and some of the functions such as those the Department of Physical Planning and the Department of Works overlapped or were misaligned.

The insufficient orientation for Heads of merged departments was noted. Also, the multiplicity of invitations to the leadership of assemblies to programmes that were not always useful hampered their delivery. In relation to adopting democratic processes for selecting Chief Executives that would render them more accountable to the local level, it was proposed that the recommendations of the White Paper on the Constitutional Review Process should be piloted in selected assemblies.

Particular metropolitan assemblies did have contextual challenges. For instance, Accra suffered from being the national, regional and metropolitan capital, with intrusions and excessive directives. MDAs often operated as if they were implementing agencies and were directly in charge. The floating populations in and out of Accra were not adequately captured in service requirements. More flexibility was required to allow AMA to operate more independently and perform without some central government controls.

Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA) had three (3) de facto power centres, the Metropolitan Assembly, the Regional Coordinating Council and the Manhyia Palace. Therefore, competing messages, demands and attendant struggles had to be managed.

Tema Metropolitan Assembly (TMA) had the challenge of two systems operating side by side – the Assembly and the Tema Development Corporation. While Cape Coast had been a municipality, the zonal council arrangement had worked. However, with the creation of the metropolis, the town councils of the northern part of the metropolises had to be retained because of the relatively rural nature of the area.

In relation to the Municipal Assemblies, as noted above, the zonal council arrangement would not work in the newer ones that had been created. They had several settlements which did not fit into the notion of a zone. Therefore, the management no longer had to deal with the one town capital but several more,

which the structure did not provide for. The Municipalities had metro-type responsibilities, even though their structures were more like district assemblies.

From the field there were indications that

- There was the need for non-partisan appointed members; sub committees were not functioning because of the membership; there was also limited orientation of assembly members
- DPCUs had to be elevated into autonomous entities rather than be part of the Central Administration
- Lack of motivation and lackadaisical attitudes affected capacity; there was a critical shortage of capacity
- A review of the departments; some of those proposed were some for development planning, waste management, legal, budget and rating, amongst others
- The selection of presidential nomination of MCEs could be retained; while the White Paper's proposals could be piloted but the President could nominate the Chief Executive from amongst the elected assembly members
- The number of non-statutory committees had to be capped
- In order to strengthen sub-national/local authority responsibilities for hiring and firing of staff, a number of actions were required including
 - De-concentration of the Public Services Commission
 - Strengthening of the Human Resource Units of Assemblies and their conversion into Departments
 - Perceptions of politicisation of appointments and favouritism had to be addressed
 - Traditional authorities had also to be oriented to allow for effective collaboration with and functioning of MMDAs; the Chiefs would not be given any formal roles even though consultative systems with them would be adhered to

The presenter raised a number of potential opportunities but also asked questions that needed to be resolved. Amongst others

- Was the "one-size-fits-all" approach to decentralization and urban governance still appropriate?
- Should some (existing) municipalities be modified so that some could have zonal councils while others retained the urban councils?
- Should article 22 of the Constitution be amended?
- How should the "hiring and firing" function be operationalized for metropolitan and municipal assemblies?
- How can the leadership be familiarized with LI2223?
- Who should be responsible for training of staff?
How should the challenges outlined in the presentation be resolved?
- How can the eight (8) municipalities which are not benefiting from the UDG be resourced (since they are new entities)?

2.2.2 Localising the New Urban Agenda: Perspectives for the Long Term National Development Plan (LTNDP)

The second expert presentation was delivered by Dr. Daniel Inkoom, Head of Planning Department, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He proposed that localising an issue simply meant making it so accessible and relevant to local circumstances and “down-to-earth” so that local people could apply these to local conditions that affect them. Therefore, the essence of the discussion was to examine how Ghanaians could use the NUA to optimal benefit.

Dr. Inkoom described the NUA as the Outcome Document that would emanate from Quito or the Habitat III process. Therefore, inputs could be made into a national interpretation and elements could be integrated into the ongoing national long-term development planning process. The NUA was a framework for policy implementation that had been developed through a consultative process. Contributions had come from all over to formulate a document that had five (5) main headings. It aspired to ensure that short-term actions could be realised through action-oriented instruments. Secondly, the NUA’s provisions were universal but had to be applicable locally. Thirdly, definite time frames had to be applied. Fourth, the Agenda was people centred to ensure that ordinary citizens of cities could buy into and participate in these frameworks. A fifth dimension of the document aimed for measurable impacts – achieving what with whom? The document considered the nature of our settlements as well as sustainable issues, ecological concerns and urban growth.

To facilitate implementation, there had to be supportive systems to actualize the NUA at the local level. The critical questions nations had to grapple with included how to finance the urban agenda and issues related to monitoring, evaluation and participation.

In relation to the long-term national development planning process, Dr. Inkoom suggested that planners needed to be practical and realistic. Unrealizable urban fantasies were not required. The planning process had to deal with the realities of the time; Ghanaian cities were informal and the informal economy must be adequately integrated. The concerns of all sections of vulnerable groups had to be incorporated in the planning process. Amongst others, the importance of urban food security and agriculture, capacity development to ensure effective implementation had to be addressed. In a situation where Ghana had a ratio of 1 planner to 1000 people, planning capacity had to be prioritized.

2.2.3 Resource Mobilization for Urban Infrastructure Financing

Dr. Eric Oduro Osae, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) began with a reference to the new fiscal decentralization policy framework, which anticipates infrastructure delivery. The document sought to strengthen municipal finance and encouraged local fund-raising.

Dr. Osae emphasized the importance of establishing the appropriate urban infrastructure gaps in various assemblies to provide a basis for planning. He indicated that there appeared to be disconnects between various provisions for urban development – for instance between guidelines and expectations of NDPC and the Ministry of Finance. These needed to be addressed. He said that local authorities identified budgets and many sources for these. However, these different

sources operated under different guidelines with implications for consistency. There was some need for harmonization.

The presenter said that going forward, there was the need to review revenue sources and re-base the assembly; it was critical to bridge the fiscal gap and the ability of assemblies to operate on a realistic basis, especially in line with the functions of urban authorities. Assemblies needed to be encouraged to consider sources beyond the traditional financing mechanisms. For instance, strategies for property rate determination and collection had to be vigorously reviewed. Challenges with benefiting effectively from corporate social responsibility (CSR) had to be addressed from the perspective of policy. It was important to streamline CSR guidelines and make these relevant to the needs of urban governments.

Dr. Osae said that local authorities had to balance resource mobilization energies – where they should expend what levels of energy on which economic sources – thereby prioritizing resource mobilization efforts. The Guidelines for Internally Generated Revenues (IGR) had to be give teeth by upgrading them from guidelines to legislation. As far as possible, efforts had to be made to reconcile the formulae governing the DACF, DDF and UDG. There was also the added challenge in the National Urban Policy of defining key urban stakeholders. For instance, what roles faith entities, traditional authorities and other civil partners play in providing equity for urban infrastructure?

The presenter advised that the Street Naming Exercise and Property Addressing Programme had to be properly concluded in order to derive the anticipated benefits. The modes of financial reporting had to place more emphasis on transparency. He said Ghana could learn from other country experiences in the application of area development taxes to finance urban infrastructure. Special assessment districts could be identified and development banks designated to finance urban infrastructure. Therefore, a comprehensive National Infrastructure Plan should be geared to towards realizing this and other priorities, but also encourage and enable assemblies to establish their own infrastructural plans.

Dr. Osae observed that local authorities were not taking advantage of public-private partnerships largely because of lack of adequate capacity. It was long over-due to get local authorities to the capital markets and to issue municipal bonds. The full text of the presentation has been presented in Appendix Four.

2.2.4 Plenary Discussion, Questions and Answers

A plenary discussion was held after the three presentations to raise issues, receive contributions and build consensus on priorities. Some of the issues that emerged were as follows.

Contributions from Plenary

Expert Responses

Contributions from Plenary

1. The importance of capacity building and inclusion have come to the fore. But to what extent are current efforts adequate?
2. Change is important and the new learning must be integrated to the ways of managing urban areas. How are we addressing issues of resistance of some communities to some innovations and development approaches?
3. There are “moral” hazards to borrowing. If MMDAs are going to be allowed to borrow, how would any excesses be reined in?
4. The challenges of zonal councils include the need for professionalization. How is this going to be achieved in the membership as well as in the support structures?
5. Public-private partnerships (PPP) as provided for presently do not consider community partnerships. How then can the contributions of civic and community institutions such as traditional authorities be leveraged to benefit from what equity they could raise or provide?

Expert Responses

Whatever learning that is required to foster capacity and attitudinal change that must be in place to implement a new urban agenda has to be practical, relevant but also sustained and sustainable. The traditional learning approaches need to be more flexible. Also, bold, practical, experimental approaches that make learning interesting and demonstrate the gains to be made from the change are important. In this regard, the “Ashesi” model to learning and education may provide some interesting approaches.

The draft LG Borrowing Bill has two provisions: borrowing should be such that the Central Government is not saddled with future debts. Therefore, this requires some due diligence. Secondly, a LG Lending Agency is to be established to on-lend to local authorities with security provisions including loans guaranteed by the Common Fund to offset defaults. Innovative security provisions are required to strengthen the process.

Emphasizing professional capacity in the zonal councils may imply a more technocratic system rather than a democratic approach, which is the basis of the current arrangement. Other options could be to elect zonal council members directly which would imply three (3) elections at the local government level instead of the present two (2).

The current PPP framework enshrined in the PPP policy allows collaboration with civic entities. However, the guidelines need to be framed to provide specific direction on how to operationalize this.

The national PPP policy however, is not particularly assembly user-friendly. Therefore it could be subjected to review to help to reduce its centrist focus/centralization.

Contributions from Plenary

6. Participation is an essential element but stakeholders on both sides (demand and supply sides) have limited knowledge on how to foster participation, conduct relationships and create and optimize opportunities.
7. There do not appear to be any specialised programmes or courses relating to participation in our universities and training institutions that have been sustained. How can this gap be addressed?
8. Disability access to urban infrastructure was still far from being satisfactorily addressed – such as in transport, buildings and service delivery. While there appeared to be some attention to the needs of older persons, these had to be more widely and systematically applied.
9. The issue of election of MCEs must be considered as essential for democracy and accountability particularly in the urban areas. Can this not be started on a pilot basis to consider the effects it has on accountability to the citizenry?

Expert Responses

There is some provision for participation, especially in the revised LG Bill. Fifteen (15) or more constituent groups may be recognised. However, the emphasis should be on localisation and how urban governments and their partners take, own and run with the policy and agenda provisions and commitments. They should be encouraged to be innovative. Some of the questions that should engage the attention of urban stakeholders include

- How do we make assemblies more accessible and receptive?
- How do we optimize the opportunities that ICT offers to enhance participation?

The training of planners at KNUST does provide for participation. Other institutions have offered short courses in this area. What is required is to build a culture where assemblies recognise, solicit and accommodate the needs and realities of their communities

There is increasing awareness of disability issues and the need to mainstream access of people with disabilities. Though progress is slow on infrastructural renovation, there is the need for further advocacy with and encouragement of local authorities in this regard

Ghana's unique democracy arrangements are such that a partisan Central Government makes policies which non-partisan local governments implement. This has necessitates some central government presence at the local level. However, the emphasis on accountability should not rest with MCEs alone; or be exacted through election alone. The senior management of assemblies should understand that they have an obligation to be accountable to the citizenry and be pro-active to this end.

Contributions from Plenary

10. Can MCEs be elected (like Parliamentarians are) but dismissed on the basis of non-performance (which Parliamentarians are not subjected to)? How would this work?
11. It appears inadequate attention is paid to building the capacities of citizens to participate in urban governance. What systematic provisions must be put in place to ensure this?
12. In what ways can urban authorities optimize opportunities for resource mobilization from natural resource endowments?

Expert Responses

Comparing the election of MPs with that of MCEs may not be appropriate as MPs do not manage resources to the extent that MCEs do

Innovative ways must be found to build the capacities of citizenry to exact accountability and participate in democratic processes. For instance, increased requirements for assemblies to consult citizens' groups by the law should familiarise the citizens with these processes, thereby building their capacities. In other words, practice and familiarity could build the requisite capacity to engage. Therefore, the regularity of meetings with stakeholders in policy formulation, programme implementation and other actions can be exploited to this end. Even preparatory processes for discussions can provide requisite information. However, it has been observed that it is easier to get rural people to participate in consultative events than urban people to discuss issues.

First, the assemblies must explore areas where there are distinct prospects. Then, there are two (2) angles to this. First assemblies can take advantage of CSR opportunities that may exist. Secondly, the level of partnership can inject vibrancy into the local economy. However, some assemblies have not explored their natural resource prospects and have not showcased these as having investment potential.

Contributions from Plenary

13. Property addressing and street naming were expected to lead to enhanced revenue mobilization. What needs to be done to realise these expectations?

Expert Responses

The policy guidelines should set out clear steps as to how to actualize the process. Special data linked to revenue collection has to be collected. Then the MMDAs must take these steps and run with them, and the oversight Ministries and Agencies encouraging innovations in city management to achieve the targets that cities would set themselves.

Given the experience of implementing street naming, some cities did it better than others. The property addressing still remains somewhat incomplete.

2.3 URBAN AGENDA DISCUSSION SEGMENT

2.3.1 Urbanization as a Catalyst for Local Economic Development

A presentation on “Urbanization as a Catalyst for Local Economic Development” was delivered by Mr. Alloysius Bongwa, a Senior Expert in Urban Finance at IHS, Netherlands and the Ghana Urban Management Pilot Project (GUMPP) Technical Assistance Leader. He indicated that there were a lot of cross-cutting issues that needed to be appreciated. He spoke about past urbanization efforts; the factors and issues that accompany urbanization; the opportunities from the urban picture. He observed that the fact that citizens need services from urban authorities could be translated into effective demand. It could be assumed that citizens would pay for services. However, consideration should be given to situations where citizens could not pay for these services.

Therefore, Mr. Bongwa identified the challenges as including extreme poverty; low living conditions; the risk of natural disasters. The opportunities on the other hand consisted of concentrations of activities; economic activities that could contribute to GDP; infrastructure investments. There were prospects for urban areas as centres of innovation, exchange of knowledge and emerging ideas. Interventions should potentially be able to reduce the eco-footprint. There was a connection between economic activities, urban areas and migration that needed to be taken into account. Urban stakeholders needed to identify the linkages that would ensure that things could be done and were done. Presently, these could be harnessed through the LED Policy.

The presenter said that the LED had a clear emphasis on partnership. In its definition, four (4) dimensions could be considered:

- The territorial dimension: situations where national policies were brought down and impacted on local policies versus situations where policies were designed to be locality specific
- The governance dimension: the need to have good governments including strong institutions at all levels of governance; as well as horizontal coordination at the local level
- The sustainability dimension: as affecting the quality of human resources, inclusiveness, equity and treating all as equal with rights
- Integrated dimensions including improved competitiveness of local firms; attracting inward investment; upgrading local skills and quality of human resources; upgrading of local infrastructure.

The full paper has been provided in Appendix Five.

2.3.2 Plenary Discussion, Questions and Answers

A brief plenary discussion was held to link the learning from the presentation on local economic development with the issues raised in the preceding session and to contextualize the discussion that would follow on the relevance of the New Urban Agenda to Ghana. Some of the issues that emerged were as follows.

Contributions from Plenary

Given the link between urbanization and migration, can LED be used to address some of the challenges and perceived “ills” of urbanization?

Given the desirability of inclusiveness, poverty reduction and responsiveness in our urban development, how do we (a) integrate social protection and (b) balance competitiveness with pro-poor development?

City development is most often a host of mega-projects. Most migrants to and inhabitants of cities are there because of jobs. Who then can be regarded as the drivers of local economies?

Urbanization provides opportunities but also poses challenges. Can we review the challenges in order to understand the problems they pose better?

Expert Responses

In the national development policy and planning processes, attention must be equally paid to what can be done to make rural areas attractive to live in. So, that efforts must be made to strengthen both rural and urban areas. A critical area of concern to both rural and urban development is employment, particular jobs and more jobs for young people.

There is the need to make cities as attractive to investors as possible, including the niches and specializations that make a particular locality worth investing in. However, the revenue generated must also provide safety nets for those not able to help themselves. Safety net provisions must be viewed from the perspective of fairness and as investments in themselves – as they seek to build the capacities of sections of the population and in the long run, reduce costs to the cities’ development. A proper balance between social obligations and competitiveness must be found that is acceptable to each particular city.

There are already functioning economies in the city, especially the informal economy. The small and medium enterprises are already in operation but their competitiveness must be built. There may be the need to move towards more presumptive taxation systems.

Some of the key challenges that Ghanaian urban governments may have to resolve in the immediate future in order to optimize the opportunities include

- Efficient provision of basic services
- Land tenure
- Lack of housing
- Inadequate collection of revenue and non-payment of taxes by citizens
- Garbage collection and disposal

2.3.3 Contribution

In the spirit of GUF, offering the opportunity for dialogue and for hearing the voices of ordinary citizens and urban stakeholders, a spontaneous contribution was invited. Given the interest demonstrated in issues of inclusion, drivers of change in the urban economy and stakeholder involvement in urban governance, a submission was invited from the Federation of the Urban Poor/People's Dialogue. It was delivered on behalf of these parties by Mr. Farouk Braimah.

on the Perspectives and Interests of the Urban Poor

Mr. Braimah highlighted some of the experience of the Federation around exclusion. There were instances which were not immediately obvious or evident such as in the collection of data for planning. He cited two (2) sets of data – formal data, planned for and collected such as those instruments and information gathered from markets; and the second set of data that did not acknowledge informal operations and contributions. As a result, planning often failed to include their perspectives. It appeared that cities were too busy with infrastructure. So, the critical question was, how could we make urban informal economy visible?

The speaker indicated that the poor were not looking for just handouts but were interested in real partnerships and opportunities for participation. He emphasized that participation was not just about inviting citizens to certify or validate bye-laws and action plans. It was also about giving them the capacities and opportunities to utilize and interrogate the tools that had been used to arrive at the plans and guidelines. The urban poor also wanted capacities with qualitative data-gathering.

There was also the question of availability of basic infrastructure. Ghana had not crossed the thresholds set for Habitat II. Therefore, there was the need to complete those commitments. Mr. Braimah said that in order to act locally,

- it was critical to have accurate and inclusive local-level data
- it was important to organize around issues of interest to and with organizations of the poor
- city dwelling had to be regarded as a right
- participation must be real and meaningful and not seen as a privilege

Exclusion was also manifested in statements – there was far too much 'grammar'.

2.3.4 Plenary Discussion on Inclusion of the Urban Poor

A brief plenary discussion was held to harness the issues and prioritize the concerns that needed to inform Ghana's urban agenda. Some of the submissions were as follows:

- There appeared to be a lot of confusion around what constituted participation, partnership and the appropriate approaches. Could these be clarified and good practices identified? Also, the capacities of the ordinary people had to be built to take advantage of platforms that were offered them

- Waste management and other immediate priorities need to be addressed from the perspective of the urban poor not just because a solution may be technically sound, commercially viable or economically attractive
- The people who really matter and are the intended beneficiaries of pro-poor interventions are often left out and targeting mechanisms are ineffective. The elite – visible and vocal – are those who tend to get invited to events and consultative platforms. Such information as is provided them is not localised – not only is the “grammar” excluding but also the issues that are discussed.
- There is the “unfinished business” of Istanbul still to be dealt with. However, the Habitat agenda must be regarded as a rolling one which is reviewed every twenty (20) years, with opportunities for evaluation, mid-term.
- People in urban centres do not participate because their needs have not been met or the proposed issues for discussion do not seem immediately relevant to them. Again, mobilization and participation efforts have met challenges with political undertones. There is the need to improve organization of such efforts including making resources available for participation and consultation events (proper budgeting);
- The willingness of people to make a change in their lives for the better is there; participation should be understood from this perspective. If such engagements are planned to demonstrate how people will benefit, there will be more enthusiasm. But the education should be that rights go with responsibilities and contributions.

2.3.5 Panel Discussion: The New Urban Agenda

A panel discussion was conducted, focusing on the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and answering critical questions such as (a) what is the NUA; what does it mean? (b) What are Ghana’s priorities for the New Urban Agenda? (c) Why should policy makers/city authorities be interested in Habitat? The panellists were Mr. Sylvanus Adzornu, Global Expert, Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems, Policy Unit, Head, and Urban Development Unit, MLGRD; and Mr. Bernard Abeiku Arthur, Global Expert, Urban Services and Technology Policy Unit and Senior Urban Specialist for Cities Alliance – Ghana. The panel was facilitated by Mr. Kwasi Poku, President, Ghana Institute of Planners. Inputs for this session have been provided as Appendix Six. The highlights of the discussion were as follows:

What is the NUA; what does it mean?

The respondents said that the NUA was new because it had come after the Istanbul agreement. It had built on experiences with the Habitat II and tried to accommodate the changing dynamics. It had been agreed upon globally as a guide for actors at all levels of governance. It was new because it aimed at being more transformational. It reinforced the implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Declaration and the Sendai Declaration on climate change and disaster risk reduction. Its aim was to make development more inclusive and participatory.

It was also an instrument to guide sustainable urban development and housing dimensions.

It had ten (10) pillars and envisaged four (4) main phases of implementation. It envisaged a transformation from the way things are done – urban planning; taking advantage of the IT revolution to enhance governance, transport, education and research; and attention to the rights of the people with the interpretation of inclusivity and inclusion; attention to the poor, disabled and women

What are Ghana’s priorities for the New Urban Agenda?

The resource persons were of the opinion that Ghana should take into account the realities of the context of urban development. Apart from the more mainstream concerns and challenges of urban development, there were

- Security issues, the threat of disasters and terrorism to be provided for
- Issues of positive aspects of culture, women’s concerns, those of the marginalized and other issues of the vulnerable as envisaged in the global agenda
- Avoiding a “one-size-fits-all” approach to development – i.e. the approaches that worked in the global North should necessarily work in the South; such as people paying for all their services
- Ultimately recognising the need to strengthen local and regional authorities to deliver on their responsibilities.

After Habitat III and going forward, some of the proposed actions were

- Review of the urban policy
- Learning lessons, charting, documenting and sharing achievements: we have a lot to show the world in the wake of efforts to localize global agendas
- Identification of the enabling factors to capitalize on these
- Reviewing other national legal instruments, guidelines and protocols to take account of urban realities – such as the overall local government system, financing provisions, planning arrangements amongst others
- Proper spatial development was imperative and the provisions of the new Spatial Law had to be consistently implemented.

Why should policy makers/city authorities be interested in Habitat III?

The panellists emphasized that Ghanaian policy makers should be interested in Habitat III should be linked to how we improve as a nation. Ghana must adapt, adopt and fit the NUA into the planning and policy systems of the country with a view to moving fast to new levels and standards in urbanization.

2.3.6 Wrap Up of Panel Discussion

The Panel Facilitator, Mr. Alfred Kwasi Opoku, observed that Brong Ahafo Region appeared to have the best urban development prospects. There was little migration between the urban centres because of equal distribution of available resources and infrastructure. In the case of Accra, the floating populations of Accra did not go home after the day. They stayed and put pressure on the available resources. Therefore, there were lessons to be learnt about the distribution of infrastructure and

the need to provide adequately to support local authorities in their urban development efforts.

He indicated that rate collection was low; and local revenue mobilisation had to be innovatively worked on. He tied it to the notions of accountability of public officials to the localities they worked in. For instance, by the mode of selection of Chief Executives through Presidential nomination, the message that was conveyed was that resources would be provided by a Central Government on the basis of magnanimity. Therefore, there was little incentive for local endeavour or efforts to raise revenues to finance local development. Once the accountability was localised, a stronger sense of self-reliance and achievement would be enhanced.

Mr. Opoku concluded on the note that the NUA could not be implemented with old approaches. Serious consideration should be given to the creation of a Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development.

3.0 CLOSING SESSION

3.1 Moderator's Summary by Dr. Esther Oduraa Ofei-Aboagye, Vice-Chair, National Development Planning Commission

The Moderator, Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye (Vice-Chair of the National Development Planning Commission) identified some of the conclusions and "take-aways" from the Forum as follows:

1. There is the need to optimise the opportunities cities in Ghana have to offer. In order to do so, imperative actions include
 - a. Requisite governance with workable institutional structures and collaborative relationships
 - b. Clear provisions and attention to equity and inclusivity in service delivery and accessibility
 - c. Adequate attention to and acknowledgement of the informal economy
2. Capacity development to understand the New Urban Agenda and the implications for implementing the National Urban Policy and Action Plans was required for all categories of stakeholders: for city and local authorities, citizens, service providers and potential partners
3. Workable spaces for all must inform spatial policy efforts. We need to understand, advocate and adopt the new thinking and knowledge such as green, energy efficient and climate-responsive cities
4. Local economic development and delivery of municipal services and infrastructure must be approached from the perspective of being a catalyst as well as a leverage for sustainable growth and development
5. Regular review of policy implementation performance is necessary to track performance, take corrective action, leverage the required resources and learn lessons
6. Real and meaningful participation must be fostered – attention to the access of different categories of citizens, interest groups and stakeholders; attention must be paid to accessibility – issues of language, time availability, location and relevance of the discussion/issue to their needs and provision made throughout all processes

7. The issue of data –availability of the necessary data to plan, monitor, review and evaluate interventions; relevance and reliability of what is available, how it is packaged for the consumption of different interest groups including policy makers, service providers, citizens and beneficiaries and dissemination. In relation to the last, issues of targeting, packaging and adequacy and timing of circulation of the requisite information
8. Raising the resources to implement the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda and the Urban Agenda from innovative sources including public-private-community partnerships, corporate social responsibility (CSR), faith and diaspora sources and innovative efforts made to leverage the required resources – thinking outside the traditional channels and looking at new combinations of resources.
9. Alignment of national programmes and plans so that development is integrated and holistic and synergies can be derived from these – for instance the Urban Policy should be coordinated with the Local Economic Development, Social Protection and Employment Policies and the targets harmonized for effectiveness and real impacts on city dwellers.

The role of UN Habitat in Ghana over the past two decades was acknowledged by participants. The organization had been responsible for facilitating the commitments made in Habitat I with national partners and had worked extensively with MLGRD and the Ministry of Works and Housing in translating Habitat II into national frameworks. The contributions of Ms. Adolphine Asimah, Ms. Victoria Abankwa, Ms. Christy Ahenkorah-Banya, Mr. Acquah-Harrison and now Ms. Abena Ntori were appreciated.

It was observed that the Habitat agenda had familiarised the Ghanaian development community with the concept of “localization”, which was now being widely applied. UN Habitat’s work and presence in Ghana had facilitated such initiatives as the Slum Upgrading Project and various shelter related projects and encouraged partnerships with a wide range of development organizations such as Global Communities (formerly Cooperatives Housing Foundation or CHF International), Slum Dwellers International and Cities Alliance.

3.2 Closing Remarks

Mr. Charles K. Dondieu, Chief Director, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) made the concluding remarks to end the Forum. He began with a reflection on the statistics that demonstrated the changes of the years of Ghanaians living in urban areas – from 27% in 1970 to 51.9% in 2010. The prospects of the over three-quarters of Ghanaians living in urban areas before the completion of Long-Term National Development Plan in 2057 were very high. The challenges the nation faced included

- managing urban growth effectively
- inadequate basic services for increasing numbers of people
- environmental degradation
- sustaining urban areas to serve as engines of growth and
- addressing urban infrastructure gaps.

Mr. Dondieu noted the need to strengthen urban management capacity. Therefore, the GUFs were necessary to provide opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences. The GUFs also encouraged a wide and diverse range of stakeholders to come on board and take responsibility for shaping urban development. These interactions left participants wiser and more knowledgeable.

The Chief Director recognised the indications that had been provided for the way forward. He said being informed about the challenges would influence programming and the selected skills and capacities to strengthen to address these challenges. He shared a quote that conveyed that “if you use yesterday’s tools to do today’s business; you could not expect to remain in business tomorrow”. This meant that we needed to think differently and shift from the existing paradigms.

The Chief Director concluded that a critical area of focus was human resource development, which was an underlying factor. Where there were capacity gaps, these had to be quickly identified and systematically addressed. He expressed his gratitude to all participants and invited Mrs. Nora Pappoe of MLGRD to render a formal vote of thanks.

4.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE: GHANA URBAN FORUM (GUF) 2016 HELD AT EUSBETT HOTEL, SUNYANI ON TUESDAY JULY 12, 2016

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

TIME	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITIES
8.30am	Prelude: Registration of Participants/ Cultural Display	
OPENING		
9.00am	Introductions	Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye, Moderator
	Chairperson's Remarks	Prof. Nana Agyewodin Adugyamfi Ampim, Omanhene of Acherensua Traditional Area
	Welcome Address	Hon. Justice Samuel Adjei, Brong Ahafo Deputy Regional Minister
	Partner Statement	Dr. Hartmut Krebs, Programme Manager, GiZ-SfDR
	Keynote Address	Hon. Collins Dauda (MP), Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)
10.30	SNACK BREAK	
MAIN SEGMENT: PRESENTATIONS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
11.00am	Imperatives for City/Metropolitan Governance: Lessons from the Past and Opportunities for the Future	Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi, Consulting Member to the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Decentralization (IMCC-OD)
11.45am	Localising the New Urban Agenda: Perspectives for the Long Term National Development Plan (LTNDP)	Dr. Daniel Inkoom, Head of Planning Department, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
12.30pm	Resource Mobilization for Urban Infrastructure Financing Questions and Answers	Dr. Eric Oduro Osaе, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS)
13.15pm	LUNCH	
CLOSING SEGMENT		
14.15pm	Urbanization as a Catalyst for Local Economic Development	Mr. Alloysius Bongwa, Senior Expert in Urban Finance at I HS, Netherlands and Ghana Urban Management Pilot Project (GUMPP) Technical Assistance Leader

TIME	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITIES
14.30pm	Panel Discussion: The New Urban Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is it; what does it mean? • Ghana's priorities for the New Urban Agenda? • Why should policy makers/city authorities be interested in Habitat? • Questions and Answers 	1. Mr. Sylvanus Adzornu, Global Expert, Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems, Policy Unit. Head, Urban Development Unit, MLGRD 2. Mr. Bernard Abeiku Arthur, Global Expert, Urban Services and Technology Policy Unit, Senior Urban Specialist for Cities Alliance - Ghana
15.15pm	Wrap Up of Panel Discussion	Mr. Kwasi Poku, Panel Moderator, President, Ghana Institute of Planners
15.30pm	Closing Remarks	Mr. Charles K. Dondieu, Chief Director, MLGRD
15.45pm	Vote of Thanks	Mrs. Nora Pappoe
15.50pm	SNACKS AND DEPARTURE	

APPENDIX TWO KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Nana Chairman

Hon. Regional Minister

Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives

Representatives of Cities Alliance, GIZ~SfDR

Our Development Partners

Distinguished Invited Guests

Friends from the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend to you warm greetings from H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, Co-Chair of the Eminent Group of Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals and Champion of the African Urban Agenda. We acknowledge this honour to our first gentleman and are committed to enhancing his image in this regard.

Nana Chairman, it is worth emphasizing that the Ghana Urban Forum serves as an important platform for the discussion of rapid urbanisation and its impact on our communities, towns, cities and their economies and climate change and its effect on development. This year's Ghana Urban Forum is being organized under the Theme, **"Localizing the New Urban Agenda: A Catalyst for Financing Urban Infrastructure for Equitable Economic Growth in Ghana"**. It is timely because the forum comes at a time when we have just formulated the Local Economic Development (LED) policy which seeks to identify district potential resources which can be developed into full-fledged businesses for increased economic development. **For example**, one of the challenges of urbanisation is the enormous gap between the demand for urban infrastructure services and the capacities of our MMDAs to finance urban infrastructure.

Happily, Government has identified this challenge and has made funding available to MMDAs through the District Assemblies Common Fund, the District Development Facility (DDF). Other Government interventions include the provision of funding under the Urban Development Grant of the Local Government Capacity Support Project for Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies, the Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP), the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area Sanitation and Water Project (GAMA) and the Ghana Urban Management Pilot Project (GUMPP), which seeks to improve planning, investment in infrastructure and ensure the financial autonomy of our cities.

Furthermore, through the introduction of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, MMDAs are being encouraged to enter into partnerships with private entities to raise funding for capital intensive infrastructure for the economic development and growth of our cities and towns and to create employment opportunities for the youth.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to announce that, the Government is also making efforts to pass the Local Government Borrowing Bill which is an important Legislation that will give opportunity to MMDAs to borrow from the capital market. It is my hope that the Local Government Borrowing Bill, when passed into Law, would enable MMDAs to borrow funds from the capital market to provide infrastructure and services for equitable socio-economic growth. Let me also stress that the theme is important because it represents a critical milestone, in concluding the negotiations on the outcome of the Habitat III Conference scheduled for Quito. Ecuador 17-20 October, 2016.

Mr. Chairman, the rapid rate of urbanisation poses great challenges. These challenges need to be effectively managed to ensure that the potential economic and social development arising from urbanisation are optimised to reduce poverty, improve the quality of life of our people and to protect the environment. It is for this reason that the New Urban Agenda seeks to rethink urbanization in terms of the provision of infrastructure to provide urban services and ensure equitable economic growth for all.

It is quite commendable that Ghana is one of the first African countries to have developed and is implementing a comprehensive National Urban Policy and Action Plan. This represents a bold attempt to tackle the challenges of urbanisation comprehensively in order to facilitate and promote the sustainable development of Ghanaian cities and towns.

For instance, you will all recall that the African Urban Agenda initiative was jointly launched by H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana and the then President, Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria at the UN General Assembly in September 2013. Following the launch of the African Urban Agenda, my Ministry hosted a Conference on the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Africa Secretary General, to discuss the implementation of the New African Urban Agenda initiative and to prepare for the 2016 Habitat III Conference.

Mr. Chairman, the meeting was also attended by officials of the UN Habitat, the Cities Alliance Secretariat, GIZ, as well as officers from the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG). At that meeting, we highlighted the need to change the negative perception of the World on African cities, and this included the stereotypes used in describing urban realities in Africa.

In the light of the above, we identified three enabling vectors for understanding the New African Urban Agenda. These were:

- a. The development of a comprehensive National Urban Policy;
- b. The creation of a multi-stakeholder platform to debate urban issues; and
- c. To develop a renewed attention on urban economy and to consider our cities as engines of growth.

These called for renewed efforts, as a country, to embark on meaningful spatial planning, to provide basic urban services in order to deal with the challenges of urbanisation such as waste management and water supply and build fiscal systems that will finance urban infrastructure.

We have travelled a long way since then, and I am happy to report that as a Ministry, we have been working with our local and national level stakeholders and international partners to accomplish the above strategies.

Mr Chairman, it is important to note that as part of our preparations towards Habitat III we compiled the Habitat III National Report. This was accomplished through the participation of a multi-disciplinary national team of experts who prepared reports on specific subjects.

Secondly, we also established a steering committee consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, Ministry of Roads and Highways, Ministry of Transport, Department of Urban Roads, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Finance, the Institute of Local Government Studies, Ghana Statistical Service, Environmental Protection Agency and other non-state actors such as the Peoples Dialogue, Housing the Masses, Global Communities to direct and support the team.

Thirdly, we held National workshops and seminars to obtain broad views and consensus from the private and public sectors. Such workshops and seminars also provided a forum for ordinary citizens to express their views on some of the Challenges of Urbanisation and how these could be resolved.

Nana Chairman, the first UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development was held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976. This was followed by a second conference held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996. Habitat III, which is a follow-up to the Istanbul Conference, will be held in Quito, Ecuador in October, 2016.

It is worth noting that it was during the second conference that World leaders adopted the Habitat Agenda as a global plan of action for providing adequate shelter for all within the framework of a sustainable human settlement plan. Broadly, it was agreed at the Istanbul Conference that:

- a. Cities are the engines of global growth;
- b. Urbanization provides opportunities for economic activities;
- c. Local authorities must develop more efficient systems for solid waste collection, water supply, wealth creation and educational infrastructure;
- d. The participatory approach must be used to collate views from all sectors of the population to effectively deal with emerging challenges of urbanisation.

Happily, our annual forum affirms our commitment to honour the above.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to emphasize that we would use the 2016 Ghana Urban Forum, to firm up Ghana's commitment to the next 20 years global plan of action, using the participatory approach to raise the awareness of our people and build consensus towards the New Urban Agenda.

It is important to note that Ghana's participation in series of regional and global meetings and dialogue sessions towards the New Urban Agenda has been

significant and is widely recognised. For instance, the Habitat III Secretariat selected four (4) Ghanaian experts to serve on four Policy

Units to contribute to the drafting of outcome documents that shall be adopted as the New Urban Agenda. Let us use this opportunity to commend these imminent Ghanaians, namely, Sylvanus Adzornu, Bernard Abeiku Arthur, Dr. Isaac Mensa-Bonsu and Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye very highly for their contributions.

Nana Chairman, finally, I also wish to express the gratitude of Government to our development partners, particularly Cities Alliance through the GIZ-SfDR who supported the Ghana Urban Forum and Ghana's participation in Global and Regional Conferences, Meetings and Dialogue Sessions towards the New Urban Agenda. We cannot also forget the significant support of AFD, SECO and the World Bank in providing technical and financial support which enables us to provide critical urban infrastructural interventions to enable us provide critical urban services to enhance the living standards of the citizenry. We cherish this important partnership and hope that other development partners and the private sector will emulate your examples by coming on board to help us deal with these urban issues in order to sustain our urban areas as engines of growth and centres of excellence for education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, technological innovation, and to create opportunities for jobs, employment and thus improve the standard of living of our people.

On this note, it is my pleasure and honour to declare **GUF2016** formally open. I wish you fruitful deliberations. **Thank you.**

**APPENDIX THREE PRESENTATION ON IMPERATIVES FOR
CITY/METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE: LESSONS FROM THE PAST AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE BY PROF. KWAMENA AHWOI**

**APPENDIX FOUR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR URBAN
INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING: DR. ERIC ODURO OSAE**

**APPENDIX FIVE URBANIZATION AS A CATALYST FOR LOCAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: MR. ALLOYSIUS BONGWA**

APPENDIX SIX HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HABITAT III PROCESS AND NATIONAL URBAN MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS

Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development is scheduled for 17 to 20th October, 2016 in Ecuador. It has been organized at twenty-year intervals (1976 and 1996) and the 2016 event will focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda. The outcome of the Conference is intended to be a forward-looking, action oriented outcome document.

The Habitat III Conference has been preceded by three Preparatory Committee (Prep Com) meetings which (a) initiated the international consultative process for drafting the New Urban Agenda (NUA) FROM September 17th and 18th 2014 in New York; The second held on April 14th to 16th in Nairobi to ensure inclusive participation, foster partnerships, undertake advocacy to raise awareness and build consensus on the New Urban Agenda (c) the third in Surabaya Indonesia from July 25 to 27, 2016 to finalize the inter-governmental consultation on the Zero Draft of the NUA.

In between the PrepComs, open ended informal consultative meetings were organized by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Critical feedback was received on the inputs and conclusions of the draft NUA.

To ensure evidence-based, responsive agenda-setting, national, regional and global reports were prepared on the extent of implementation of the Habitat Agenda from 1996. The inputs were generated through national urban forum and the national reports formed the basis of the regional documents. Regional meetings were conducted; an African meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria from February 24th 26th, 2016 produced an African Position Paper to help to incorporate African characteristics into the NUA. The main outcome of that meeting, the Abuja Declaration recommended

- Allocating adequate resources to promote sustainable urbanization and human settlements development
- Promoting inclusive economic growth to realize full employment, decent jobs and improved living standards
- Enhancing connectivity between rural and urban areas
- Integrating urbanization into national development planning
- Prioritizing planning and investment for sustainable urban mobility systems that link people, places and economic opportunities.

The Declaration also called for

- Ensuring access to affordable basic services
- Strengthening institutions and spatial planning systems to foster urban safety and security
- Ensuring access to sustainable, affordable and adequate housing and land
- Promoting slum upgrading, developing and implementing clean air policies to reduce health risks

- Adopting integrated national urbanization policies and accommodating cultural differences
- Promoting localized sustainable urban development systems and preserving cultural heritage.

The Declaration also provided recommendations on

- Promoting effective decentralized urban management
- Enhancing the contribution of urban and human settlements development to continental integration
- Enhancing environmental sustainability, resilience and effective responses to climate change in cities and human settlements, including by fostering the use of sustainable renewable energy and investment in low carbon production systems in urban centres;
- Enhancing efforts to advance a global partnership to facilitate the implementation of the NUA and strengthening UN Habitat to make it politically visible, as the key player in mobilizing actors and implementing the urban and human settlements component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Various products have been generated and utilised by the process including

- Issues Papers drafted on 22 urban aspects, open to wide consultations and e-discussions, that provide in-depth reviews and analysis of issues and a basis for the work of the Policy Units; these are clustered into six areas as follows: (1) social cohesion and equity- Liveable Cities (2) Urban Frameworks (3) Spatial Development (4) Urban Economy (5) Urban Ecology and Environment (6) Urban Housing and Basic Services
- The Sustainable Development Goals Agenda of 2030 (focus on Goal 11)
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change Adaptation
- The World Urban Campaign's "The Future We Want - The City We Need" articulating the civil society position on the New Urban Agenda
- The Zero and Revised Zero Drafts (22 page documents with the Quito Declaration on Cities for All and the Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda)
- The Sendal Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 to 2030).

Ghana's National Urban Development Frameworks and Initiatives

- The National Urban Policy (NUP) developed in 2012 to guide various actions towards improving urban governance and development; sustainable, spatially integrated and orderly development of urban settlements with twelve (12) policy action areas
- Accompanied by the Ghana National Urban Policy Implementation Action Plan which identifies seventy-six (76) policy initiatives and 277 key activities for the twelve (12) policy action areas covered in the NUP through thirty-five (35) implementing and collaborating institutions and agencies
- The National Street Naming and Property Addressing Systems Policy and Guidelines to facilitate identification, location of parcels of lands and

properties; data for revenue generation, facilitate service delivery and provide data for spatial planning and development

- Ghana Urbanization Review Phases 1 and 2 have provided an analysis of the rising national urbanization challenges and a framework to overcome the challenges. These focus on four priority “driver” areas (i) integrated land planning (ii) strategic infrastructure development and improved regulation of the transport sector to enhance connectivity of urban areas to markets (iii) consolidating the gains made over the last 20 years of decentralization by deepening fiscal decentralization and exploring innovative ways for financing urban development and (iv) institutional coordination and harmonization to facilitate land, transport and finance planning and connectivity.
- The National Urban Policy Investment Plan developed as a tool to deepen the understanding of the National Urban Policy Framework to facilitate investment decision-making and attract potential investors and help raise the needed funding
- The National Urban Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Plan consistent with the implementation plan accompanying the National Urban Policy. It is also intended to facilitate learning from policy implementation, improve policy delivery and demonstrate results as part of government accountability.