

GHANA URBAN FORUM 2018: LOCALISING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2018 AT THE MOVENPICK AMBASSADOR HOTEL

THEME: Localising the New Urban Agenda: Promoting Spatial Planning as a Pre-Requisite for Ghana's Current Industrialization Drive

PART ONE: OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The Ghana Urban Forum was initiated in 2012 with the formulation of the Ghana National Urban Policy and Action Plan. Through that mechanism, the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development (MLGRD) has brought together stakeholders, city managers, academia, civil society organizations and the urban poor to dialogue on pertinent urban challenges and make proposals to inform policy implementation and advocate priorities for sustainable development.

Over the past five years, these fora have been supported by the state and such partners as the German Development Organization (GIZ). The Forum provided a vehicle for generating inputs for Ghana's participation in Habitat III, the country report and the New Urban Agenda. After the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, Ghana is poised to implement the commitments contained in it. The 2018 Urban Forum provided an opportunity to generate the priorities for going forward. The forum which was held under the theme "Localizing the New Urban Agenda: Promoting Spatial Planning as a Pre-Requisite for Ghana's current Industrialization Drive".

The objective of the forum was to provide a platform for dialogue on the potential of the spatial planning as a catalyst for industrial development and economic transformation. It sought to emphasize the urgency and centrality of spatial planning, share relevant research, emerging information and ways leading to localizing the New Urban Agenda. This would provide the basis for reviewing the current policy and developing a comprehensive National Urban Policy Framework.

1.2 The Objectives of the Forum

Specifically, the objectives of the Forum were to

1. Localize the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in MMDAs;
2. foster stronger collaboration with key stakeholders, institutions and development partners in realizing the localization of the Urban Agenda;
3. Enhance knowledge of spatial planning as a strategy for development; and
4. Leverage on spatial planning and local initiative as a vehicle for achieving Ghana's industrialisation drive.

The anticipated outcomes were to stimulate government and other commitments to localising and implementing the New Urban Agenda; generate consensus on the priorities regarding what needed to be done to strengthen Ghanaian towns and cities to be resilient, productive, inclusive and liveable. An anticipated output was a comprehensive report on the discussions to serve as a reference point for all stakeholders.

Meeting participants included Chief Executives of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, staff of assemblies and Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) particularly members of the Planning Coordinating Units, representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), specialized agencies, development organizations, civil society, traditional authorities and other relevant actors.

1.3 Organization of the Forum

The Forum was chaired by the President of the Ghana Institute of Architects (GIA), Arc. Joseph E. Hayford. The tone of the event was set by the Opening Session that included a Welcome Statement by the Greater Accra Regional Minister, Remarks by a Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, a stimulating Guest Speaker's Address by the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Ghana and a Keynote Speech by Hon. O.B Amoah, Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development.

The technical sessions began with a presentation on the theme by Mr. Lawrence Dakurah, Acting Chief Executive of the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA). He provided historical insights as well as the considerable resources and imperatives for action for spatial planning to be optimized for industrialization as well as localizing the New Urban Agenda.

Three (3) parallel meetings were held as side-events, where participants had the opportunity to share experiences, discuss research findings and make recommendations on the way forward. The discussions were initiated with expert presentations on relevant topics. These included the benefits from and opportunities for spatial planning and procedural challenges; forced evictions; changing land use and the implications for sustainable development; promoting creative collaboration on climate change, vulnerability assessments and adaptation; the emergence of city regions; locational and industrial policies especially in relation to small and medium scale enterprises.

The forum ended with observations on the entire process and the amount of available knowledge by the Chairperson and a Closing Statement by the Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Adjei Kwesi Boateng (MP).

1.4 Summary of Priorities Emerging from the Discussions

The priorities for action that emerged from the discussions include:

1. More effective collaboration and coordination amongst institutions at various levels of governance
2. Involvement of the traditional authorities in the land use and spatial planning
3. Involving the private sector effectively in urban management, land use and spatial planning
4. Urban networks for balanced spatial development
5. Improving connectivity between urban centres
6. Creating city regions, the environmental consequences, impacts, costs of services, opportunities arising and provision for these in national development policies
7. Exploring and exploiting the compact city approach
8. Focus on capacity development for planning for coastal areas
9. The linkages between local financing, accountability and partnerships
10. Communicating urban management messages for public consumption

11. Facilitating partnerships for carrying the urban agenda forward
12. Realizing that beyond planning, spatial management and governance are important; communities in the management and governance of urban spaces
13. Fostering interjurisdictional and inter-sectoral collaboration
14. Promoting stronger collaboration and synergies between planning authorities and economic support agencies such as NBSSI and related actors
15. Security for informal economy actors in local environments
16. Creating wide public awareness of and community sensitivity to master plans
17. Enforcement of regulations
18. Building the relevant capacity and optimizing opportunities provided by technology
19. Optimization of technology for digitization and real time monitoring of developments, building and utilizing strong data
20. Utilizing the decentralization agenda as an enabling process for effective implementation, namely
 - Strengthening MMDAs and sub-district structures to facilitate harmonization and collaboration;
 - Effective coordination by the RCCs
 - Anchoring reporting in the decentralization arrangements engaging all the entities in the structure
21. Local ownership of plan implementation and enforcement: beyond donor assistance, we must generate requisite resources to do this
22. Tracking performance on spatial planning, land management, urban management, empowering communities, revenue generation as inputs for discussion on subsequent urban platforms
23. Particular efforts to engage the private sector in implementing the Urban Agenda given their participation as estate developers, industrial park users and potential PPP collaborators; involving them in the implementation in the LUSP law and emerging government initiatives
24. Learning from international experience to realize urban management and spatial planning aspirations.

1.5 Conclusion

The forum provided an opportunity for stakeholders in urban development to consider how the New Urban Agenda could be interpreted in the Ghanaian context and localized, and the roles of MMDAs in this effort integrated into the ongoing decentralization and local governance processes. The opportunity to share insights, reach consensus and gain information also fostered closer collaboration on urban issues. Presentations on land use and spatial planning raised participants' knowledge of previous efforts, lessons learned and proposals for the future.

The centrality of spatial planning to sustainable economic, physical and social development was amply illustrated and where there were gaps in knowledge and capacity such as in relation to coastal area management were identified. Finally, the importance of spatial planning, the dedication of land for industrial initiatives and the need for strategic and collaborative approaches to economic transformation of the localities were emphasized. Therefore, the objectives of the meeting were largely realized.

PART TWO: PROCEEDINGS OF THE FORUM

2.1 Opening Session

The Forum was called to order by the Moderator, Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye. She welcomed participants and provided a brief review of the history, purpose and achievements of the Urban Forum since 2012. She indicated that the theme provided an opportunity to examine the strengthened provisions for spatial planning, the institutional arrangements, the new urban agenda and how to localize it for the Ghanaian environment. In the bid for economic transformation and the creation of liveable and sustainable cities, spatial planning could be the fulcrum for change. The Moderator reviewed the forum agenda with participants and then introduced the dignitaries. She invited Ms Wasila Sufyan to introduce the Chair for the function.

2.2 Chair's Opening Remarks

Arc. Joseph E. Hayford, President of the Ghana Institute of Architects, noted that the theme of the forum was timely because it was a period of new beginnings. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the coming into being of the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority presented opportunities to transform the urban existence to the desired state. He remarked that the Act required MMDAs to prepare spatial plans. The new urban growth pointed to opportunities to stimulate innovation and counter magnets to achieve congenial locations with which to live, work and play. There was the need to create spaces that would build and nurture the human spirit. Such spaces required good spatial and structural planning and beyond that, sustainable management.

The chair observed with concern that in several parts of the country, there was poor and non-existent urban planning. He concluded his remarks with two (2) points of what was required from the forum: the need to focus on finding and proposing solutions from the day's discourse; and exploring what could be achieved through private urban management; what the private sector could be engaged to contribute in the efforts at urban regeneration and achieving sustainable development. He wished all participants, a good discussion. Participants were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their organizations.

2.3 Welcome Address

The Greater Accra Regional Minister, Hon. Ishmael Ashitey, in his welcome remarks, stated that over the years, the Urban Forum had been a capacity-building initiative of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD). He expected that this year's event would provide similar opportunities for participants to enhance their knowledge of topical urban issues. He stated that the importance of spatial planning could not be under-estimated. Spatial planning was necessary for achieving appropriate land-use, natural resource management and sustainable integration of agricultural, fishery and forestry activities.

The strategy to organize the forum to bring together central government MDAs, MMDAs, CSOs, the media and other stakeholders to deliberate on the emerging urban issues within the framework of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Mr. Ashitey expected that the deliberations would assist MLGRD and the government to improve on urban development and management, to yield maximum results and optimize on investments in human resources. To achieve the envisaged

agenda, a critical mass of capacitated human resources was required. He wished participants a productive forum.

2.4 Address by the Hon. Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay

A Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry (MOTI), Mr. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay stated that the theme for the Forum was apt for the work of his Ministry. He said it was clear from the dialogue of President and agenda-setting discussions that rapid industrialization of Ghana through value-addition was the intention of the government. He described Ghana's situation as being "half-full", the opportunity for achieving success being still present. The planning of our cities was still a problem, and this was evident in a drive around the capital city for instance. There had been diversions from the city's master plan.

Mr. Ahomka-Lindsay said that rapid industrialization would come with huge benefits and that would not be achieved without spatial planning. District Industrial Transformation was needed and at the level of the region, the capacity to support districts to put in the appropriate mechanisms and resources was important.

The Deputy Minister said that amongst the modalities for MOTI's initiatives including the "one district, one factory" programme, assemblies had been requested to identify unencumbered pieces of land including 50,000 hectares for agricultural undertakings; 3,000 hectares for industrial lands; as well as other provisions for industrial transformation. These had to be in place to attract the necessary investments. Assemblies needed to undertake these activities with a sense of purpose and linkage with the wider development of their jurisdictions. There had to be more readiness and better understanding of the related concepts amongst sub-national actors.

District Implementation Teams for managing the industrial initiative had been proposed with the District Planning Officers as key participants. Through the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI), the development of Regional Technology Centres would be established to provide technology solutions including training and building on the tradition of GRATIS.

Mr. Ahomka-Lindsay indicated that market hubs (intended and desired) had to be identified based on the direction of growth of the towns. However, it appeared that the infrastructural development efforts of the MMDAs were driven by necessity rather than deliberate spatial planning. He said MOTI had asked the District Teams to digitize the available lands that had been prepared for attracting businesses. Spatial planning by the districts would provide a clearer understanding of the strategy and the realities on the ground.

The Deputy Minister concluded on the note that the current circumstances provided an opportunity to take corrective action of past mistakes. As the Master Plans were being developed in each district, the dedicated industrial zones and other sections dedicated for such purposes as agriculture should be captured through digital mapping. MOTI was in full support of these efforts and the National Urban Forum.

2.5 Guest Speaker's Address by Dr. Christine Evans-Klock, UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana and UNDP Resident Representative

The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Ghana and the UNDP Resident Representative began her submission by observing that the Forum deliberations were being conducted in adequate time to generate inputs for Ghana's participation in the forthcoming World Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The international meeting which would be conducted next month would reflect on localizing the New Urban Agenda. The priority development concern about turning urbanization to advantage was evident in the dedication of SDG 11 to creating sustainable and workable cities. The provisions of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other international commitments had sent consistent messages about the linkages between urbanization and sustainable development.

Ms. Evans-Klock indicated that the world had come together in a well-designed and successful Habitat III event. Now the challenge was in moving the process to implementation. The emerging messages were about implementation, coordination and enforcement.

Ghana's achievements in developing the urban policy and the opportunity to continue into the implementation stage required attention to three (3) imperatives, namely financing, accountability and partnerships. She expanded on each of these.

Financing: There was the need for innovative solutions linked to internal or local revenue generation (IRG); however, there must be attention to equity in the strategies deployed. Revenue generation must go with the provision of services and creation of enabling environments for residences and businesses. A connection must be made, and better linkages established with accessing and appreciating local resources. There was the need for better use of PPPs to provide services and opportunities for all sections of the communities.

Accountability: Accountability helps to increase fairness. The devolution of power must result in greater accountability and empowerment. Accountability had to be linked to raising resources, job creation and for appreciating the need for enforcement – because the rules are seen as fair.

Partnerships: Broad and effective partnerships require coordination with incentives. Partnerships are important for and benefit from investments, housing, creating local jobs, services, security, markets and environments.

The speaker concluded that good planning builds common understanding of roles and responsibilities. She said sustaining this required attention at the highest level of government. She referred to the President's Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017 to 2024) presented to Parliament on 20th October 2017 which integrated the SDGs, reflected the provisions of the UN Partnership Agreement and anchored in the African Union Agenda 2063. She said the UN was committed to helping Ghana realize the SDGs particularly SDG7 and sustained, private-sector led growth. She looked forward to Ghana's SDG Report as a baseline assessment. It was anticipated that it would highlight the key issues, establish what was available, analyze the data gaps and set the priorities and what could be done together. Ms. Evans-Klock wished participants a successful meeting and hoped that Malaysia would provide opportunities for Ghana to learn from other country experiences.

2.6 Keynote Address delivered by Hon. O.B. Amoah (MP) Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development

The Honourable Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Mr. O.B. Amoah, added his words of welcome to those already expressed and thanked participants for making time to attend and contribute to the proceedings of the Forum. He said the forum was aimed at enhancing the dialogue between practitioners, policy-makers and other stakeholders on relevant national issues. The Urban Fora had been held consistently since 2012 and the deliberations facilitated the operationalization of the National Urban Policy. Last year, the Forum had provided a mechanism to mobilize inputs for Ghana's preparations for Habitat III. He hoped that 2018 event would generate contributions for Ghana's position to be shared at the Malaysia World Urban Forum.

Mr. Amoah recalled the world's adoption of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in October, 2016 in Quito. The NUA is a global development framework to guide sustainable organization of cities. The Agenda set out the objectives including achieving social inclusion and addressing poverty. He said the NUA is a critical step for realizing sustainable development from the international to sub-national levels.

The speaker recognized some of the challenges of urbanization, particularly, the lack of enforcement. He made reference to the new Land Use and Spatial Planning Act and the role of the Authority the law established. The lessons learned over five (5) years of policy implementation, the NUA and the provisions of the new Act, Act 925 of 2016, provided the basis for revising the National Urban Policy.

Mr. Amoah reminded participants that the major aspects of the new LUSP Act provided a basis for appropriate planning to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and social development to reduce inequality and poverty. The Forum would help to identify which policies would be relevant to this agenda; determine how the government and its partners could ensure delivery; and provide feedback and responses from practitioners on various laws and policies, especially at the MMDA level.

The MMDAs' adoption of collaborative governance would improve trade and investment within their localities. He raised the need to consider how the nation could move forward to address the challenges to inclusive and sustainable urban economies. The speaker pointed to the linkages between urbanization, employment, productive inclusion and decent work and anticipated that the meeting would provide inputs on these for the new urban policy. Mr. Amoah expressed gratitude to all who had contributed to making the Forum a reality and declared the Meeting open.

3. PART THREE: THE THEME PRESENTATION BY MR. LAWRENCE Z. DAKURAH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LAND USE AND SPATIAL PLANNING AUTHORITY (LUSPA)

The context for the presentation was set with an interpretation of what spatial planning was. The speaker, Chief Executive Officer of the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) shared experiences about efforts at spatial planning in Ghana over the years and identified the practices that had prospects and could be harnessed for the way forward in effective, urban land use management.

Spatial planning was described as coordination of policies, programmes and plans affecting the spatial organizations of towns, communities, cities, regions and at the national level. Industrialization was indicated as building a country's capacity to process raw materials and manufacture goods for consumption and investment. The speaker said for the country to achieve maximum benefits of industrialization, spatial planning was essential.

Mr. Dakurah said the spatial plan developed for 1963 to 1970, the National Physical Development Plan, was prepared based on relevant analysis of what was required to move the country away from a dependency syndrome and a peripheral focus, developed from the colonial experience. Infrastructure-wise, conscious efforts to identify specific locations from where industries could maximize natural potentials – complemented by water and road networks to support industrialization. The manufacturing sector would be the engine of growth.

He said that the current path of development has not changed so much. Aspirations for economic development for 2018 to 2021 indicate this. Amongst the key objectives and aspirations there is the intent of improving access to land for industrial development, including the government's initiatives such as the One District, One Factory. The plan seeks to support the development of existing and new structures and clusters with emphasis on value-addition, skills building and capacity development.

A review of the distribution of industry in Ghana shows a concentration of industry in Accra and other metropolitan areas attesting to inadequate spatial planning. Part of the way forward is to promote spatial equity in industrial development in Ghana.

Mr. Dakurah said that spatial planning was required to establish requisite and functional industrial parks. He cited international success stories including a Chinese experience where spatial planning had led the economy to high performance utilizing economic and technology development zones. He identified some of the reasons for success as including industrial parks and the use of clusters – using a gradual approach, experimenting and applying the lessons over a period of time; and commitment to public-private-partnerships, all supported by spatial planning.

The presenter said that in Ghana, under the Land Administration Programme (LAP), reforms had been introduced including a three-tier land and spatial planning framework, guidelines, manuals, zoning standards and regulations available to provide clear guidance for the country for the way forward. Other products included structural plans and local plans. A uniform permitting system which tried to introduce procedures to reduce turnaround time was promoted.

Mr. Dakurah said that the LUSP Act of 2016, Act 925 seeks to provide a legal framework for the implementation of plans and their enforcement. Various levels of planning incorporating industrial

plans are envisaged. The National Spatial Development Framework would provide a network of urban areas and an enabling environment for clusters for development. The urban networks would also provide an enabling environment for urbanization. Infrastructure proposals for urbanization were available, planned for implementation in phases. With regard to energy, there were proposals for the types and locations to support industrialization. Development of seaports to enhance transportation of goods was included. The Framework indicated industrial hubs where agri-business, mining and other processing concerns could be located. For instance, in Ashanti, Suame artisanal zone would be revamped and there would be an area of focus would include Konongo, Tepa and Mampong, amongst others. Other areas of agglomeration in other parts of the country were identified – with indicative industrial potentials.

The speaker indicated that there had been a number of initiatives proposed however, there were a number of concerns. In various regions, there had been poor implementation of existing regulations. Other regulations are required but there is inadequate staffing, poor implementation and weak enforcement. However, if the regions have their spatial plans in place, the assemblies will follow on the preparation of theirs.

Other challenges include inadequate awareness, stakeholder consultations, inefficient land management, indiscipline and a culture of impunity. Mr. Dakurah observed that the staffing issue had been anticipated and at least eight (8) batches of settlement planners had been produced by the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to support the struggling assemblies. However, a structured process to absorb them needed to be in place, even as indicated by decentralization policies. The presenter made recommendations for the way forward including the following:

- Consolidate and strengthen the institutional structures especially at the district and sub-district levels
- Acquire and develop industrial parks
- Strengthen inter-sectorial and inter-jurisdictional collaboration
- Improve internal revenue generation of MMDAs
- Reward and sanction institutions for performance
- Build capacity all levels for spatial planning and
- Increase and deepen stakeholder consultation and awareness-creation to garner ownership and support.

The presentation concluded on the note that a workable foundation was being built incrementally, however, it required the support of all concerned to achieve the desired success.

PART FOUR: ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SIDE-MEETINGS

4.1 Introduction

The three (3) Side Meetings were conducted concurrently over one 1-hour and 15mins and provided opportunities to consider concrete aspects of urban policy implementation in Ghana. It examined issues raised in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considered the theme of linking spatial planning to industrialization. The meetings began with expert presentations on selected themes and studies, research results and services. These were followed by stakeholder discussions, experience-sharing and identification of priorities for action. The presentations have been presented in Table One below.

Table One: Presentation and Discussion Areas in the Side-Meetings

Group One moderated by Mr. Bernard Arthur	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefiting from Spatial Planning as a Tool for Sustainable Industrial Development: The Procedural Challenges in Ghana• The Politics of Forced Eviction and Flood Vulnerability around the Korle Lagoon in Accra• Changing Land-Use/Cover of Ghana's Oil City (Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis): Implications for Sustainable Urban Development
Group Two moderated by Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putting Ghana Back to Work: Addressing the Urban Challenge for Sustainable Development• Creative Collaboration on Climate Change: Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Areas of Ghana
Group Three moderated by Dr. I. F. Mensa-Bonsu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Emergence of City-Regions and their Implications for Contemporary Spatial Governance: Evidence from Ghana• Promoting Spatial Planning in Cities: Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century• Locational and Industrial Policies: Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Perspectives

4.2 Panel Discussion on the Issues Emerging from the Side-Meetings

Feedback and priorities for action from the side-meetings were presented in a panel presentation by the three (3) facilitators, namely Mr. Bernard Arthur, Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom and Dr. I. F. Mensa-Bonsu. The issues raised were discussed by the theme presenter, Mr. Dakurah. The highlights of the panel submissions are presented below.

4.2.1. Group One reported on by Mr. Bernard Arthur

The first group reflected on three topics: (a) Benefiting from Spatial Planning as a Tool for Sustainable Industrial Development and Procedural Challenges in Ghana; (b) The Politics of Forced Eviction and Flood Vulnerability around the Korle Lagoon in Accra; and (c) Changing Land-

Use/Cover of Ghana's Oil City (Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis): Implications for Sustainable Urban Development.

The benefits from spatial planning and the implications for procedure that arose in the discussion were as follows:

- Spatial planning is necessary to resolve potential conflicts by way of clarifying boundary demarcations
- Redevelopment and re-demarcations are necessary especially where the spaces are in decline
- Spatial planning requires effective collaboration between institutions and actors; on the other hand, spatial planning provides opportunities for fostering inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaboration
- Relating this to the New Urban Agenda (NUA), everybody must have a right to the city; attention must be paid to ensuring equitable access to services and participation in planning processes

These are important for achieving transformation in Ghana.

The politics of forced evictions was illustrated by the experience of the Korle Lagoon area in Ghana and generated the following issues:

- “Slums” come to mind when the issue of evictions is raised. Slum dwellers come with two motivations: as conquerors of the city; or as wounded lions
- Spatial planning should be considered from the perspective of resilience and safe settlements
- Flood hazard maps to be developed
- Compatible land use maps must be considered and developed
- Safe and hygienic practices should be a priority for land use going forward
- SDG 6 (for clean water and sanitation) and SDG 11 (safe, sustainable resilient cities) should be linked together in the considerations for city planning

The discussion on Sekondi-Takoradi experience with Changing Land-Use/Cover and the Implications for Sustainable Urban Development highlighted the following:

- Industrialization can lead to loss of agricultural land and green spaces and solutions
- Going forward, over the next 20 years we should look at the kind of approach that is appropriate for Ghana
- Of the four (4) approaches (neo-traditional development theory; urban containment theory; compact city theory; and the eco-city theory), the compact city approach is a feasible option and must be extensively explored
- One priority for the way forward is fostering effective collaboration and coordination amongst institutions.
- More effective involvement of traditional authorities in land use and spatial planning must be achieved, possibly through state policy.

4.2.2. Group Two reported by Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom

Group Two reflected on two (2) topics (a) Putting Ghana Back to Work: Addressing the Urban Challenge for Sustainable Development; and (b) Creative Collaboration on Climate Change: Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Areas of Ghana.

Addressing the Urban Challenge yielded issues including:

- The challenge for the world highlighted when in 2007 the world entered the phase where more people lived in urban areas than rural areas; Ghana entered that category in 2010. Some challenges and solutions are:
 - The idea of shifting from growth poles (individual settlements) approaches to urban networks for balanced spatial development
 - Improving connectivity between urban centres through joint advocacy of local governments (MCEs connecting amongst themselves on issues)
 - The important concept of establishing small town rural service centres which can be achieved through or alongside the one district, one factory initiative – to give people access to services nearer where they are located reducing the need for migration to urban centres
 - The idea of city regions should be extensively explored
 - Creating satellite towns around cities to relieve city centres should also be given serious consideration
- Strengthening collaboration with traditional authorities/land owners should be a priority for the future agenda.

Considering “Creative Collaboration on Climate Change in the Coastal Areas of Ghana” revealed that

- As a nation, planning targeted at coastal areas has not been extensively undertaken and as a result, there is relatively little capacity in this area. The dedicated Centre for Coastal Management (CCM) at the University of Cape Coast has developed resources for this specialization
- Data on vulnerability assessments is available and can provide a basis for sound decision-making; again, the UCC CCM has the resources that assemblies and other parties can utilize
- Priority should be given to public communication: whatever goes into a plan or intervention should be communicated in a way that the general public can understand.
- Public communication should facilitate partnerships to carry the urban agenda forward.

4.2.3. Group Three moderated by Dr. I. F. Mensa-Bonsu

Group Three reflected on three (3) issues (a) The Emergence of City-Regions and their Implications for Contemporary Spatial Governance; (b) Promoting Spatial Planning in Cities: Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century; (c) Locational and Industrial Policies: Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Perspectives.

The discussion of the Emergence of City-Regions and their Implications for Contemporary Spatial Governance was undertaken in the context of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and SDG 11. To make cities and settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable, city regions must be properly considered and understood.

- There is the need for a special focus on city-regions to ensure that they are adequately catered for in national development policies
- GAMA is a city region – extending from the Central to the Eastern and even the Volta Regions. This spread has environmental consequences and impacts as well as accessibility consequences and the increasing cost of services
- The agglomeration has opportunities to be utilized: these must be consciously identified and exploited
- One main cause of city regions is the rapid urban sprawl; the land management that underlies this phenomenon must come up for analysis and consideration.

Promoting Spatial Planning in Cities and the Challenges and Opportunities of Tema in the 21st Century resulted in the following ideas:

- Tema was planned as an industrial city but Tema now has urban sprawl, sanitation problems, slums and high rental costs
- The lesson is that beyond planning, management of the city is critical
- There are also governance issues emanating from the fact that it spans different jurisdictions and mandates – the area was given by law to different authorities; there are also interjurisdictional issues between Tema Development Corporation (TDC) and the Tema Metropolitan Authority (TMA)
- How do we foster collaboration jurisdictionally as well as key players in the private sector?
- How does it impact on relations with industry?

The lead presentation on the “Locational and Industrial Policies and the perspectives of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises” was delivered by the Executive Director of the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI. It) generated the following issues:

- The planning authorities may see small and medium scale enterprises as a threat or a nuisance rather than potential collaborators
- Human beings must have a place to have their being and carry out their economic activities; and they will do so where ever they have space
- One critical challenge is of eviction and they do not have security or support for their undertakings
- There are opportunities to be derived from providing an enabling environment for small and medium scale operators and forging partnership relations between the two parties.

Some of the conclusions that the group came to were that

- Land management is critical, and collaboration must be fostered between government, traditional authority, private sector and other stakeholders to undertake it successfully
- Enforcement must be promoted

- Capacity must be consciously and systematically promoted; human resources are required to deliver; they need skills that optimize trends and knowledge including increasing reliance on technology for digitization and real time monitoring of developments
- There is the need to empower communities to be part of the management of the urban spaces;
- Data rooms must be established where citizens will be aware of master plans for urban spaces
- There is the need to build strong data to support all the undertakings to promote spatial planning, social and economic activities and the industrialization drive.

4.3 Discussant’s Comments by Mr. Lawrence Dakurah

In response to the issues raised, Mr. Dakurah offered the following insights and conclusions:

- The importance of spatial planning to all dynamics of city management and urbanization cannot be over-emphasized
- How do we manage urbanization? The multi-faceted nature of urbanization requires a wide spectrum of actors – inter-jurisdictional and inter-sectoral collaboration
- The inputs of sub-district structures of MMDAs are important in the scheme of things; as are the departments, actors and other entities of MMDAs because of the prospects for harmonization and collaboration
- Building the capacity of actors at all levels (local, regional and national) is crucial
- Plan implementation and enforcement cannot be allowed to be donor driven; therefore, generating the requisite resources for these purposes is crucial and must be facilitated
- Stakeholder sensitization and awareness are critical to foster ownership and implementation of spatial plans
- The decentralization agenda of government provides an enabling environment for effective plan implementation; therefore, it must be carried through with further deepening and widening of the process; this will enable the nation to reduce the incidence of unauthorized developments
- All the proposals coming out of these discussions can only be realized through effective implementation at the district and sub-district levels; effective coordination by the RCCs; and by anchoring the reporting mechanisms in the decentralized arrangements and making inter-sectoral communication work.

PART FIVE: CLOSING SESSION

The closing session consisted of the Chairperson’s Concluding Remarks and the Closing Statement by Deputy Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Adjei-Boateng (MP).

5.1 Chairperson’s Concluding Remarks

The Chairperson, Arc. Joseph E. Hayford observed that a lot of good work had been done over the years. The quantum of knowledge that had been shared during the forum attested to this and the various players, contributors and stakeholders deserved to be congratulated. He described it as a “labour of love” that would be rewarded in time. Charting the way forward, Mr. Hayford indicated that aims and methods abounded but actions were still inadequate. He suggested that action points

from the discussion be compiled in the reporting so that an agenda could be set, against which progress could be assessed, twelve (12) months from now. He commented that the presentation on Tema had given an indication that an analytical review of the ways in which plans had been implemented and how solutions to problems had been applied, would help to generate approaches for the way forward.

The Chair stated that the knowledge shared at the forum on spatial planning, land management, urban management, empowering communities and revenue generation had shed light how various initiatives had functioned and how these could be improved. How partnerships could be built to support what was going to be done and particular efforts to engage the private sector – as estate developers, industrial park users, amongst others – were a critical part of the agenda going forward. Mr. Hayford stated that district assemblies had proven that public mechanisms alone could not achieve optimal urban management alone. Therefore, the time was ripe for public-private partnerships.

5.2 Closing Statement by the Deputy Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Adjei-Boateng (MP)

Hon. Adjei-Boateng stated that the Ministry was grateful to all the participants and resource persons for a successful forum. He indicated that while the challenges of urbanization were well documented, the next stage which was about how to tackle the challenges effectively, still needed to be prepared for. Future interactions of the Ministry for urban management would involve the private sector more comprehensively, especially towards the implementation of the emerging urban policies and government initiatives.

Mr. Adjei-Boateng indicated that a sharper focus on governance issues and how to mainstream these more effectively were required. A better story should emerge from the decentralization experience so far. He observed that governance and administrative arrangements for the Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) in the past had played a critical role in its performance in the past. Having several supervisory ministries and being passed from sector to sector had limited consistent action and its' effectiveness. He said urban management and spatial planning had to be better defined and located. Therefore, he was hopeful that the successor organization, the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA), would result in a better story.

Hon. Adjei-Boateng pointed out that the proposals that had made including the prospects for the city-region approach should help to the nation to plan more effectively and optimize the opportunities. There was work to be done between now and the trip to Malaysia, which would offer participants the opportunity to benefit further from international learning. He hoped that having the opportunity to refine Ghana's proposals with international best practice, stakeholders would come back to work towards realizing urban management and spatial planning aspirations, successfully. He proceeded to declare the Forum closed.

APPENDIX ONE:

APPENDIX TWO: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

APPENDIX THREE: SUMMARIES OF PRESENTATIONS FOR THE SIDE-MEETINGS