Introducing Regent Park World Urban Pavilion by UN-Habitat: A Global Network for Sustainable Urbanism

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1. Context/Background

Examining practical and theoretical approaches to sustainable urban development is crucial to achieving the 17 sustainable development goals, in particular SDG 11. Deep systemic transformations are required to unlearn unsustainable ways of managing the cities, their economies, and finances. There is a need to understand emerging sustainable ‘niches,’ driven by transformative agencies and networks such as the one envisaged by the Regent Park World Urban Pavilion by UN-Habitat (The Pavilion).

Cities are one of the most complex systems in the world. Most evaluation tools currently available for cities lack the ability to utilize urban big data for analysis of the complex system. We will address this challenge by using urban big data to conduct empirical urban research and implement City Prosperity Index (CPI) to solve various urban problems through close collaboration with cities and towns throughout the globe. The Pavilion will play a key role in shaping the future of cities. The Pavilion will be a living laboratory for different case studies of regeneration of cities and towns. We will partner with cities and provide them with different evaluations and assessments using urban evaluation indicators and tools that will help in analysing, planning and monitoring urban policies geared towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The Pavilion, as a global hub for sustainable urbanism, will establish and strengthen networks of cities and city leaders. It will help to identify and transfer best practices and pioneers. Establishing networks of cities that face similar contexts will help to comprehend the opportunities and challenges for cities and towns as they work together to shape their future.

The Pavilion will, over a period of time, work to expand its network of cities at the global scale to involve more exemplary sustainable urbanism initiatives and projects such as the Regent Park Revitalization project that demonstrate practical and positive impacts on the local community and for the city as a whole. By working with different countries, it will allow us to build the capacity to support other projects with great potential in more direct ways by creating networks and accessing financial resources from the United Nations and other relevant local and international institutions.

Place: The Pavilion will exist both physical and virtually. The physical space of the Pavilion will be located in office space currently under construction within the Regent Park community.
2. Short Description of the session

This Special Session will introduce the Regent Park World Urban Pavilion by UN-Habitat, a collaboration between the Urban Economy Forum, UN-Habitat and the Government of Canada, to establish a global knowledge and innovation hub for sustainable urbanism by connecting theory and practice. The session will also deal with how the Pavilion will provide frameworks and support for cities and towns throughout the globe. It will establish a global network of cities and city leaders to build urban capacities and bolster dialogue for sustainable urbanization.

3. Objectives of the session

- Introduce the Regent Park World Urban Pavilion by UN-Habitat as a global hub for knowledge and innovation for sustainable urbanism.
- To elaborate on how the facilitation of knowledge exchange to identify common challenges, opportunities, and best practices on large scale urban regeneration projects will happen.
- It will focus on the need for capacity building for cities throughout the world in order to move towards achieving SDG11.

4. Format of the session

90’ session with Downtown Doha (upon their confirmation) and Core-city of Brussels Capital Region.
- 20-45’ presentation on The Pavilion with 4presenters
- 30’ Q & A with audience or between presenters or discussion among session participants

5. Programme/Agenda

Proposed Speakers:
Steffan Jones, Vice President of Innovation, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Eduardo Moreno, Head of Knowledge and Innovation, UN-Habitat
Reza Pourvaziry, Chair of Urban Economy Forum
Mitchell Cohen, President of the Daniels Corporation