

I am Greg Budworth, Group Managing Director of ECOSEC accredited, Compass Housing, a Community Housing Provider in Australia, New Zealand and conducting project work in the Pacific region. I am also Co-Chair, UN GAP, Civil Society Organisations, Partner Constituent Group. I operate in a region where 3 of the top 6 cities suffer historical levels of housing unaffordability placing them in the top, least affordable cities globally.

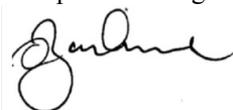
The challenge facing all NUA signatory nations is to develop the mechanisms and relationships to achieve implementation. Each nation will require a different approach to reflect its unique conditions. However, partnership and collaboration between national, regional, and local levels of government will be essential. Governments will also need the support of the private sector to deliver the infrastructural elements to contribute to efficient, resilient and sustainable cities. Additionally, to achieve the socio-economic objectives of the NUA, NGOs and Civil Society organisations will be a vital component of achieving the 'city for all' and 'no-one left behind' ambitions of the NUA.

UN Habitat will be able to support the international development of a multi-agency partnership approach, by itself reflecting the diversity of contributions to the implementation of the NUA. The General Assembly of Partners will play an essential role to develop UNH capacity to understand and facilitate the development of consensus and collaboration at national level. To assist this, more UNH resources could usefully be developed at regional levels. Ensuring all partners, including civil society organisations, are represented in UNH will greatly enhance capacity to implement the NUA. UNH will play the central role of repository of knowledge of effective interventions, development of predictive tools, measurement of NUA implementation progress and monitoring of mega-city trends. We need to know if Hong Kong and similarly expanding cities are the new norm or exceptional examples.

As an example of the potential of collaboration to support implementation of the NUA, a conference was convened in Melbourne, Australia last week to explore the challenges in Australasia, South East Asia and the Pacific regions. The conference was attended by 280 delegates from 11 nations including US, India, Malaysia, Fiji, Pacific Islands, New Zealand, UK and Australia. Delegates included; UNH representatives, central, regional, local government politicians and administrators, internationally recognised academics and representatives of the architecture, planning, and infrastructure professions, from both public and private sector agencies. The conference began the process of developing a 'roadmap' to implementation based on multi-level governance and collaboration across sectors and professions. Addressed by Dr Joan Clos, the conference attracted significant media interest and extended the influence of UNH. Organised collaboratively by civil society, federal, state and local government, the conference demonstrates the value of collaboration and partnership. As the lead organisation I would like to thank Dr Clos and his staff for attending the conference and bringing UNH knowledge to proceedings. The ability of a collaborative approach to enthuse is summed up in a statement from the UN Youth SDSN Australia/Pacific Coordinator.

"The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Networks, Youth Local Pathway Fellows had a wonderful time and have been sharing their excitement all over social media, which has been getting many other young people excited, which is exactly what we were hoping of."

Yours faithfully
Compass Housing Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Budworth".

Greg Budworth
Group Managing Director
Co-Chair, UN GAP CSO PCG

