# Title: Cities for People: How to Implement the New Urban Agenda

Subject: Multilevel Governance

* Governance

Abstract:

The New Urban Agenda was formally adopted by national governments at Habitat III, on October 2016. The action-oriented document represents a shared vision for a better and more sustainable future - one in which all people have equal rights and access to the benefits and opportunities cities can offer. What are the mechanisms established to monitor its progress? What are the key priorities to be set out in the post Quito scenario? World Urban Forum 9: What are the platforms to engage with the process of implementation?

Speakers:

#### Christopher Swope

#### Paulius Kulikauskas

#### Wild Ndipo James

Conference:

hello thank you welcome to the session

on implementing the new urban agenda my

name is Christopher Swope I'm the

managing editor of city scope it's a new

service that covers urban innovation and

cities around the world we also

extensively covered the United Nations

habitat three conference on the future

of cities last year and we've been

following the aftermath of that quite

closely habitat 3 was held in Quito

Ecuador last year last October about one

year ago and the habitat conferences are

quite interesting because they're the

one time every 20 years that countries

get together to talk about their cities

and today we're gonna be talking about

the outcome of habitat 3 which is

something called the new urban agenda

the new urban agenda is a non-binding

agreement that nearly 170 countries

agreed to and it sets a vision for how

all the players who influence the future

of cities from national governments to

local governments to regional

governments the international

development funders the UN program civil

society

it sets a vision for how all these

players can be rowing the boat in the

same direction when it comes to the

future of cities I'll let our panelists

tell you more about the new urban agenda

but to me what's most interesting is

perhaps a historical context because at

previous habitat conferences

twenty and forty years ago the subtext

was that cities are a problem to be

avoided they're dirty messy places

filled with poverty and crime and so

this thinking tended to marginalize city

in cities in the global dialogue and in

the ways that many countries thought

about urbanization by contrast the new

urban agenda says the opposite it says

that cities can be places of prosperity

and good quality of life for their

citizens but only if we do some good

urban planning and build cities the

right way so the global community has

moved to a different mindset from seeing

cities as the problem to seeing them as

a solution

so what comes next that's the question

we're gonna be asking today and we've

got a great panel of experts to help us

answer it first on my right we have from

un-habitat

we have mr. paulius kulakowski paulius

represents you in habitat in europe from

us office in brussels and second for an

on the ground perspective we have from

the city of Blantyre Malawi which is the

industrial and commercial capital of the

country

the mayor mr. Wilde and dopo we're gonna

be looking to you all for for your input

as well so please do ask questions we've

got microphones up here in the front and

of course please use the the ask and

vote app feature on the smart cities app

you can ask a question there and or vote

up other people's questions and I'll be

looking at that as well as to the

microphones for your input so with that

we will start with paulius thank you

very much for inviting us to attend this

session I would try to place things in

the context a little bit because often

people think about this new urban agenda

as something isolated so let me give a

bit of the background to it as

Christopher mentioned already have we 20

years we have the conference and housing

and sustainable Urban Development at the

United Nations and so we had one in

Quito Ecuador last year however this is

not a one-off event when the General

Assembly of the United Nations decided

to hold this conference there was a

intention to build on many of the

frameworks that have been developed by

the United Nations in history few of you

would probably remember the

sumit in stockholm in 72 but many of you

would know Rhea the sustainable

development summit Johannesburg ten

years later in 2002 and the Millennium

Development Goals which were agreed by

the Member States and as also mentioned

by by Christopher and via +20 and there

was this process twenty years ago we had

habitat - in Istanbul and then Istanbul

plus five in 2001 so there is a long

history of developing the food but also

in the current day the habitat 3 and the

new urban agenda doesn't exist on its

own because you are all aware that we

have 2030 agenda which is expressed in

17 sustainable development goals and

there are also other frameworks which

most of you know and this is the Sendai

framework Annan impose disaster there is

a financing for development known as

addis ababa action and also the famous

Paris agreement on climate change so

implementing the new urban agenda

doesn't exist only on the basis of 175

paragraphs of the new urban agenda if we

look at the sustainable development

goals which also have different targets

and we try to say how much of this

relates to the urban development we

could look at the linkages between

different targets and you will see that

there are many such linkages I will not

go into detail but based on this we

should also look at the urban dimension

of agenda 2030 and the sustainable

development goals the the one simple

thing is when when the 2030 agenda has

been adopted by the Member States slowly

the understanding came n that up to 70%

of action to be taken on the ground will

have to be done that by the national

government but by the sub-national

entities such as regions and cities so

we should also say the new urban agenda

as an implementing mechanism for

sustainable development goals more than

anything else I've invented this good

bad the good the bad and the ugly trying

to illustrate the outcome that now we

have to deal with I've done with the

good part saying that ok new urban

agenda don't be afraid it's not an

isolated framework it is not a new layer

of bureaucracy because in many countries

the national governments and the cities

say oh no yet another set of indicators

yet another system of reporting and

we'll have to report and report why do

we have to do that now this is not the

case have already mentioned that the

role of the local governments is

paramount there is also a political side

to it because 20 years ago when

inhabited to the importance of the role

of local governments has first started

to penetrate the multilateral

intergovernmental mechanism you will see

that local governments and cities were

seen as a part of the non-governmental

civil society now the understanding has

finally come that a local government is

still a government is not the same as a

voluntary Association because a mayor is

still an elected governor and and and

not a voluntarily appointed one so the

right 70 percent were more of action

will have to be taken by the local

please but that is not that simple

because in some of the countries we now

see especially in the Western world okay

the mayors will take care of it very

good let's give it to the mayors they

will do it

not really it is the collaboration of

all levels of governance that is

required to achieve this goal

so we promote had the United Nations

national urban policies that sets the

frameworks for cooperation of all these

levels of governance and if we want to

look a little bit in the history you

would recall when we started speaking

about integrated urban development first

it was about the seams and the wear

silos and infrastructure separately

housing separately social services

separately public spaces separately a

heart how can we integrate all these

themes then the issue of multiple

sectors came into the picture which was

largely under the heading of

participation saying guess that there is

there are civil servants that are

politicians but there is also civil

society that is also private sector we

have to work together on this then the

next layer of complexity has been

introduced in terms of multiple

territorial scopes necessarily

municipalities but there are also

regions that are also metropolitan areas

there are city regions and so we have to

deal with all these multiple scopes and

lately this issue of the multi-level

governance has added yet another

framework of complexity so working

together does not only mean different

sectors does not only mean different

themes to accomplish and to attain the

sustainable development goals there is

quite a huge complexity that will have

to be tackled

but the ugly part is not the isn't that

the complexity the ugly part is that we

are often asked about okay how will the

implementation of the agenda 2030 and

the new urban agenda going to be

financed and the response as well that

there is no new money in the world so

the policies will have to be readjusted

institutions will have to be realigned

private sector will have to be drawn in

into more coordinated action and we will

see more and more of what in the

language of financial institutions is

called blending if we have seen a lot of

technical cooperation for the sake of

its own more and more their financing

institutions the dulness are seeing it

as a part of a long process which starts

from policy development and must end

with actual investment on the ground so

it will be much more difficult

within the nearest future to find

funding for separate technical

cooperation which is not related to

actual action on the ground I think this

is good when we were discussing the

session I was asked why does new urban

agenda matter and I would very quickly

want to run through this because

prevailing model of urbanization does

not satisfy anyone anymore and there is

this global tendency which brings the

uniformity of the city extensions and

the new towns being built and even the

regeneration plants and the resembles

Peru

and urban planning has been reduced to

nothing I mean I don't want to spend a

lot of time showing you the data but if

you look for example at the SPRO you

would say that with the rather little

growth of population cities take up and

more and more of valuable resource such

as the land

and it's difficult to believe but when

you look at the last 120 years that

cities are less and less plant they just

happen partly as informal settlements

but partly also as legally enabled

structures that do not build on urban

planning look at how the access to

streets which are more than 18 meters

width has fallen down over time and also

when you look at the way streets are

laid out in the cities that are less and

less for wise intersections which are

the most efficient we know where this

comes from I don't want to blame any

particular name but it's easy to see the

source of modernist planning but you

will see a lot of this in the world I'll

show you quickly a couple of pictures so

you would you will say that it is not

happening as the great vision showed 20

years 120 years ago how are we going to

implement the new urban agenda it is

difficult to see how different cities

and all the continents are going to do

that we had the United Nations and UN

habit that we have suggested a simple

framework of action based on five

pillars drawing on the new urban agenda

I've already mentioned national urban

policies as an overarching framework

enabling the multi-level governance to

deal with the sustainable urbanization

we need rules and regulations we need to

bring back urban planning and design we

need to consider various ways of

financing urbanization and also of

course be sure that all these frameworks

reach the local implementation

what's next in the United Nations we

have the high-level political forum that

each year looks at a set of sustainable

development goals this year there was a

set of goals looking at eradicating

poverty and promoting prosperity in in

the changing world next year we have a

set of goals but also goal number 11

will be prominently featuring in

transformation towards the sustainable

and resilient societies and that is

where so many countries are doing the

voluntary national reviews and reporting

on how the implementation is going Ghana

mean is just a list of some European

countries but you could see that these

voluntary reviews are quite massive as

well how are we going to monitor the

implementation of the agenda of course

as I said before there is a system in

the United Nations statistical

Commission on monitoring the

implementation of sustainable

development goals and that will be the

official system in doing that we are

also working at UN habitat with many

cities around the world on so-called

city prosperity initiative which

measures different aspects of urban

development and you are welcome to look

on the website and I'm quite sure that

many cities where you live are already

participating in this initiative every

two years we also organize so-called

world Urban Forum and the ninth session

of the world urban forum will take place

next year in February 7th to 13th in

Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia were typically

I'd say about 20,000 people from all

over the world come and share their

experiences on the implementation you

are all welcome to come also there and

listen to these marvelous stories of

successes and sometimes failures of

implementing the sustainable development

goals agenda 23rd

but also the new urban agenda I will

stop here if you are interested more in

the new urban agenda please have a look

at the website which is frequently

updated and the new information can also

be found there thank you very much thank

you paulius now we're gonna hear from

mayor and depot

thank you

I hope the explanation has been called

so clear on the new urban agenda blunter

city are the smallest city in Malawi in

the southern part of Africa we had to

understand the concept so fast in such a

way that the implementation has already

been on the ground without taking much

of your time I think just a group of

what we're blunter is that's in Africa

and the southern part of Oh

mallamma as a country that is the city

Blantyre as you can see there

the main issue is how are implementing

this we have a lot of projects to the

link to the urban agenda to show that we

are able to understand what is being

said or where we are moving you took

over the infrastructure projects we have

embarked on projects in accordance to or

rather in regards to the new urban

agenda like once at one of roads a

street right for habitation of school

project the blocks that were depleted oh

clinics or rather hospitals hotels bakas

bus terminals and many more we also

embarked on a sewage project whereby the

sword which we had was constructed in

1960s when the operation was not as as

it is now so we had you been using that

or rather it wasn't enough for the

growth of the population with the

urbanization that is in Malawi growing

in the end Atlanta people seeking for

greener pastures we also have impact on

the sanitation projects like cassava of

toilet

and the previous also we didn't have the

proper addressing system whereby we

could not when you are in Blantyre maybe

you could had a trace waiver reiative is

or rather your friend is but meanwhile

we've been back on the project whereby

now we've done proper addressing we also

have done the city clocks and we are we

have done the rehab ditional de pâques

we have reviewed the boroughs

and we have the new new land bill how do

we get the funds

in most cases we have double transfers

understanding how the municipal Zweig

the government to so transfer some cash

some funds to the municipal so that the

new urban agenda should be more

effective as the municipal also generate

local funds through licenses market fees

and many more and we have donor funded

projects like the RO DF which is funded

by the World Bank in some cases also we

have the public-private partnership

whereby we partner with the private

sector and embark on also some projects

that will improve de la

we also thought like that day when we

were embarking on projects whatever we'd

talk of the city the community has to be

taken on board so by engaging the

community we've seen that whatever we do

whether it is the project or whatever it

is always safe gladly jealously because

they own it we are also the you know

sector engagement like in the city

most of the corporates take up

initiatives maybe they made the mimetic

one of the roundabouts and beautified in

the process they advertise one on the

same but in the situation we find that

the urban becomes improved time and

again we also previous Blanca city that

we have sister city relationships like

ANOVA who also have some city in Japan

and no focus or in the Nebraska in USA

as you look there you see that this is

the public toilet as we thought of

Blantyre that should be a clean City a

smart city we also thought that they

cannot be a smart city if there's no

toilets like this so these projects are

part of the projects that are taking

place and they were constructed about

100 of these stories in the bluntest

city whereby if we are enforcing the law

that there must not be open defecation

then we are meaning it because the

somewhere people can live themselves but

it would mean it would be meaningless if

we could enforce the law when there is

no toilet these are some of the roads

that has been improved from Earth laws

to us fact we've done this through

government transfers and some local

revenue as already alluded to we thought

it is very important that the community

has to be taken on board has already

alluded that whenever they project by

this then you involved opposed the

community the owners was the motor for

bluntest city is taken back to the city

back to the people so this is the way we

are taking the city back to them by

making them on whatever we are doing in

such a way it has been proven to be so

super dirty everybody is happy whenever

there is a project whether we are

constructing a bridge you find that

there is nothing like vandalism

whatsoever because this is what people

had wanted so the municipal proved to be

effective and the government is a parity

and implementation whatever the source

is channeled to the local councils are

taken care of

we have a problem of parking in Blantyre

whereby for you to get a button place

becomes a bit bit difficult with a lot

of vehicles then we've embarked on a

project that we are constructing the car

pockets and this is done and PPP

arrangement and it has proved to be more

effective in Blantyre and also e to

other cities like the wrong way and

Zumba this arrangement before we had

impact on this that was a problem a

problem that maybe the government

transfers could not be enough

the was I am privileged to be also the

president for the mile or Government

Association whereby the 35 councils in

Malawi how to benefit from the same

central government so by rubbing this

see TV arrangement it has proved to be

so effective

we've also impact on the project whereby

we are constructing bus terminals

international whereby this also is

trying to avoid congestion which was in

the city whereby maybe the buses or

small buses could not have enough places

or other terminals where you could use

as a temple for we are in Malawi have

small buses and the bigger buses there

could not be a difference on where we

wear and where the other bath by the

term this terminal who is congestion in

the city and also improve the out-group

of the city

as the read they said that we embarked

on the fiscal addressing this also is

already on the ground and meanwhile a

greater part of it has been done whereby

one would be able to trace where to send

the mail or rather whatever is supposed

to be communicated to we also have the

project whereby were putting city crops

in the city as part of beautification

but also as part of reminding the people

about the time management as well

this is some person I say alluded to

with benefit a lot from sister city

relationships some of these vehicles

were related by the by Japan government

to Malawi and Blanton particular just

because the way we've been handling

their operations they were satisfied and

he thought of assisting us and this has

been hasty whatever is there like a

garbage collection to the dumping site

and putting leaving the city as clean

some development to issues like request

blocks otherwise develop dated some of

them were blown off by maybe we wind

have been repaired using the error DF

funds that is from the World Bank this

wind also has assisted a lot always

assisting all these are trying to bring

together and make Blantyre

a livable city

we also improved the packs most of the

packs are now up to standard through the

PV arrangement as the municipal who

could not do it our on our own

during the defense but when we came to

be the arrangement we've seen that most

of the open spaces are being used and

utilized as he packs the conclusion

ladies and gentlemen in Blanton city

linkage of urban projects to

implementation of new urban agenda goes

hand in hand with other international

negotiations and agreements such as SDGs

therefore the new urban agenda can only

succeed if it is linked with other

international negotiations and

agreements such as sdgays financing for

dormant ffd United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change and cop21

and many more this is the a new methods

and effective organization

[Applause]

Thank You mayor we're gonna plenty of

time for questions so start thinking

about questions we've got microphones

it's just one microphone on this side

over here and of course use the the

smart cities app the ask and vote

feature there if you'd like to to type

in a question but I'm gonna get started

and and you know I guess for me it's

it's where do you start right so this

big framework linked with all these

other global frameworks like the SDGs

the the Paris climate agreement seems

like there's work that has to happen at

the national level and also lots of work

to happen at the local level so I'd like

to ask each of you what would you like

to see happen at the national level in

in your country Malawi and and and

probably just kind of generally what

needs to happen the national level and

then what net used to happen to local

level we start with you mayor

national action you'd like to see and lo

you spoke about some of the local

actions but but what what needs to

happen where do we start

absolutely what is it to happen is the

team the national government has to

trust the local municipal local councils

because all the vote means has to happen

to at local it is the local councils or

municipal that that stay with the people

with the local masses so when there's a

trust from the local government the

central government to the ROC government

you find that a lot of sectors who I

devote today to that to the local

government whereby now implementation of

whatever are to be done with the

projects would be easier and also I

think we'll the transfers have to be

adjusted that will transfer a lot to the

local those are the ones that that stay

with they the local mass of the rural

masses and the local people that are

supposed to be given infrastructure for

example you talk of in happening most of

the urban is cities like Blanton because

the result of an urbanization you have a

lot of slum cetera means we need to

equate those lumps we cannot say that

which we need to we wish to remove them

from wherever they are this to bring

scales we need to upgrade how do we

operate the central tower had to come in

have resistance so that we have great

slams then we met away with the boots it

is yes thing part pious well I mean I'm

not a mare but we do at un-habitat

observe through our fieldwork quite a

lot of what is happening on the ground

and you might as well say this could all

have happened without the new urban

agenda of without habitat agenda 20

years ago but we we have found that

these international frameworks have also

act as educational frameworks too many

national governments because the

government in any given country when it

is a part of negotiations in a

multilateral framework they start

understand the things and and

understanding things differently so when

we speak of government transfers that

that may Wilde mentioned it is not only

the issue of transfer but it's how much

of the of the taxation revenue is

implemented and collected at the city

level we might think that is a problem

of other parts of the world but I was in

the meeting here in Barcelona on Monday

where someone complains they take Spain

only 20% is implemented by

municipalities but in Denmark that is 60

percent of gold taxation volume that is

implemented and decided upon by

municipalities so different countries

different continents different systems

but certainly this huge long quest for

making the local governments not only

administratively responsible but also

financially enabled is we can see

succeeding much more needs to be done

but these are examples as Blantyre are

very encouraging to all of us because

low-key I mean they are using the whole

spectrum they're using the government

transfers they're using their own

revenue they are working with the

private sector and I think the

is the way to go so yeah back in

Blantyre oh we also launched the service

chatter but we wanted to bring the

residence to trust what we are doing so

normally we have that service chat aware

by the rate is hardly but they are free

to come to the console and find out what

is it what is happening at the console

and also we launched this participatory

budgeting whenever we are doing every

budgeting we call everybody we call them

one bought into the whole ask them this

is what we are proposed for the how to

look at it and most cases when they

found are not enough the corporate world

order than some residence they come to

our is no this is a good project let's

do like the like the sewage we are

puttin now we are trying to be habitat

also most half of it has been done now

the government could not assist they can

so revenue are not enough but now there

is this we are taking them on port they

are able to understand what we are doing

so we are moving forward like that so

should I understand what you said to say

that you have the responsibility at the

local level but not necessarily the the

funding streams coming from from the

national government and and and and do

you have do you have the ability to

raise those local funds that the

polyesters was talking about yeah most

of the times I would say that most of

the operations are done by the locally

generated revenue because we only get

five percent from the central government

and the first present is also shared

among 35 councils in Malawi so you see

that the each and every council gets

only is a small so we need to find ways

of enhancing our every correction that's

what we are doing now we make sure that

as the council now how do we enhance how

do we collect revenue so that is the way

we are now able to do some operations

using our local regulation and where

does that search for local revenues take

you sorry

well what are some sources of local

revenues that you will be looking to we

have markets for example we have

business licenses that we collect and

they will call the district parking you

know what's important means yeah so we

have all those things those are some

means that to collect driving and also

not only that we train how would they

can prevent fire mm-hmm we have that for

that fire department that the trains

companies and waiver in that regard or

we collect a lot of Raving destination

issue a few

yes yes if I could shoot back up to the

national level again probably as you

mentioned national urban policies and

there's a big discussion going on about

national urban policies globally coming

out of habitat three could you just

speak a little bit more about what is a

national urban policy and why would the

country want to have one I think we can

share these mm-hmm well a national urban

policy may mean very different things in

different countries we have a specific

program together with OECD and the

cities alliance nowadays we are trying

to promote this and offer different

government's opportunities to discuss

this it does not necessarily have to be

one single document but what we have

observed and what new urban agenda has

entrenched as an international

understanding that it is beneficial for

sustainable Urban Development in in any

country to have a kind of a framework

which is guiding the government but also

the relations of the government and the

local government and other actors on how

they see their the urban system in any

country developing it is not only a

question of sharing revenues but as you

all understand many of you better than I

do is that cities in any country do not

exist on their own this is the whole

urban system the cities have roles we

speak a lot about smart specialization

so there has to be a framework in which

way this framework is implemented

depends on many different things depends

on the way the public administration is

organized the way the politics in the

country happens did it also takes into

account not only the spatial aspects and

that's why we speak about these three

very important dimensions which one is

the way the government and a city

regulates Urban Development

it speaks about the spatial aspects also

on the national level and it speaks

about how the financing is arranged in

the complimentary why that is why why we

think it is important to have it on the

national level however it is expressed I

don't know I mean we could last we could

talk about this forever but I mean let's

let's go on well but but it's very

important to to the debate because it's

it's how the national government sort of

sets the rules of the game as dr. close

said earlier is is there a good example

that you could point to I we were

talking before you mentioned Poland

there's one place that decentralized

power and some years ago as as one

example it may be that or another

country that you would point to as an

example of a country that sort of set

the national rules in a way that worked

for cities okay well one thing that you

have heard many times talking about

decentralization we have found out that

this is not necessarily a good term for

two reasons

central governments and many countries

do not like giving the power away so

when you start speaking about

decentralization while you are in a sort

of tricky tricky field of discussion but

there is a second thing in in many

countries in in which are in transition

which are still developing it is a

question of resources some countries

only have a number of qualified people

and the research resources to enable

them to do the work that if you spread

all these human resources and and

financial resources very thin trying to

send say an urban planner to every small

town you will not be able to sustain the

system so that is a given take situation

but the other thing is that

sometimes the government's realized

saying that devolving responsibilities

is a good thing politically and we have

talked about this before as a result of

all this movement to give role to the

cities and urban development globally

and to have them at the negotiations

table well they were intergovernmental

frameworks are being discussed some

countries say all very well I mean

that's the mayor who's gonna solve it

but does the mayor have the resources so

speaking about these big conferences

every 20 years I can give you example of

Poland 96 you can imagine the Eastern

Bloc just assume the system collapsed

countries are in transition we had quite

many presidents and prime ministers in

Istanbul in 96 but quite prominently

there was a President of Poland of that

time Alexandra was Nevsky if I'm not

mistaken who made the very inspiring

speech about the importance of urban

development internationally but also in

transition and changing the system and

he was committed to that and Poland

today is a very good example of the

country that understood the importance

of decentralization not only in

administrative terms but also giving the

financial powers and instruments to the

sub-national governments so I would like

to see more of this also in the post

2030 agenda implementation but we had

other countries I think will have what I

recall personally from Quito there was a

president of Cameroon who is also now

trying to change the way of the of

urbanization is happening in his country

so you might say that new urban agenda

or sustainable development goals is

something at a very high international

real which doesn't really come close to

the grass

but I think that they help also educate

or interest some of high-level

politicians in the principles that these

agenda are forwarding and once they

become genuinely interested they can

change things in their countries and are

some examples show they do I think on

the same let me just let me soak

momentum our government was meanwhile

like the Minister of Transport and the

public works is not as devote part of it

for the road infrastructure all the

councils are doing their own road

infrastructure we are able as Brandon

City Council to upgrade our rose to as

fat we've the engineers we've very so

the way they have done this just to make

sure that all the areas that is

development in in the rural

infrastructure so it's not centrally

done and the devolution also in Malawi I

think we are moving faster because like

the education sectors were a fully

devoted to determine in sports and the

health sector as far also fully devote

to them of demand I suppose and and

itself the means of law government also

evolves so we are seeing that a lot of

sectors are moving to the rock to the

locals whereby in the near future we

find that rupee will be able now to

reach everywhere instead of development

and also especially in the urban areas

thank you

I'm gonna take one of the questions here

from from the app because five people

voted it up so must be in a lot of

people's minds the question is could you

please elaborate more on the link

between technology and the new urban

agenda it sounds like two different

worlds is it

I don't want to sound like

[Music]

technologically disinterest

disinterested person but I think

technology technology is not a

philosophy it is not a goal it is not an

objective technology is a tool using

that tool meaningfully requires deep

understanding of the conditions in which

this tool is applied I was moderating

the session this morning with a couple

of colleagues from China from from

Barcelona from couple of companies that

are sponsoring all this event that work

with technology no one of them ever said

that well you know I mean we are doing

this because we have this technology

they speak about sharing they they speak

about bringing services to people they

speak about achieving efficiency but

they refer to the principles that are

also enshrined in the sustainable

development goals and in the new urban

agenda in the recent past I have had

personal opportunity to see a couple of

companies in Europe dealing not with ICT

but with other advanced technologies who

have adopted sustainable development

goals as a framework in the beginning I

thought well these guys are doing some

kind of advertisement for their

corporate responsibility and when we

started discussing they say no no no we

don't care we are not selling in the

market for public

we are selling sub components to other

industrial company so we we don't care

what people think about this necessarily

they say this gives us an understanding

of how to manage long term risk and

where the world will be going because

this is agreed on international level

that's where it will be going it's not

only about climate change more and more

people live in cities and you know the

mantra and

holls everyone is speaking about how

many people are going to live in the

cities and everywhere so information

technology I think has and communication

technology has two important dimensions

and this one is of course being at the

service and helping to implement and

attain all these goals that the society

once and agrees through their

governments about going for them but

there is another dimension which is how

things are organized internally in those

companies how they are conducting their

business how they are managing their is

how they are going for for different

kind of the goals which are internal to

them and we can hear from boss from ZTE

and this morning that they understand

this framework they don't think well I

speak about sustainable development as a

whole they don't understand it is

artificial that don't think it's

artificial and it becomes a guiding

framework for their business development

I think that is a great achievement and

I also believe that companies that

understand how the society and how the

international community builds that

framework will be inevitably more

successful mayor you must speak to

technology or you see certainly and your

presentation talked a lot about

public-private partnerships and and in

the parking and and other other domains

maybe the question is more about sort of

how do you engage with the public or the

private sector and what makes a

successful engagement with the private

sector from your perspective perhaps we

need to believe that they as we are

looking at the new urban agenda who also

have make sure that the technology has

improved how do we move fast in this

side when this side we are slow those

things have to move together so that we

achieve what we are doing so if

technology is done then we are looking

for you have an agenda I would not go

there so I believe this to have to move

together in such a way that - then if we

move fast for some or other as I already

said that some of the areas are to be

proved we for example we are

regenerating the city maybe which was

which is represented how would we move

in that flow pace we need to move fast

I'd first move faster didn't we

technology also has to be the first

technology so that then they will

combine those two that's what I the way

I think great probably us we have a

question that several people voted up

also just about the world urban form

coming in Kuala Lumpur in February the

question is what are the expectations at

that forum so so can you speak a little

bit more about what to expect there both

in terms of the new urban agenda and

what that means is a milestone but also

more broadly what what happens at the

world urban forum well the world urban

forum as such has one part which is the

high level which is driven by the

frameworks that are internationally

agreed such as the new urban agenda we

try to bring together is not government

driven but we try to bring people from

the governments from the city

governments from the voluntary

associations to discuss say okay now one

and a half year has gone what is

happening on the ground how do you see

it from your perspective we are still as

United Nations and intergovernmental got

a mechanism and we try to bring

different other partners in but that is

the basis for this at the same time this

being 20,000 people you can imagine

there are a lot of different events that

happen at the fad at the world urban

forum there are side events where people

showcase of what they have achieved

bringing you know part of the

participants into auditorium there are

networking events where someone tries to

benefit from the fact that there are so

many people who are interested in the

same subject to bring them together in

the event and trying to see maybe they

can do something together

there are also training events and this

is well so technology companies come

into the picture are there often saying

okay we have this new product it has

worked and some circumstances we want to

give you an opportunity to understand

better on how this thing can work in

your situation but we also want to

understand the situation of other people

to see how this has to be modified that

we still have ten days to apply for

these events so if you go on the website

which is w u f9 dot oak world urban

forum nine session dot oak you will see

the detailed descriptions and forms

where any institution organization can

apply for all these events but even if

you had not organizing the event I think

it is important if you are interested in

this issue to participate because I

assure you there will be something to do

there are global leaders of thought that

are global leaders of governments that

come they and there are lots of

colleagues from different fields who

come and share their experience and this

is for me I would not skip although I

have to be there but if I would not have

to be I would still go there privately

this time we are also lucky that it is

in Malaysia because Malaysian government

is very committed they have something to

demonstrate and they have shown a very

strong leadership in bringing people

from the region especially

understandably well I mean as the world

urban forum travels around the world

there is always a little bit of the

regional

when I say 20,000 people I mean if it is

in Southeast Asia you would expect the

10,000 people will be from Southeast

Asia

last time was Medellin Colombia there

was a strong majority of people from

from Latin America the next session in

two years in 2020 is in Abu Dhabi so we

expect a lot of people from the Middle

East so come join us

I assure you there will be something to

do okay and we've got time for one last

question and this is for the mayor

how does Malawi tackle the challenges

like poverty disease corruption etc and

can the new urban agenda be used as a

tool to tackle these challenges if we

talk of I think I should we start with

the corruption issue in Malawi there is

the the anti-corruption Bureau and this

organization is doing a lot but if you

talk of the plant asset as a as a

consumer or what we do normally that's

why there is a political wave when there

is the secretary side and the political

side the two like wait like a oversight

which other so in most cases in councils

there is nothing like you talk of

corruption because even the procurement

process it's a long process to make sure

that is is publicized everything is done

in the open manner and everybody is able

to follow it up it goes from that go to

the government another department that

also scrutinizes whatever is happening

and after which it comes also on the

table this side and this side

critical side and the severe severe side

move together and check that things are

moving in that way ever since the

council's we are put in place there's

been something like that I think we are

moving in that direction in terms of

Sanitation as already said

Blantyre in Malawi would say is one of

the greenest cities in in Malawi if not

also in some parts of Africa but what I

would say say this is so because we work

with the community

we don't work in isolation like this

time around we launched a clean home

competition and in Princes competition

whereby the companies and the homes they

compete for who whichever the company

does the cleaning or water or whatever

the decoration of their premises at the

end of a year or six months we give out

prizes in that way we see that we are

moving in the right direction also or

we've enhanced li Olivia the collision

of garbage to the tapping side and

meanwhile we are also important

approaches where I want to be recycling

the West in that way we found that the

city is always very clean and in that

plain way there can't be an optical

kool-aid or whatever so in that way we

malawi

is a heavy country yes right great well

that's a great example of how action on

the new urban agenda I think is

happening at a very very hyper local

space like that where it's it's it's

literally citizens taking responsibility

for their their house in their

neighborhood to also at a very high

level where national governments need to

be rethinking how they have they set the

rules of the road for for cities and for

urbanization in general so I'd like to

thank you for for illuminating the

subject thank you so much and please

give a round of applause for our

panelists

[Applause]