

World Urban Forum 7, 05-11 April 2014, Medellin (Colombia)

Side-event organized by FAO

“Smart Green Infrastructure and Urban Forestry to combat poverty and increase food security and quality of urban life “

7th April 2014, from 2.45 to 3.45 (One UN Room)

***UN-HABITAT Priority Substantive Area:* One UN Room**

Abstract

Evidence of the unsustainability of most cities' growth, increasing inequity and gap between rich and poor, centers and peripheries, is now drawing the attention on the need to focus efforts towards a resilient, sustainable and equal development of urban regions. Green infrastructures can have a crucial role in fighting social, environmental and economic inequity, as well in increasing food and nutrition security in and around cities. Coherent investments by communities and governments in the protection and restoration of urban forests, trees and green areas can make a real contribution in creating a healthy and resilience environment. Well-managed urban and peri-urban tree systems provide ecosystem services and public benefits, contributing to solve a range of local and global challenges, such as nutrition and food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, improvement of dwellers' health and well-being, generation of jobs and income, conservation of biological diversity, positive management of watersheds and reduction of disaster risk. Green infrastructures can improve environmental-friendly and low cost mobility, increase social cohesion by providing public green meeting spaces, beautify central and suburban areas, so reducing social, environmental and housing inequity between the urban dwellers. Through a multisectoral and multi stakeholder approach FAO supports the development of actions, projects and strategic planning tools in urban forestry, contributing to promote a sustainable and resilient model of city development. The side event will propose experiences and best cases of how investing in a “green vision” can pay dividends and improve cities' capacity to reduce social, environmental and economic inequity of their dwellers. Invited speakers from municipalities, international organizations, and governments will present the solutions they are putting in place to design, implement and manage greener cities under a holistic and integrated approach. The event will show how well-developed and managed urban and peri-urban forests can contribute to ensure dwellers with basic standards of well-being so contributing to a sustainable growth, health-respectful development, poverty alleviation, increase of jobs opportunities, promotion of partnerships between governments, private sectors and civil society (reflecting goals of the Post 2015 development Agenda).

Programme

Chair: Mr Jorge Meza, FAO Representative in Paraguay

Moderator: Mr Jorge Meza, FAO Representative in Paraguay (*tbc*)

Welcoming

by Mr Jorge Meza, FAO Representative in Paraguay

Speakers

- **Fabio Salbitano**, University of Florence, Italy
Urban and peri-urban forestry for urban ecosystem services provision
- **Germán Tovar Corzo**, District Secretary of Environment, Municipality of Bogotá, Colombia
Urban and peri-urban forestry for urban policy and strategic planning

Panel session

- **Angela Molina**, Regional government of Antioquia (*tbc*)
- **Makiko Taguchi**, Urban and peri-urban agriculture/Food for the cities, FAO
- **Andrew Rudd**, Urban Environment and Planning Branch, UN-Habitat
- **Mary Jane Ortega**, Regional Director for South America, ICLEI (*tbc*)

Questions and discussion

Conclusions and closing remarks

by Mr Jorge Meza, FAO Representative in Paraguay