

**ULD2, October 2023: Rules of the game: Fiscal sustainability in cities**

**SPEAKERS**

**Matt Glasser**  
 Director for Municipal Law and Finance, Centre for Urban Law and Finance in Africa

**Stephen Berrisford**  
 Lead, Cities Practice at Pegasys Global

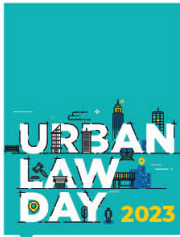
**Prof. Nestor Davidson**  
 Fordham University School of Law

**Professor Clay Gillette**  
 New York University

**Anne Amin**  
 Legal Specialist, UN-Habitat



#URBANLAWDAY2023



The second Urban Law Day of 2023 was held on the World Cities Day 31st of October, by Fordham University and UN-Habitat PLGS in line with the 2023 World Cities Day theme: Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All. A panel of urban legal and fiscal scholars discussed the role played by urban legislation in setting the rules of the game for fiscal sustainability in cities.

This session explored four main concepts including a) expenditures; b) revenues; c) financial management and d) borrowing. This promoted learning, knowledge sharing and exchange of information and experiences which will better inform the creation of “fiscally sustainable cities” that are more equitable and prosperous.

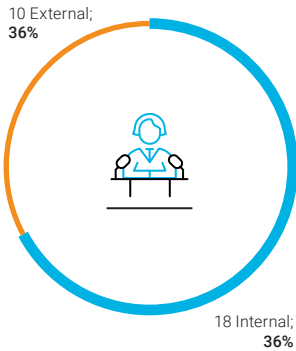
**iii. PLGS Community of Practice**

UN-Habitat’s Community of Practice (COP) on policy, legislation and governance saw significant progress and results in 2023.

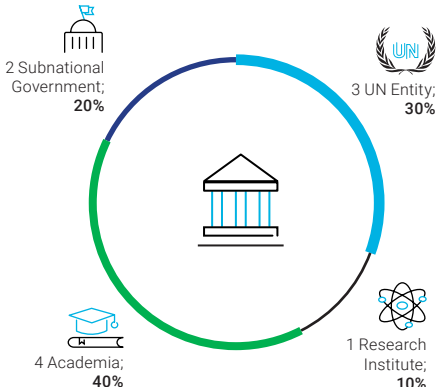
One key achievement was enhanced collaboration both internally and externally. In all the COP sessions held in 2023, UN-Habitat’s PLGS involved other

sections and country offices of UN-Habitat to share their perspectives. In addition, these COPs featured the participation of partner governments and organizations who shared their experiences of what the partnership with UN-Habitat through PLGS has accomplished.

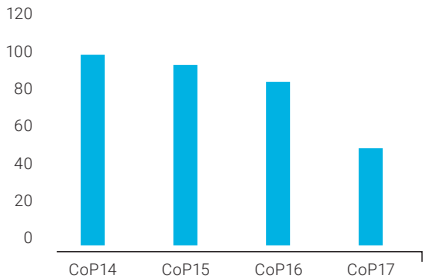
**Internal and External Speakers**



**Types of Organizations**



**Overall attendance**



PLGS Annual Report 2023



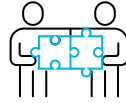
Themes covered.



Governance and public participation



Child-responsive urban policies and laws



Integrated development planning



Metropolitan and regional management



Urban-rural connectivity

Since the COP initiative began in 2020, PLGS has successfully held a total of 17 sessions with internal and external partners. In 2023, UN-Habitat through PLGS held the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, interactive, engaging and highly insightful community of practice sessions.

Here is a summary of community of practice sessions held in 2023.

### i. 14<sup>th</sup> CoP. Governance and Legislation: Accelerating Participatory Processes for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities



The session focused on showcasing regulatory and governance best practices of the transformative force of public participation in urban processes in achieving inclusive and effective urban development, providing lessons learned on key prerequisites for

successful participatory planning regulation and legislation, and stimulating discussion on how to formally empower urban communities, particularly marginalized groups, to have meaningful decision-making power.

### ii. 15<sup>th</sup> CoP, Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws, and Standards



This 15<sup>th</sup> CoP was held to discuss the Guidance on Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws, and Standards, developed by UN-Habitat and UNICEF.

The discussions centered on showcasing the linkages between urbanization, children’s rights and how the two concepts are integrated into policies and legislations to achieve effective governance.

iii. 16<sup>th</sup> CoP, Harnessing the power of connected communities through urban-rural linkages



This 16<sup>th</sup> session was organized to update participants on recent progress and achievements in the urban-rural linkages thematic area. It was also an opportunity for external panellists to share various experiences from their contexts and in relation to the collaboration with UN-Habitat.

17<sup>th</sup> CoP, Metropolitan Management and Integrated Development Planning



This 17<sup>th</sup> CoP session was held to discuss innovative approaches on metropolitan and regional management, as well as showcase inspiring practice solutions implemented by UN-Habitat and partners in various countries such as Cameroon, Mexico, El

Salvador, and Colombia. The session also involved internal perspectives on the metropolitan topic, as well as experiences by partners from government and academia, sharing experiences from collaborating with UN-Habitat in various initiatives.

