



POLICY LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Newsletter 1 MARCH 2021

ABOUT THE PLG COP



The main objective of the Policy Legislation and Governance Community of Practice (CoP) is to facilitate agency-wide learning, information-sharing and collaborations to harness the collective wealth of knowledge and experience for transformative interventions on matters related to policies, legislation and governance. The activities of the CoP include presenting new tools and studies/programmes on pertinent issues; convening learning sessions and conferences to exchange best practices and ideas; nurturing innovations; and developing, strengthening and expanding partnerships.

The CoP facilitates engagement in substantive discussions as well as development, peer review and application of normative tools and products and aims to provide high-quality services and mutual support to various colleagues, projects and programmes on policy, legislation and governance being implemented across the Agency as well as contribute to staff professional growth and skills set through continuous learning and training.

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE



A survey undertaken during the first session indicates that the PLGS CoP is comprised of participants from a wide array of professional backgrounds and expertise, including not only policy, legislation and governance but also areas related to project development, land management, urban planning, housing,

stakeholder engagement, innovation, environment, creative media, communication, data and geomatics. Participants are located in various offices, possess diverse amounts of experience and expressed a range of expectations from the CoP.

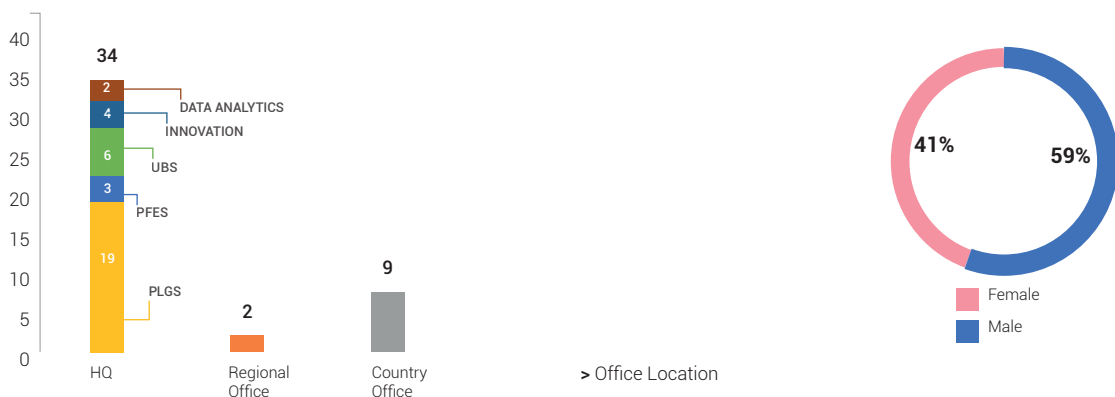


Figure 1. Office locations of interested participants in the PLG CoP

*Gender figure in the First CoP



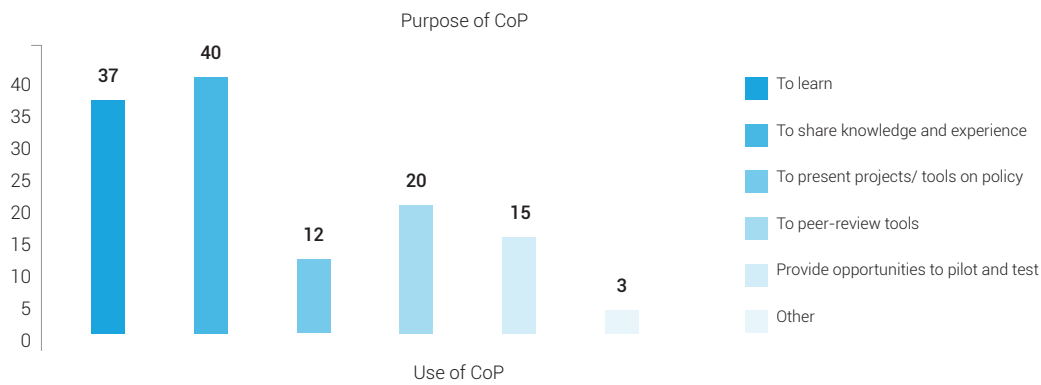


Figure2. Expectations of the CoP's Purpose

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST FOUR SESSIONS



The inaugural session of the PLG CoP was held virtually on Microsoft Teams on 22nd July, 2020 with 55 participants. It acted as an introductory forum to gain a collective understanding of the CoPs objectives, expectations, and discuss how it could support the co-creation of norms and standards on policy, legislation and governance across UN-Habitat and effectively disseminate and implement them across global programmes and projects. It featured presentations from the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section on each work stream as well presentations on an Integrated Urban Development Project in Egypt; the National Urban Policy (NUP) development process in Bolivia; and key initiatives on matters related to policy, legislation and governance undertaken by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). Among the major outcomes of the first CoP was **an agreement to host a session every 2 months** and in doing so, consider introducing panel discussions from different regions, countries and branches/sections/units to highlight their efforts in integrating cross-cutting issues in their work.

The Second session of the CoP took place on 23rd September 2020. It provided a demonstration of the NUP Learning Manual and offered insights into implementation of various projects in the legislation work stream including the Housing, Land, and Property Rights in Syria;

Saudi Arabia Housing Development Project; and strengthening urban governance through planning and slum upgrading in Guinea Conakry through the SANITA program. The Governance Assessment Framework (GAF-MTR) was also showcased followed by an overview of the Urban Maestro Project.

The third CoP session was held on 2nd December 2020 and covered several themes including healthy cities, NUP development and climate change. It featured discussions on the Multi-level Governance Guide to Promote Health Equity; highlighted progress of the Korea-funded NUP Programme in 3 countries: Myanmar, Iran, and Niger State (Nigeria); and introduced the Law and Climate Change Toolkit for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action in urban areas. Notably, this session took stock of the utility of the two previous ones with a view of improving the effectiveness of the COP. It was revealed that most participants found the CoP to be useful and informative albeit some changes in the format were suggested to increase its impact. These included: linking CoP to achievement of strategic objectives; dedicating more time to discussions and limit each session to 1-2 presentations; providing specific questions from presenters to engage the audience; choosing a thematic focus for each session; and engaging more with regional and country offices.



Drawing on participant feedback on how to improve the content and format of the CoP, the fourth session – held on 27th January 2021– took a thematic and region-focused approach. It offered an insightful perspective on UN-Habitat's work on NUPs in Sub-Saharan Africa and a case study of Mozambique. The discussion noted that UN-Habitat is actively supporting 23 countries in Africa with developing NUPs and has already achieved several accomplishments.

These include validation of Cameroon's NUP at the Prime Minister's office; finalization of the feasibility and diagnosis stage of Liberia's NUP; and completion of the formulation stage of Zambia's NUP. In addition, UN-Habitat has made significant progress on development of NUPs in Guinea, Zanzibar, Senegal, Mali, Ghana and Sierra Leone as well as offering specific policy interventions related to Covid-19 response and resilience. The Mozambique case study featured a presentation on implementation of the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) in the country.

PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK



All the CoP sessions held so far have been well attended with more than 50 participants in each.

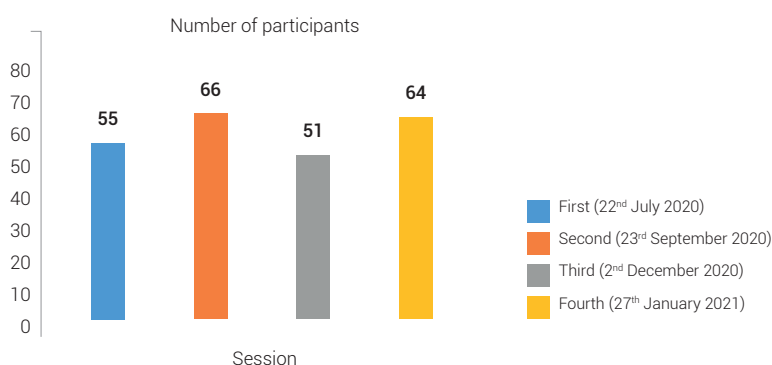


Figure3. Number of Participants

Participants have given generally positive feedback about the sessions' content, format and overall usefulness. The CoP has utilized a feedback loop with suggestions offered by participants being used as inputs for further improvement to get the best out of the initiative.

For instance, proposals offered after the third session - to choose a thematic focus for each session, engage more with regional and country offices and to reduce the number of presentations to dedicate more time for discussions - were taken up and implemented in the fourth session.

A snapshot of what the CoP is doing well and aspects that can be improved are highlighted in the table below:

On the content – Interesting and informative; Good to see the different outputs and country responses.

On what is working – Collaborations between county offices and HQ; Going straight to the presentations, short introduction and more time dedicated to discussions.

On what could be improved – Getting actionable items from these meetings and how projects can be integrated across sections/units; interaction and discussion could be more targeted and guided.

Suggestions – Add a brief title and introduction to the broadcast to attract more interested colleagues; Increase cross-collaboration and working together on different projects; Keep presentations to 10-15 minutes and get participants to share their experience.



ACTION POINTS FROM COP SESSIONS



PROPOSER	ACTIONS/SUGGESTIONS	COORDINATOR
Robert Lewis-Lettington	Develop an UN-Habitat definition for governance - Could perhaps organize/host an EGM with governance experts to determine the working definition for governance that fits into UN-Habitat's agenda and strategic plan. The outcome of this EGM could be a UN-Habitat Governance Handbook.	Anne Amin and Samuel Njuguna- end of March 2021
Laura Petrella	How does governance impact urban processes? Develop further criteria to help measure/analyse governance and its involvement in urban processes - Research the dark side of governance such as corruption and how this impacts urban processes	Anne Amin- corruption has since been included in all new tools/guides under development
Melissa Permezel	Integrate innovation with governance - Research how cities are being planned and governed? How do we increase access to tools based on technology? How are people becoming more divided due to the lack of access to technology?	Melissa Permezel and Anne Amin- several joint initiatives under discussion
Thomas Machado	NUPs to consider the NUA monitoring indicators released by NUA Platform	Kibong Lee
Mentimeter suggestion	Broadcast for next CoP session to add an introduction to attract more participants	Anne Amin- done for the 4th session and will be implemented for future sessions
Maria Soler	Organization of Regional CoPs to be discussed	Remy Sietchiping

PLGS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Upcoming CoP



The next CoP session will be held on Wednesday March 24th 2021 and will focus on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights in the Arab region, with Syria as the country case study.

5th PLG COP - Legal Assessments of HLP rights in the Middle East



[Link to the CoP](#)



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Editorial Team
Focal points: Remy Sietchiping, Anne Klen Amin | **Editor:** Rashid Abubakar
Design & Layout: Jean Robert Gatsinzi

