

# Conference News

# WORLD URBAN FORUM

The Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona, Spain 13 - 17 September 2004

Friday 17 September

## The concluding plenary

Today's concluding plenary session of the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona brings to an end a constructive week of dialogue which has enabled mayors from all continents to map out a realistic and viable action-plan for achieving sustainable urbanisation.

Keynote speakers warned that rapid urbanisation is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the new Millennium. They called for a renewed drive for decentralisation, and expressed concern that millions of people in cities around the world still lacked access to safe water and sanitation, health care, education, shelter, and security of tenure.

The speakers included the Former Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the former President of Finland, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri on whom UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, bestowed the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Special Citation for his visionary leadership in post conflict reconstruction and peace-building.

Over 600 mayors from around the world joined the deliberations. And it is in this context, that today's plenary session marks a further decisive step forward in bringing together local governments and international organisations which share the same development goals. In addition, the central role played by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in the 2004 World Urban Forum represents another strategic milestone on the road to positioning local government at the heart of global governance.

UCLG is committed to creating fair, sustainable and inclusive societies based on local democracy, self-government and decentralisation in the interest of the citizen. Since its Founding Congress in May 2004, UCLG and its members have gone from strength to strength in demonstrating this commitment, not only through local initiatives but also through forging strong ties with other world organisations.

As the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, the unique insight and know-how offered by UCLG on matters of international governance was immediately apparent. Accordingly, the World Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UCLG in May in order to collaborate in fighting poverty and improving the living standards of people in the developing world. In the same month, UCLG signed a second Memorandum of Understanding with the Glocal Forum in order to undertake joint projects aimed at promoting peace-building and development activities through city-to-city relationships, youth empowerment and information communication technology.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed today with UN-HABITAT is the latest partnership agreement which will confirm UCLG as a main interlocutor of UN-HABITAT, the UN focal point for local authorities.

## Urban disasters and reconstruction

*By Todd Hooper and Robert Sullivan*

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on Thursday thanked delegates to the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona for a report she said "challenges" the way the world supports cities inflicted by disaster and conflict.

In a statement read on her behalf at Thursday's dialogue on *Urban Disasters and Reconstruction*, Mrs. Tibaijuka said she would use the report to help formulate UN-HABITAT's policies and programs worldwide.

The report, she said, will "provide a basis for further enriching Habitat's work in the field in terms of urban disasters and sustainable reconstruction."

The document contains dozens of suggestions from experts in sustainable interventions in cities in crises. It elaborated on a previous policy position drafted for the forum and circulated for comment.

She said the document "challenges the manner in which we all participate in supporting human settlements struggling in crisis from a range of threat factors including natural disaster, conflict and consequential threats such as economic and physical impacts of external disasters impacting on their populations."

Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director of the Disaster Mitigation Institute, suggested city-specific data that should be made available to civil society, allowing for a "bottom-up" which could help determine exactly how the implementation of disaster relief efforts affect city growth and city revenues.

"Two thirds of the key cities to the global economy are at risk. Natural and man-made risks are both spreading and increasing," he said.

Mr. Brock Carleton, Director of the International Centre for Municipal Development/Federation of Canadian Municipalities, said that an effective legal and regulatory framework that defines the relationships between, and the roles and responsibilities of local, regional, national, and global citizens should be an integral part of any sustainable relief and reconstruction program.

"In a context of conflict, one of the courageous things we see is people who continue to work towards a better future," he said.

Mr. Denis McNamara, Director of the Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division (IIDD) said: "Global displacement due to conflict today is three times the global refugee population, which equates to around 30 million people. Without shelter the most vulnerable populations are left exposed, most of them women and children," he said.

Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UN-ISDR said one of the highlights of the four days of discussion, was the recognition of increased need for education and preparedness of civil society along with the identification of specific city risks and integration of actionable plans to mitigate those risks.

# Friday's Programme

## Local Governments Partners for Development Third Plenary Meeting (9.00 – 12.00)

### Segment 1:

#### Improving Governance through Municipal International Cooperation

Mrs. Ann Maclean, President of FCM  
Mr. Pierre Schapira, Vice-Mayor of Paris  
Mr. Chen Haosu, President of CAFFC

### Segment 2:

#### Decentralizing the Millennium Development Goals to Cities

Mr. Jesse Robredo, Mayor Naga City, Philippines  
Mr. Pierre Amondji Djedji, Governor of Abidjan  
Dr. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul

### Segment 3:

#### Promoting Local Democracy and Decentralization

Mr. Ramírez Cardona, Vice-President of FLACMA  
Mr. Francisco Vázquez Vázquez, President of FEMP  
Honourable Mr. Naokazu Takemoto, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan  
Mrs. Aminata Tall, State Minister, Senegal

Signing of the MoU between UN-HABITAT and UCLG Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka,  
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT UCLG Representative

### Coffee break (12.00– 12.30)

### Fourth Plenary Meeting (12.30 – 15.00)

- Adoption of the report of WUF/2.
- Provisional Agenda and Other arrangements for the third session of the World Urban Forum
- Presentation to the Chair of the painting done by the Chinese children during the WUF/2 Youth Camp.

### Closing Session

- Statement by H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, Chair-designate of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- Concluding statements by Partner Groups on the results of WUF/2 and their expectations for WUF/3 .
  - Representative of the Local Authorities
  - Representative of the NGO's and CBO's
  - Representative of the Women Groups
  - Representative of the Private Sector and Professionals
  - Representative of the Parliamentarians
  - Representative of the Youth
- Statement by Hon. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada (hosts for WUF/3).
- Statement by the Head of Delegation of China (hosts for WUF/4).
- Concluding remarks by Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka,
- Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.
- Concluding remarks by Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona.
- Concluding remarks by the Chair, Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister for Housing of Spain.
- Closure of the Session.

### Morning Networking Events 09.00-13.00

Building Bridges with the Grassroots	RM 125
Cities as Drivers of Sustainable Development	RM 116
Exploring How Cities Are Governed	RM 114
Good Urban Governance in an Environment of HIV/Aids	RM 115
Growing Up In Cities	RM 120-121
Indigenous Foods and Local Food Security	RM 131
Sanitation: The Most Difficult MDG to meet	RM 123
The Institute@WUF	RM 122
The Role of Urban Centres in Regional Development	RM 130
Urban Governance Diversity and Social Action in Cities of the South	RM 132
Urban Planning Revisited	RM 129



**Presentation of the children's painting at the Closing Ceremony. It will be the world's longest painting of hand-made paper depicting the theme "Our City - Our Future".**

**Please don't forget to fill in your Evaluation Questionnaire for the Second World Urban Forum and to drop it in the boxes on the first floor next to the escalators.**



## Exhibition @ WUF

In addition to many dazzling exhibits ranging from the model favela built by youth from Rio to a lavish exhibit by the City of Dubai, the Exhibition Hall on the ground floor of the Convention Centre offers a wide range of publications and souvenirs. Today is your last chance to visit!

### Today at Speakers' Corner

11.45  
**Fighting Social Exclusion**  
 13.30  
**I want a home: Providing Housing**  
 17.00  
**Messengers of Truth**  
 19.00  
**Genocide and Rebuilding after Conflicts: Stories from Rwanda**  
 20.10  
**Breaking Myths**

### Global Youth Congress Programme 17 September 2004

**Friday 18**  
 9.00 – 10.30 GROWING UP IN CITIES  
 CLOSING CEREMONY

All events take place in Rooms 120/121 unless indicated otherwise.

### A rousing concert

Naseer Shamma, the renowned Iraqi musician gave a moving performance, of classical Iraqi, Kurdish and Arabic music of classical Iraqi to delegates Thursday at the World Urban Forum.

## CLOSING PLANERY

# Cooperation between UN-HABITAT and UCLG

By Elisabeth Gateau

In a fitting conclusion to this Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) leaders and UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, will meet this morning at a plenary session to sign an historic agreement that will elevate the working relationship between the United Nations system and local governments around the world to a new level. The agreement is aimed essentially at localising the Millennium Development Goals to which world leaders committed themselves in the year 2000.

Headquartered in Barcelona, UCLG is a new world organisation dedicated to promoting the values, objectives and interests of cities and local governments world-wide. It is the largest local government organisation in the world, with members representing over half of the world's population. UCLG gives a voice to every type of local government - large and small, rural and urban - representing their interests at the global level, and addressing key issues for the future of cities and their citizens.

Since 1996, UN-HABITAT has been the UN system's focal point for local authorities and cities. As our towns and cities grow at unprecedented rates transforming our planet into a largely urban world, the role of local authorities is becoming ever more important. This is why UN-HABITAT worked closely with the founding organisations of UCLG and is now signing today's agreement.

Local governments are looking to develop a genuine partnership with central governments, and just as importantly, they have to speak with one voice from a united platform to ensure that their urgent concerns are heeded and addressed.

This is why the new agreement will cover five key areas deemed of crucial importance - governance, local democracy, a new urban millennium partnership to localise the MDGs in cities, an international dialogue supported by the Advisory Group on Decentralisation (AGRED), and a stronger UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA).

As part of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, the first of the five areas of collaboration, UCLG and UN-HABITAT will provide each other access to their networks and promote the involvement of local government associations in national campaigns, mobilise resources at the global, national and local level and run joint advocacy campaigns. The second area involves jointly establishing a framework for a Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralisation (GOLD). It will look at best practices in local democracy, urban governance, and progress on decentralisation around the world.

On the MDGs, the two organisations have agreed

to strengthen the interface between national and local governments by boosting the capacity of local governments, associating other UN bodies, and working with UCLG's regional sections to promote the MDGs.

Under the AGRED framework, new efforts will promote the current international dialogue on decentralisation as mandated by various resolutions of UN-HABITAT's Governing Council. Finally, UCLG and UN-HABITAT have agreed to strengthen UNACLA to promote the local government agenda in the UN system. UNACLA's recommendations will be a vital component of their partnership in implementing the Habitat Agenda and the MDGs.

During the last decade, many of UN-HABITAT's programmes have developed substantive initiatives to support local authorities in many countries. They will continue to offer support to cities and their communities. As the predominantly rural world of our parents and grandparents recedes, today's agreement marks an historic milestone in the quest for local solutions to global goals - in the quest for poverty alleviation through participatory, sustainable urbanisation.

*Elisabeth Gateau is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments*

## DIALOGUE REPORTS

## WEDNESDAY

## Turning Vision Into Reality Through the Three Ps -- Political Will, Policy and Participation

By Wandia Seaforth

At the *Dialogue on Urban Realities*, held as part of the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona on Thursday, three compelling success stories were showcased to illustrate the importance of political will, good policies and participation in translating vision into reality. The following three cases from Morocco, Spain and South Africa have not only physically transformed cities in these countries, but also improved the quality life of their citizens.

**Policy** - Ten years ago, **Santiago de Compostela, Spain**, was a dying city. Built in medieval times, the buildings in the historic centre of the city had been decaying over the years and residents were moving out. The abandoned buildings became a security problem and this in turn accelerated the exodus from the city. The city initiated a restoration policy aimed at restoring the city while maintaining its historic character and the balance between residential and public buildings and spaces. In 1994, the city government publicized a study that outlined the state of the city and what needed to be done. Half the population of the city objected to various details of the plan and intensive public education had to be carried out to address residents' concerns.

Today, the city has recovered 2000 buildings, the historic centre is alive again and 8,000 tourists come annually. Several architectural, restoration and construction companies have acquired the expertise for restoring historic buildings using traditional materials. The university is even training modern architects on traditional skills.

However, an unintended outcome of the restoration has been social exclusion: Santiago de Compostela's historic city centre has become so fashionable that only high-income people can afford to live there. The city is trying to address this through various means but it remains an issue of concern.

**Participation** - The Moroccan city of **Tetuan** has adopted the Metropolitan City Development Strategy (CDS), an innovative city-wide demand-driven and participatory planning process. Tetuan is an excellent example of how participatory physical, social, economic and environmental planning and management can be particularly effective in reducing urban poverty and stimulating local economic development

**Political will** - Since 1994, **South Africa** has been putting in place policies and legislation to reverse decades of institutionalized exclusion. The Constitution recognizes the right of every citizen to many basic services, such as housing, water and sanitation. A series of laws backed by a comprehensive implementation strategy has increased access to clean water from 60 per cent to 83 per cent and sanitation services from 49 per cent to 60 per cent. The "Water for All" policy is based on the constitutional provision that recognizes the right of all citizens to clean water and adequate sanitation. The main objective of the recent Strategy Framework for Water Services is that all people have access to a functioning basic water supply facility by 2008 and basic sanitation facility by 2010.

## Urban Resources

Mr. Dennis Shea, the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, yesterday stressed the need to harness private sector resources to meet the needs of the urban poor. He added that while national and local governments were willing to put in equity in the form of land for slum upgrading, commercial capital was still not easily available.

Mr. Shea was speaking to participants attending Wednesday's dialogue on Urban Resources, at the Second World Urban in Barcelona. Panelists, including representatives of national and local governments, community-based organizations and financial institutions, gave examples of capital mobilization from the private sector to meet the needs of slum dwellers. In Johannesburg, South Africa, for instance, municipal bonds are being issued to fund basic services in slums.

Panelists also highlighted the fact that despite their lack of access to urban resources and finance, the urban poor in many cities still manage to build settlements. Their efforts at incremental housing must, therefore, be recognized by the finance sector, and appropriate finance products must be developed to meet their needs.

Panelists from financial institutions also raised the issue of setting appropriate interest rates that would serve the needs of the urban poor. This would require support from people themselves, who will need to save regularly, but also from governments who need to assure secure tenure. On their part, development finance institutions need to provide adequate credit guarantee mechanisms to reduce risk and make interest rates affordable.

The dialogue concluded with a set of recommendations, including adapting commercial banking and housing finance systems to the needs of the urban poor and ensuring that slum dwellers are the dominant partners in slum upgrading initiatives.

## THURSDAY

## Urban Governance, Inclusiveness and Community Empowerment: A Partners Dialogue

By Shipra Narang and Raf Tuts

Inclusiveness can too easily become "politically correct" and not subject to critical scrutiny. It is important to explore the pros and cons of inclusiveness, its scope and boundaries, and to debate on how inclusiveness can actually work in local governance.

Empowered communities are a necessary condition as well as a result of fostering inclusiveness, but is there only one way of achieving this? Do communities everywhere want to be involved? How do cities with large groups of migrants address the issue of citizenship and community empowerment? Are all forms of community empowerment equal? All these issues, the wider context they relate to, and their various ramifications, were explored during the Partners Dialogue on Urban Governance.

The Governance Dialogue was split into two parts. The first segment, held on Thursday morning, focused on the issue of

## DIALOGUE REPORTS

inclusiveness in cities. A number of speakers underlined the importance of viewing inclusion in the broader institutional context in cities. Minister Olivio Dutra of Brazil elaborated on the formal mechanisms of participation in Brazil, including innovations such as Participatory Budgeting. Other presentations generated a discussion on non-formal mechanisms of fostering inclusiveness, especially the strengthening of non-governmental and community-based organisations.

In his presentation on the case of Tanzania, Minister Charles Keenja highlighted efforts of a non-elected local authority (the Dar-es-Salaam City Commission) to build public participation in planning, implementing and monitoring development projects. Other speakers also observed that CBOs make formal institutions work more effectively. Clarence Anthony, Mayor of South Bay, Florida, said, "Inclusiveness produces efficient and effective communities." Issues of building inclusiveness in societies with large migrant populations in an otherwise homogeneous community, such as Sweden, were also discussed.

The relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and processes of fostering inclusion was strongly emphasised in the discussion. Fostering inclusiveness was viewed as a key strategy to achieving the MDGs, especially Goal 7, Target 11, on to improving the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020. It was stressed however, that Goal 7, Target 11 cannot be realised without the restructuring of current financing arrangements for housing and sanitation at a macroeconomic level.

The real issue is how to achieve inclusiveness in the urban context. It is important that the process is, and is seen to be, legitimate, transparent and open. Also, inclusion does not imply abdication of responsibility by formal structures of government. There is a strong connection between inclusiveness and structural conditions within which communities and their organisations operate, and governments must work to develop appropriate conditions for inclusiveness to occur.

The second segment of the Governance Dialogue, held on Thursday afternoon, focused on community empowerment. The discussion linked into the conclusions of the first segment. The discussion began with a quote from G. B. Shaw, "We don't mind being governed as long as we are allowed to control our governors". This set the tone of the debate, with a number of speakers underlining the importance of a vibrant civil society in holding local governments accountable.

Speakers subsequently identified ways to nurture community empowerment. Structural issues include the role of the neighbourhood, the presence of clientelist relationships, the vibrancy of the informal sector, and the presence of organized women, youth and religious groups, which all influence the potential of community empowerment.

The tension between NGOs and local authorities was repeatedly raised as an issue in the dialogue, determining whether they are competitive or complementary. Illustrations were given to show the impact of empowerment both positive and negative through different institutional arrangements.

The debate also brought out the outcomes of processes that address changing values and norms within communities, whereby fundamental transformations obtained at the level of leadership, gender, ethnic relations, and the building of social capital through such interventions. The Dialogue concluded with the recognition that empowerment is not only an end in itself, but also a means towards access for the poor to public goods such

as transportation, land and basic services. In the final analysis, inclusion is guaranteed when every urban citizen has a "Right to the City".

*Shipra Narang and Raf Tuts both work for the Urban Governance Section of UN-HABITAT.*

## Urban Renaissance for the new Millennium

*By Anantha Krishnan and Jehan Adamali*

Urban renaissance is a relatively recent concept that is especially important in today's urbanising and globalising world. It aims at providing better quality of life and livelihood to inhabitants in cities, by empowering local authorities. Notions such as decentralisation of powers and capacities in favour of local government are important in this concept. Subsidiarity is the foundation upon which the whole edifice of decentralised governance rests, including improved accountability and effective delivery of services. Other main principles are local autonomy, financial capacities and local democracy.

In his presentation, Patrick Lumumba, Secretary to the Constitution Commission of Kenya, emphasised the need for good legislations and referred to the South African constitution – a pioneering exercise in solving many of the problems faced by cities. Many African cities, however, uphold the view that the more centralised the power, the better. In his country, for example, he observed that decentralisation and devolution is done in a haphazard manner. The ministry in charge of local government is powerful and undermines local autonomy. He added that in the capital city, Nairobi, a fair representation of many African cities, the city council has little power because decisions must be approved by the Minister for Local Government.

It was made clear that links between laws and their implementation should be strengthened. The law is the starting point for decentralisation. Ordinary legislation is sometimes susceptible to easy amendment by the assembly hence we should have clauses that are not easily amendable.

Jeremy Smith, another panellist from United Cities and Local Governments, emphasised that strengthening local governments is vital not only to the wellbeing of the local communities, but also as a guardian against undemocratic forces.

Mayors Chaabi from Morocco and Gunawardana from Sri Lanka provided a strong case for financial and budgetary autonomy for cities while Mr. Mikhail Stolyarov from Russia pointed to a lack of predictable budget allocation by central governments which makes service provision in cities difficult.

Teodor Antic from Croatia was of the opinion that while the questions related to decentralisation are common to many countries, their answers differ from country to country and culture to culture and this was generally endorsed by other panellists.

Mayor Soglo of Cotonou said that central governments in Francophone countries need to provide financial support to cities and support from international financial institution needs to augment this.

There was general consensus in the ensuing discussions decentralisation is a means to make urban renaissance a reality.

## NETWORKING REPORTS

### WEDNESDAY NETWORKING EVENTS

#### Youth and the urban environment

More than 100 young people turned out on Wednesday to discuss urban safety problems organized by the Dutch National Youth Council. There were films and presentations by young people from South Africa, Uganda, Burundi, El Salvador and The Netherlands showing how the interests, dignity and strength of urban youth are central to creating safer cities.

The event attracted young people from Spain, France, Poland, United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Mozambique, and other countries, as well as a number of mayors from Africa.

### THURSDAY NETWORKING EVENTS

#### Managing Information for Local Environment

It is a normal, busy day for the councillors. The city is divided about plans from an investor who wants to build a modern dumpsite. People from the area are furious: "Thousands will have to be reallocated", says one. "There is a plot which is far more suitable to the south", another. Others insist on the necessity of the project: "We need this dumpsite so urgently. Just think about all these illegal dumpsites". It seems impossible to make the right decision. But then, the councillors have the right set of tools.

They have established an Environmental Management Information System (EMIS), because information is crucial to any urban management activity. This truism is taken into consideration by establishing environment databases and establishing GIS units in many cities worldwide.

But the councillors find a 2 page report with detailed maps about the location lying on their tables. In a short Power Point Presentation, the Town Clerk describes the method used to identify the plot. He states that 50 families who moved there without permission will be given a new home not far away. Finally, he emphasizes the need for the dumpsite because the Working Group for Solid Waste had found that illegal dumpsites are scattered throughout the town, often near streams and wells and therefore a threat for the citizens using the water.

Such, or very similar, decisions are taken in Lusaka, Zambia, nowadays. Sounds great – but does it really work? Can it be improved? This was the essence of Thursday's networking event

This was the theme of yesterday's networking discussion on

#### Managing Information for Local Environments.

Practitioners from Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Zambia gave their hands-on experience in EMIS processes. The MILES initiative is based on a partnership between the cities of Munich and Vitoria-Gasteiz, and the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (SLILG). The project is co-financed by the European Commission through the EuropeAid Asia Pro.

#### Land and urban poverty

About 70 experts and stakeholders from around the world, including a slum dweller and a government minister, discussed urban land tenure security, the provision of land and recommendations on land in the context of alleviating urban poverty. Key issues for the urban poor were raised and examples of pro poor and gender sensitive alternatives were presented.

Tenure is often interpreted as legal access to land. Sufficient legal access through a continuum of land rights for securing tenure means cities can recognize the rights of the poor to be on the land. Clarissa Augustinus of UN-HABITAT said legalising access to land can address urban poverty and that the practice of local authorities excluding slum dwellers from development and services is a result of their initial illegal access to the land in the city.

"We need the support of professional experts," said Mr. Holger Magel, President of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). "We need to look at different tenure types not just the best cadastral systems of the world, and see what is appropriate for different countries."

Minar Pimple from People's Movement for Human Rights Education (PDHRE) stated that the key issue is to avoid forced evictions and argued that appropriate alternatives must be provided.

Lorna Juliet Amutojo from the Uganda Land Alliance highlighted the importance of having a decentralised land management system in place which is affordable and accessible for all. Alanna Hartzok from the Earth Rights Institute acknowledged the obvious linkages between land and conflicts.

#### Tourism Sustainable Urbanisation and Poverty Alleviation

How can tourism be converted into an effective agent of change for poverty alleviation? This was the predominant question at Wednesday afternoon's Tourism, Sustainable Urbanisation and Poverty Alleviation networking event.

Opening the event was Mr. Eugenio Yunis, Head, Sustainable Development of Tourism, World Tourism Organization. "Sustainable tourism can be a powerful tool to alleviate poverty" he said. He encouraged the audience to look at the increasing effect of tourism on young economies citing some \$142 billion worth of receipts from developing countries alone in 2001.

Mr. Yunis and other panelists named a recurring series of benefits that tourism carries to developing world economies including, the preservation of cultural assets, creation of jobs, and the stimulation of supporting industries.

Mr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh, Elmina Heritage Programme/ Urban Solutions, was determined to convert the benefits of tourism towards the development of his own city of Elmina, Ghana. Attracting some 100,000 tourists a year, Elmina has until now devoted little attention to developing the industry, often considered simply an afternoon stop by tourists. Mr. Sarfoh's program seeks to expand the local appeal of the city, making it



## NETWORKING REPORTS

more attractive to investors and tourists alike.

But not all effects on tourism are positive. Increasingly, in places such as Agadir, Morocco, the environment has suffered from over-development, prices have increased, and societal problems such as prostitution have grown. Said Agadir's mayor, The Honourable Tariq Kabbage, "We want tourism that will not affect the moral integrity of the population."

### First Global Hip Hop Summit

The first Global Hip Hop Summit took place Thursday 16 September 15H00 to 18h00. The Summit was attended by approximately 120 people including youth, Hip Hop artists, the media and music industries. The *Messengers of Truth Project* was presented by two global programmes of UN-HABITAT - the Safer Cities Programme and the Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme. The discussions were held in a true dialogue fashion and centred on issues of building trust, transparency, follow up structures and continuity in involving youth and the Hip Hop community.

Strong statements were made to respect the knowledge, the spirit and the grass roots origins of the Hip Hop movement and culture. Many suggestions were put forward on the ways and means of keeping the *Messengers of Truth* project "close to the street" and for it to engage in concrete action in support of ongoing youth and community development initiatives, many of which have been initiated by the artists themselves. A Framework Declaration of Principles and Call for Action was adopted by acclamation for presentation at UN-HABITAT's 20<sup>th</sup> Governing Council next year.

### Local Economic Development

"Partnerships, patience and strong leadership are key conditions to get results in local economic development," said Francine Sénécal, the Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal, summarizing the networking session on Local Economic Development (LED).

William Trousdale of EcoPlan International from Vancouver, Canada, said LED is a long-term activity and not a "quick fix," Ms. Gwen Swinburn of the World Bank said "foreign direct investment or support to one or two firms will probably not be the answer to local economic development. Instead, concentrating on enabling local businesses grow is what is needed".

Ms. Lael Bethlehem offered lessons from Johannesburg, South Africa. In her experience "there is a question of scale" and different strategies are required for different contexts." She emphasized that "LED should be thought of as part of the broader development approach and that participation should be perceived as a means, and not an end in itself".

The International Labour Organization experience was brought to the session by Mr. Kees van der Ree. "Decent jobs," he said, "are very much in demand." Their approach to LED include a sectoral, not only a territorial one. According to Mr. Van der Ree "to affect broad-based change, often improving the regulatory framework is very effective".

### Values-based Water and Sanitation education

Mr. Kalyan Ray of UN-HABITAT outlined the objective of the session to share experiences and best practices from Africa, Asia and other regions. He highlighted the importance of human values as the basis for formal and informal education on water and sanitation in schools and utilities. To realize the Millennium Development Goals on water and Sanitation, Dr. John Ashe, Chair of the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD 13), emphasised the need to create a new water and sanitation ethic.

Dr. Victor Kanu from Zambia shared Value Based Water Education experiences from Africa and explained how the programme has succeeded in six countries. Dr. Art-Ong Jumsai from Thailand gave a model of education in which human values were fully integrated. Dr. Lakshmi Seetharam from the Philippines explained how three main players viz the private sector, government and institutions in her country were meeting the challenge of providing water in schools.

Meanwhile, Ms. Silverani Padayachee from South Africa explained the principles of Values-Based Water and Sanitation Classrooms. Dr. Hakan Tropp from the Stockholm International Water Institute highlighted the importance of Water Classrooms in Sweden while Mrs. Debra and Mr. William Miller from USA outlined the Strategies for Improving the Water Sector by integrating human values.

Dr. Roshan Shrestha from Nepal explained how the challenge of water shortage was being met through several initiatives including Rainwater Harvesting for Schools.

Dr. K.E. Seetharam ADB, Manila, highlighted several value-based Lessons Learned from the implementation of their projects in various parts of the world. These included promoting good hygiene and health practices, reducing non-revenue water, practicing demand side management and involvement of beneficiaries at all project stages.

### Winter Cities: North/North Network for sustainability and Leadership

While the conditions for inhabitants of cities in northern latitudes have, mostly, been accommodating to better health, greater economic opportunities and satisfying lifestyles, the aggregate footprints of consumption of many of these cities and regions have grown troublesome and threatening to larger global ecosystems, raising concerns about ecological sustainability of all cities

Winter Cities, was organised by the Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities (JCI), Nebraska, USA, the Far Eastern Academy for Management and Economics, Vladivostok, Russia; Green Cross, China, together with the BLP of UN-HABITAT. A new organization, the North/North Network for Urban Sustainability and Leadership.

Next steps will include expansion of the network of partners, centers and institutions; development of criteria and methods for identifying urban and leadership best practices and prioritizing for model projects and events to demonstrate best practices.



## PARALLEL EVENTS

## Staking a claim for youth at Vancouver 2006

*By Mutinta Munyati*

The City of Vancouver hosted a panel discussion on youth and local government attended by 50 conference participants on Wednesday to examine how young people can be made to feel their voices are heard and brought more into the mainstream for the next World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006.

At a parallel conference in Barcelona chaired by Kevin Millsip, Trustee of the Vancouver School Board, delegates discussed how to integrate young people into local government and local governance through participatory research.

A key message from the panelists was that youth were active leaders in their community, yet often unable to be involved because of adult politicians or institutions. All panelists felt that young people need resources to support their own programmes for their cities and their neighbourhoods.

For the Third World Urban Forum, they insisted that young people should be included, possibly by having a conference several days prior to the Vancouver convention.

They also said delegates from developing countries would require assistance, and support in getting visas to come to Canada, and they appealed to the Canadian government and UN-HABITAT to start planning for this early. Delegates said they really appreciated the fact that Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT had addressed their congress in Barcelona this week, and said they considered it as a strong signal of support.

The appealed to institutions at the World Urban Forum to work more closely with young people.

In another step on the road to Vancouver 2006, more than 80 young people discussed the links between youth and the urban environment at a separate workshop organized by the Environmental Youth Alliance of Canada and a group called Bruit de Frigo from France.

Participants felt that the linkage between cities and rural communities was an issue that had to be dealt with, as poor transportation links, and services, led to unsafe conditions for young people who traveled between the two.

The workshop also focused on how architects, city planners and politicians need to include youth in designing cities. Youth, who want spaces for themselves, such as skate parks, often find themselves competing for space with commercial ventures.

Several felt a new definition of citizenship should recognize youth as an asset to their communities, and balance any inequities in power with subsequent resources. Any youth councils created had to be independent, and not token groups created to advance non-youth political agendas. A suggestion was made that corporations could be asked for money to support youth spaces.

*Mutinta Munyati is a human settlements officer in UN-HABITAT's Partners and Youth section.*

## An open letter to the World Urban Forum

*By Stephen Hawranick Serra*

A group of Spanish and international architects and city planning experts appealed to the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona on Wednesday to make the right to neighbourhoods and cities part of a participatory and self-managed process by citizens rather than system based on purchasing power.

At a parallel meeting, they called on delegates to promote sustainable and equitable economic social systems for all. They said it was important that a local neighbourhood should not be considered as a segregated unit of a city, but rather as a "basic component of its own complexity".

The appeal was made in a joint statement signed by the Habitat International Coalition, the Centro de Cooperacio per el Desenvolupament UPC, Arquitectos sin Fronteras, Arquitectura y Compromiso Social, Programa XIV VYTED, Grupo de investigacion y Deasrrollo U Las Palmas de gran Canaria, and Architects without Borders International.

They also called on authorities "to demand from public administrations specific policies, legislation and economic support for disadvantaged neighbourhoods to deliver just a proper answers to habitat problems". Neighbourhoods should be seen as territorites where public administrations must guarantee basic rights to culture, work, health, education and housing. "In the case of the city, this must be done in each and every one of its neighbourhoods," their statement said.

Multilateral organizations had to maintain investments in the most disadvantaged city districts with broad programmes in which the inhabitants themselves are involved.

"We must push, at the public administration level, for imposed or quota policies on the private sector so that they provide dignified social housing with shared management and control with the users," the statement said.

## PARALLEL EVENTS

## A joint initiative of the European Union and UN-HABITAT

By Jean B. Bakole

For the past three years, UN-HABITAT and the European Commission have been engaged in a process of reinforcing collaboration in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with specific reference to urban poverty reduction.

At a special event on Wednesday 15 September 2004 at the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona, in the presence of representatives from more than 10 EU Member States and other diplomats the European Commission- Research Directorate and UN-HABITAT launched the joint brochure on *Creating a World of Sustainable Cities*, marking the beginning of a further stage in the ongoing cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the European Union.

Mr Daniel Biau, Deputy Executive Director, on behalf the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, launched this brochure with Mr Eric Ponthieu, Head of Sector, Directorate General for Research, European Commission (EC).

In his welcoming message, Mr Biau said UN-HABITAT and the Research Directorate had common programme interests in the areas of sustainable urban land – use development and management, including sustainable housing, water and sanitation and in the preservation of urban cultural heritage. He added that the two organizations also had common interests

in the eradication of urban poverty, good and effective urban governance and generally in the realization of the globally adopted Millennium Development Goals – particularly MDG-7 on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability.

“The launch of this brochure”, said Mr Ponthieu, “is of vital importance to both UN-HABITAT and the European Commission, as the research carried out by our two institutions is very much driven by the need to resolve urban problems and to apply new cost effective solutions.”

The new brochure carries a broad mix of case studies where research has led to measurable impacts and net improvements to the life of city dwellers. Mr Ponthieu added that the brochure in itself will certainly not suffice in addressing this goal, but marks the start of a process.

In line with this, he announced that both the establishment of a common database of research results and a joint EU-UN-HABITAT Conference scheduled in China in the autumn of 2005 to further complement the ongoing cooperation activities between UN-HABITAT and the European Commission.

*Jean B. Bakole is Acting Head of UN-HABITAT Liaison Office with the EU*



*Mr Eric Ponthieu of the European Commission and Mr. Daniel Biau of UN-HABITAT announcing a new era of cooperation between the two institutions.*

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# Information for Delegates

## Where to find documents

In your information pack, you will find a book each on Dialogues and Networking Events, a folder with information on organizational aspects, special events, the exhibition and other general conference matters, and brochures on Barcelona and the Universal Forum of Cultures.

You will also find:

- additional papers on particular dialogues and networking events will be placed on tables inside the meeting rooms
- a daily copy of this journal, Conference News, on the first floor of the Convention Centre, at the entrance of the networking event rooms. The paper will highlight the key events of each day and report on the previous day's proceedings
- information for specific delegations, e.g., invitations to closed meetings or receptions, in the pigeon holes on the ground floor of the Convention Centre opposite the Information Desk and Exhibition Room.

## Distribute your documents

If you have documents to distribute for a particular networking event, please contact the staff at the information desk on the first floor or contact Ramadhan Indiya at the mobile number 627 118 861. You will need to provide enough copies for participants of your meeting at least 30 minutes before the meeting starts. Only meeting-specific documents are allowed in the meeting rooms.

## Exhibition and Publications

Visit the Exhibition Room on the ground floor of the Convention Centre where many participants are showing their work. Some of the stalls, including the UN-HABITAT stand also have publications on a wide range of human settlement issues. The huge exhibition area also houses a business centre, café, and cinema in addition to the many exhibition stands.

## Business Centre/ Informal Meeting Area

A business center with five Internet enabled computers and a printer is located in the Exhibition Room on the ground floor of the Convention Centre. The business center also offers an informal meeting area. Another ten Internet computers can be found in the main lobby of the Convention Centre.

## Café

Also located in the Exhibition Room is a refreshments area with hot and cold drinks for sale.

## Facilities for Panelists

Panelists for the Dialogue and Networking Event have access to facilities in the Speakers' Room 118 to prepare for their meeting. Facilities include computers, a printer and a photocopier. If you plan to show a film or Powerpoint presentation at your meeting, please give your tape VHS (PAL format), DVD (Region 2 format), CD or diskette to the Forum personnel in the Speaker's room as far in advance as possible and let them know the date, time and room of the presentations.

## Show your film

A small cinema has been set up in the Exhibition Room to show films from our partners. If you have an interesting short film (20 minutes or less), VHS (any format) or DVD, please contact Irene Juma at the UN-HABITAT exhibition stand or call mobile number 699 895 033. The daily Conference News will show the film programme for each day.

## Organise a press conference

If you have a newsworthy event, please contact the Head of our Press and Media Relations, Sharad Shankardass, who coordinates all the press conferences. His mobile number is 660 524 702 or email him at Sharad.Shankardass@unhabitat.org.

## Organise a reception

Some delegations have requested facilities for holding private meetings or receptions. The company TILES A can assist with this. Please contact TILES A at telephone number 934 537 389. If you need help in distributing invitations to particular delegations, contact the staff at the pigeon holes on the ground floor of the Convention Centre or call Ramadhan Indiya on mobile number 627 118 861.

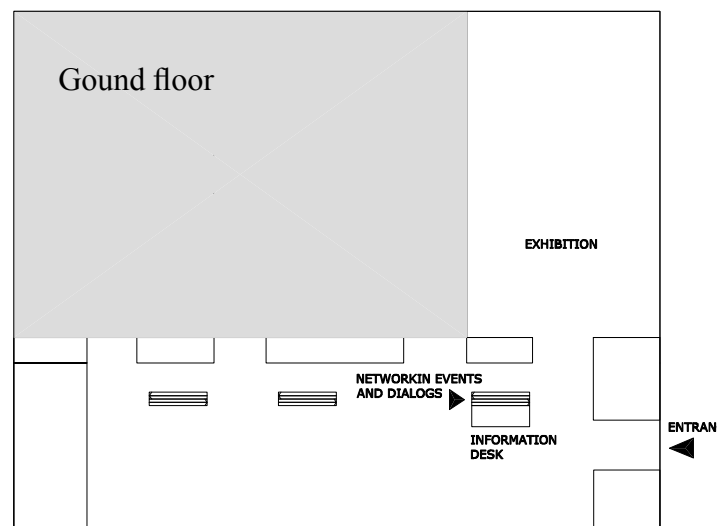
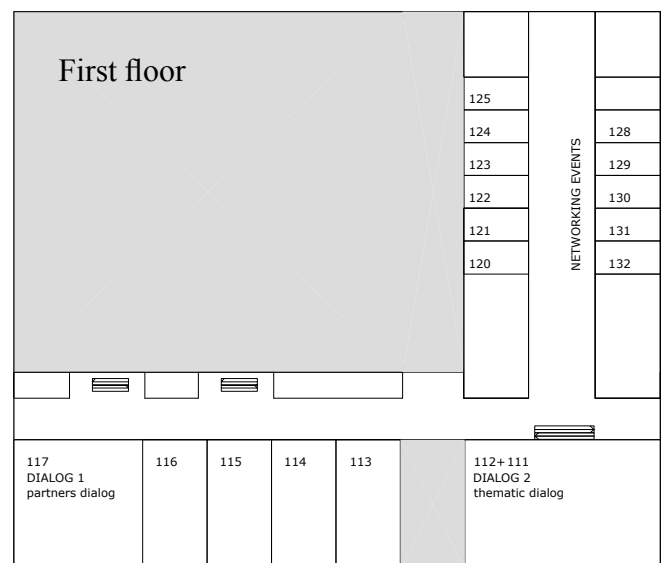
## Gift Centre

Visit the UN-HABITAT stand in the Exhibition Room where a few promotional items are available for those who want a memento of their time in Barcelona at the World Urban Forum!

## First Aid

A First Aid center is available on the Forum site. Please speak to the staff at the information booth just outside the Convention Center.

## Map of the Forum building



## WUF IN PIXELS



**World leaders, mayors and ordinary members of the public from around the world flocked to the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona this week for a talking fest aimed at making cities around the world more inclusive, safer and better governed.**