

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

**NANJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
3-6 NOVEMBER 2008**

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OVERVIEW

The fourth session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, 3-6 November 2008, was attended by approximately 7,800 participants from some 155 countries. The exhibition attracted more than 20,000 visitors in four days.

In clear messages to policy makers at every level of national and local government, the Forum cited the need for policies and interventions to ensure that the growing legions of urban poor in a rapidly urbanising world do not get left behind.

The Forum, at many levels and in many debates, stressed the importance of the link between overcoming urban poverty and winning the battle against the scourges of climate change.

There was much debate on the critical challenge of affordable housing finance, and ways of tapping into the global financial system to which all cities are linked to bring improvements to this problem area.

There was wide agreement that attaining the Millennium Development Goals is a major contributor here, and that governments had to provide better support for cities and local authorities in the quest for safer, cleaner, greener, inclusive cities with affordable housing for all. The private sector also needed to be encouraged and supported to do more for the urban communities in which it operates.

There was a clear consensus on the imperative of having all key actors (state, non-state and international organizations) at all levels of governance (local, city, national etc.) to work in partnership in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

For UN-Habitat's *Medium term institutional and strategic plan* (MTISP), the World Urban Forum was a watershed that served to reinforce and firmly establish several of its main pillars: the centrality of partnerships, governance, affordable housing and services and strengthening housing finance systems for sustainable urbanization.

Therefore, the recommendations emerging from the World Urban Forum will be used to guide UN-Habitat's ongoing MTSIP activities.

Harmonious Urbanization

The theme of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, *harmonious urbanization*, encompassed the environmental and economic cornerstones of sustainable development as well as the critical, but often neglected human element. The idea as stated by many delegates from around the world has always been to keep the individual at the centre of all urban policy making.

The *Harmonious urbanization* concept also encompassed the less measurable dimensions of sustainable development such as culture, whether contemporary or heritage, identity, respect for diversity and a sense of belonging. These elements constituted the soul of the city, the elements that give it meaning. They determine the extent to which people take pride in their city and thus their commitment to shaping its future.

The Forum also conveyed the message that an important aspect of harmonious urbanization is balanced territorial development. And it emphasized the role of civil society as a key partner in the quest for harmonious cities and sustainable urban management.

The particular vulnerability of indigenous peoples to the effects of chaotic and unplanned urbanization was highlighted. The Forum further stressed the continuing need to incorporate gender issues into all housing and urban development policies and programmes.

The meeting further cited employment, and in particular, decent work, as a fundamental means of achieving harmonious cities.

Partners

UN-HABITAT's partners used the World Urban Forum creatively to deepen and widen networks, and to get a clearer idea of where they all stand in promoting sustainable urbanization. The Forum also provided partner networks an opportunity to work together in ways not possible at previous sessions of the World Urban Forum.

The Forum was praised as an interactive exchange platform for the world's cities and was hailed by participants as a great success.

Development agencies at the World Urban Forum, for the first time at such biennial gatherings, viewed inter-agency cooperation and partnership no longer as an option, but as a necessity.

They recognized that the enormity of the challenge of rapid urbanization demands a higher degree of coordinated action. The seriousness of rising oil and food prices, the global credit crisis, and climate change elevated this need and forced discussion among agencies about new ways of collaborating. Consultations throughout the four days included UN-HABITAT, the World Bank, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNODC, UNESCO, and regional financial institutions, among others.

Participating national government delegations engaged in spirited exchanges throughout the World Urban Forum. The opening plenary, ministerial round table, dialogues, and networking events enabled governments to share their respective urban policies and interventions. The peer exchange among governments stimulated each to articulate, with greater clarity, how they planned to achieve sustainable urbanization. Participating governments included over 50 member States from 5 continents. And they represented a wide range of portfolios such as housing, finance, environment and land.

Representatives of 1,000 cities and 120 local government associations representing half the world's population gathered in Nanjing for the Forum. For mayors, councillors and city administrators, Nanjing provided them the opportunity to set their priorities. At previous sessions of the World Urban Forum in Nairobi, Barcelona and Vancouver, local authorities participated in great numbers but they pursued a disparate agenda ranging from finance to land regularization, from infrastructure to local economic development. In Nanjing, however, participating local authorities and their associations agreed to focus on decentralization and capacity building. They agreed that governments and municipalities had to strengthen their cooperation and translate challenges into opportunities. Thus, high on their agenda were the *Guidelines for decentralization* adopted by the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in 2007.

Also in focus were strategies to address capacity gaps at both the elected and administrative levels to deal with rapid urbanization.[Figures cited at top here are from the UCLG Co-President, Zhang Guangning]

For non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the Forum reiterated the importance of alliances, of reaching out to as many communities and people in need as possible, and of projecting a more powerful voice. Nanjing provided an open, inclusive opportunity for NGOs to define their agenda more sharply so as to communicate with private companies, governments, urban poor organizations, professional associations, and local authorities. It enabled them to advance their vision of sustainable urbanization. NGO participants included over 200 youth groups, development organizations, membership associations, women's groups and research and advocacy organizations.

More than 500 young people from youth groups around the world joined members of the Nanjing Youth Federation at the World Urban Youth Forum for two days from 1 to 2 November 2008. The meeting, the third of its kind held on the eve of the World Urban Forum, discussed the concerns and aspirations of young people growing up in a rapidly urbanizing world. They released a statement calling on governments to back the UN-Habitat *Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development* launched at the World Urban Forum with support from the Government of Norway. The need to engage with youth as key actors in policy development for harmonious urbanization was underlined.

Urban poor organizations participated in the Forum with a noticeably higher degree of sophistication. In past forums these groups had sought primarily to appeal to governments to promote people's centered approaches in service delivery and housing programmes. In Nanjing they expanded this strategy by engaging directly with private sector banks, financial institutions, and water utilities, as well as local and central governments. Urban poor organizations included representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Canada, and the United States.

In like manner, the private sector enhanced its understanding of its role in helping cities manage rapid urbanization. By aligning business activities with social and environmental concerns in a mutually beneficial manner, the private sector saw a significant role to play to improve the overall quality of life and access to basic services for all citizens, in close coordination with local and national governments. Whereas in previous meetings of the World Urban Forum private companies focused on corporate social responsibility, in Nanjing, they described how they are contributing to more sustainable urban development. The private sector defined five objectives in its drive for better cities: Affordable housing solutions; sustainable water, sanitation, waste management and infrastructure; clean urban energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation; innovative ICT solutions; and disaster mitigation and post-disaster reconstruction. It was emphasised that governments and local authorities should create an enabling governance and regulatory environment to facilitate private sector investments which can improve the lives of the urban poor. Participating private sector representatives included over 50 private firms.

Members of professional associations also engaged more fully with the World Urban Forum. This was especially so for planners who recognized the enormous challenge of helping cities plan for and manage rapid urbanization, combat poverty and address climate change. They reiterated the call for all spheres of governments to address capacity gaps in planning. Nanjing also afforded associations of quantity surveyors, water operators, architects and

housing developers and municipal officers a chance to debate on many fronts. Both the various meetings and the exhibition facilitated opportunities for networking and exchange among more than 75 professional associations at the World Urban Forum.

Universities met at the World Urban Forum to try and bridge the gap between research, education, policy development and practice in the area of sustainable urban development. Over 15 universities from as many countries prepared inputs for the Forum. Many of these inputs are of direct relevance to the further development of the UN-Habitat University Network within the framework of the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-NET), a global initiative of UN-Habitat.

UN-Habitat coordinated 23 training events that drew a total of 850 participants at an average of 37 participants per event. Approximately half of the events were delivered by United Nations agencies, while the other half were delivered by international training institutions. The participants' evaluation of the events was very positive with an overall average of 3.8 out of a maximum score of 5.0

UN-Habitat also launched the State of the World's Cities Report in various locations across the world. During the Forum national media coverage was excellent with a great deal of coverage in the local Chinese newspapers, radio and television.

However, the international media coverage of the Forum was more modest due to a number of constraints. Chief amongst these was the fact that the event fell on the same dates as the US Presidential election. Budgetary constraints related to the global financial crisis also prevented a number of international agencies from sending correspondents to the Forum. This made for more modest coverage in the international press. [ISS is preparing a full report which will be inserted as an Annex]

Affordable Housing Finance

The World Urban Forum highlighted the fact that provision of basic services and affordable housing was no longer just a sectoral objective – but rather a strategic means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Never before had housing and urban development become more central to the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable urban development; and never before had the Habitat Agenda been more relevant. Governments and municipalities therefore had to strengthen their cooperation so as to turn challenges into opportunities. The private sector and foreign investors had to be welcomed as partners. Sustainable cities with affordable housing required the support of governments and parliaments, and ordinary people had to be brought more into the decision making process.

Despite the economic crisis, capital markets could still play an important role in facilitating the provision of low-cost housing. The key was that there had to be responsible leaders, responsible counterparts, responsible investors and responsible end-users. There is a case for governments in less developed economies to put financial instruments to good use in providing low cost housing for people in need. Private companies employing large numbers of people had to play a more active role in improving living standards in the communities in which they operate.

Urban development and urban change was often oriented towards producing for profit and hence serving those with higher purchasing power. As a result, low income earners and the

poorest tended to be excluded from urban spaces and access to services. Consequently, whenever an economic crisis hit, as happened at the time of the Forum, numerous urban facilities including houses were simply left vacant.

One clear message that emerged from the discussions is the consensus on overcoming the income divide which led to deprivations in shelter, water and sanitation, among other basic needs. Against the backdrop of the current global financial crisis, the need to mobilize sufficient finance to enable the bottom billion people to access affordable housing was underscored.

Cities and Climate Change

The Forum stressed that no successful city in the modern world can afford to ignore the effects of climate change. Among the greatest stresses it carries, besides the risk of growingly violent tropical storms, are rising sea levels. Thus, harmonious urban growth has to go hand-in-hand with disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction. And here early warning and better surveillance systems are of paramount importance. It is vital to climate change mitigation that cities start by cutting their waste output and emissions, and that they consume less energy.

In many countries of the developing world, declining agricultural productivity due to climate change related weather patterns, population pressures and, in some cases, conflict as well, are pushing greater numbers of rural residents towards cities.

The nexus between rapid and chaotic urbanization and climate change has multiple impacts on highly vulnerable groups particularly women, youth and the very poor. The need for coordinated and joint action in this regard at the normative and implementation levels was emphasized.

Numerous practices were presented and discussed at the World Urban Forum highlighting the actions taken and results achieved to date by cities to reduce their ecological footprints and their carbon emissions. The emerging groundswell of local initiatives underlines the need for international and national decision-making processes to integrate the cities and climate change agenda in post-Kyoto mechanisms and regime. And by far the best approach to tackle climate change related challenges in cities is through rational urban planning using a people-centred approach.

Engagement

In line with the call of Vancouver to turn ideas into action, and building on the recommendations of the State of the World's Cities Report 2008, Nanjing witnessed the emergence of new concepts and operational methods. One of the key developments that emerged is the higher-order engagements of cities with local, regional and international actors. Based on synergies between different actors, these higher-order engagements go beyond the traditional scope of enabling policies and legislation. They are not confined to conventional compacts or agreements between, for example the local authority and the business community, or a local authority and trade unions. Rather, they consist of citywide visioning and strategic planning exercises involving actors, actions and resources at different levels. While specific actions may be initiated or led by different combinations of actors, they fit, much like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, into a larger and more coherent whole. This larger,

comprehensive whole contains high-level values and goals, such as a greener or cleaner city, and corresponding strategies and investment programmes focusing on such areas as employment, housing or transport.

Compelling examples of this form of strategic planning and visioning are found throughout Chinese cities and in Nanjing itself. Local authorities, as described by a Chinese participant, provide the overall framework for urban development through the selling of development rights to the private sector. The private sector invests in housing while the local authority uses part of its proceeds to finance further infrastructure development and investment opportunities. This generates employment and creates wealth.

Gender and Inter-generational Issues

The Forum underscored the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment and the contribution of these to the Millennium Development Goals. It also noted that addressing gender issues in urban planning and management helps cities become more socially and culturally inclusive. In particular, a call was made for all States to ensure that women's equal right to land, housing, property and secure tenure is respected and promoted. Knowledge and tools for this exist; the critical need is for local governments to apply these at scale, fully taking into account women's concerns. The Forum also underscored that women's potential to contribute to harmonious urbanization should be capitalized as illustrated by the important role of women in mobilizing community savings for financing human settlements development.

It was also made clear during the Forum that urban planning had to take into account the needs of all age groups. And this meant providing for access for all generations to opportunities, services, shelter, welfare, and infrastructure.

Global Economic Crisis

The Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum was held in the midst of a devastating global financial crisis rooted in a huge increase in mortgage defaults caused by poor quality underwriting and a sudden rise and fall in house prices. The combined impact of these two processes on the international financial markets underscored, more than ever before, the need for governments and international organizations to ensure a balanced -- or harmonious -- approach to harness the benefits of market forces while limiting their negative impact on the poor and disadvantaged segments of society.

The deliberations during the Forum highlighted the lessons learned from this and similar financial crises in the past, as well as the possible ways forward. These included the strengthening of global and national financial regulatory frameworks, and improving the flow of financial information on government interventions. They also involve strengthening financial literacy of borrowers, greater use of micro-finance for progressive home construction in developing country cities, and a review of the international financial architecture.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The World Urban Forum was organized and convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements in which the Commission requested the Executive Director “to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the co-ordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.” Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/206, that the Forum would be a “non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet.” At the same session, the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 56/205, encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

2. The theme of the Fourth Session of World Urban Forum was ‘Harmonious Urbanization’. Six dialogues focused on the following aspects of harmonious urbanization: territorial balance in urban development; promoting social equity and inclusiveness; making cities productive and equitable; harmonizing the built and natural environments; preserving the historical roots and soul of the city and a city for all generations. In addition, 8 roundtables brought Habitat Agenda partner in peer group sessions to share experiences and views on the Forum theme. Over 72 networking events, 70 habitat seminars and training events were also held.

II. ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

A. Attendance

3. The Fourth session of the World Urban Forum was held in Nanjing, People’s Republic of China, from 3-6 November 2008. A total of 15,730 people registered on-line for the Forum, including 7,900 participants who attended the Forum. 24% of the participants are from local authorities, 13.5% from national government, 14.3% from non-governmental organizations, 13% from the private sector, and 11% from academia. The host city provided 568 volunteers. The table below show the breakdown by category for registered participants.
Table to be inserted. Insert information on the youth...

B. Opening Ceremony

4. The Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum opened with a welcoming ceremony followed by statements by dignitaries and key partners. The Keynote Address was delivered by H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, was read on his behalf, by Mr. Sha Zukang, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. H.E. Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China, served as Master of

Ceremony. Statements were also presented at the opening ceremony by the following dignitaries and partners. A summary of these statements is provided in Annex I.

- a. Hon. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing
- b. Hon. Luo Zhi Jun, Governor of Jiangsu Province
- c. H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum
- d. The message of the Secretary-General
- e. H.E. Zhang Dejiang, Vice-Premier of the People’s Republic of China
- f. Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director UN-Habitat
- g. Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya
- h. H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- i. H.E. Noli de Castro, Vice President, the Republic of the Philippines

6. There followed a presentation of a film on Nanjing, the 2008 winner of the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour. UN-Habitat’s Executive Director then presented the award to the Mayor of Nanjing. Another film on the Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa UN-Habitat Award was then screened after which H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat presented the 2008 Award to representatives of the Green Brigade of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Summaries of the abovementioned statements are provided in **Annex I**.

C. Opening Plenary Session

7. The session began with the statement by Captain John Zefania Chiligati, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Co-Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.

8. The session was chaired by H.E. Jiang Weixin¹, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China. Statements were delivered by the following dignitaries:

- a. Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Poverty Alleviation of India and President of the Governing Council
- b. Sir John Kaputin, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

¹ Represented by his deputy, Mr. Qi Ji.

- c. Mr. Zhang Guangning, Mayor of Guangzhou, P.R. China and Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- d. Mr. Peter Goetz, Member of the German Bundestag and President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
- e. Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary
- f. Mr. Davinder Lamba, President of the Habitat International Coalition

Summaries of the above-mentioned statements are provided in **Annex II**

8. At its first plenary session, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for its Fourth Session:

- a. Adoption of the agenda
- b. Establishment of an Advisory Group for the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum
- c. Organization of work

D. Establishment of an Advisory Group

9. The Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, H.E. Jiang Weixin², Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China announced the names of the members of the Advisory Group for the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum. The terms of reference of the Advisory Group were to advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of all the meetings and events which took place during the Fourth Session of the Forum. The members of the Advisory Group were:

- a. H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum and Chair of the Advisory Group
- b. Mr. Morten Wasstol, Junior Minister for International Cooperation and the Environment of Norway, Co-Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum and Co-Chair of the Advisory Group
- c. Mr. Gerald C. Anderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, United States of America
- d. Mr. Sergey Kruglik, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Russian Federation³

² Represented by his deputy Mr. Qi Ji

³ Represented by H.E. Mr. Valery Yegoshkin , Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat

- e. Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), France
- f. Senator Eloy Cantu Segovia, Vice President, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Mexico
- g. Mr. Davinder Lamba, President, Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Kenya
- h. Ms. Christine Platt, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners South Africa;
- i. Mr. Miguel Toro, President, Inspire Leaders Inc. and Executive Coordinator CASH (Caribbean Affordable Sustainable Houses), Puerto Rico

E. Organization of Work

10. The forum adopted its organization of work as proposed by the Executive Director in document HSP/WUF/4/1/Add.1 entitled “Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work” which contained the conference programme and the schedule of events.

F. Plenary Session 4 November 2008

11. The plenary session on ‘Equity in Cities’ was moderated by Mr. Robert Hunter, President of the American Planning Association. The session discussed the collaboration of civil society, government and private sector to achieve social equity and inclusiveness in cities. Speakers at this plenary session were:

- a. Mr. Abdoulie Jannah, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- b. Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director UN-Habitat
- c. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya
- d. Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Director United Nations Office in Vienna, Executive Director United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- e. Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing
- f. Mr. Greg Peng, Head of Global Commercial Real Estate in China, Merrill Lynch

A summary report of this session is provided in **Annex III**.

G. Plenary Session on 5 November 2008

12. The Plenary session on Safe and Productive Cities was moderated by Mr. Guang Chen, Sector Manager Urban and Water Unit at in America and the Caribbean Region, World Bank.

The session discussed matters of urban harmony, cities without slums and mitigation against climate change and other disasters. Speakers at this plenary session were:

- a. Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works, Republic of Indonesia
- b. Hon. Ian Wright, the British Parliamentary Secretary for housing

A summary report of this session is provided in **Annex IV**.

H. Dialogues

13. The report on the results and conclusions of the dialogues which were held on 8 themes on harmonious urbanization is contained in **Annex V**.

I. Roundtables

14. The report on the Roundtables which were held at the Fourth session of the World Urban Forum is contained in **Annex VI**.

J. Special Sessions

15. A number of special sessions on specific subjects relevant to the forum theme were organized. A report on these special sessions is contained in **Annex VII**.

K. Networking Events

16. A series of over 72 networking events were organized on the theme of the Forum. These events provided participants with an opportunity to build knowledge, strengthen partnerships and share ideas and best practices. In addition, over 70 Habitat Seminars were organized were organized to impart skills to urban practitioners. A list of these events is contained in **Annex VIII**.

L. EXHIBITION

Over 30,000 people visited the exhibition which featured exhibits from 100 Chinese cities
....[to be completed by Jane]

III. Arrangements of the 5th Session of the World Urban Forum

[to be completed by Rolf]

IV. Endorsement of the Report on the Session

The Advisory Group endorsed the present report on its work at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum for submission by the Chair to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The Advisory Group also noted with appreciation the Nanjing Call for Harmonious Urbanization which is annexed to the report.

I. Closing

The closing session was opened by the representative of the Chair of , Deputy Mayor Lu Bing of the City of Nanjing and, after the presentation of the report of the Advisory Group of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, statements were made by the following speakers:

- a) Mr. Morten Wasstol, Junior Minister for International Cooperation and the Environment of Norway, Co-Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum and Co-Chair of the Advisory Group
- b) Ms. Khady Diagne, ENDA-Tiers Monde, Senegal, representing Civil Society Organizations
- c) Mr. Cedric Baecher, Senior Executive for Partnerships, Veolia Environment, France, representing the Private Sector
- d) Ms. Wang Yang, Nanjing Youth Federation, representing the Youth
- e) Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, P.R. China
- f) Mr. He Quan, Deputy Governor of Jiangsu Province, P.R. China
- g) Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing
- h) Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- i) Mr. Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, Consul General of Brazil in Shanghai, representing Brazil, the host of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

A summary of closing statements is provided in **Annex IX**.

Annexes

Annex I. SUMMARIES OF THE STATEMENTS AT THE OPENING SESSION

Statement by Hon. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing

Hon. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing welcomed, in his opening remarks, delegates to his historical city. He said the World Urban Forum was a great event for the cities the world over. He said it was also a festive occasion for the people of Nanjing. He congratulated the Nanjing Municipal People's Government for providing the venue and decorating the city with banners to welcome delegates.

He described Nanjing as a famous historic and cultural city and as a modern city developing harmoniously in economic and social terms. In coming years, Nanjing intended to develop its economy while protecting the natural environment and improving the city with a sense of what he called eco-civilization. He said Nanjing was now forging ahead as a modern, tourist friendly international, cultured and green city.

Building harmonious cities, he added, constituted the new vision. This session of the Forum convened to discuss the theme, *harmonious urbanization*, which he said, would promote new ways of building cities at home and abroad. He said Nanjing would use the precious opportunity of the Forum to borrow new ideas and experiences from Chinese and international cities for its betterment in the most harmonious way possible.

Statement by Hon. Luo Zhi Jun, Governor of Jiangsu Province

Hon. Luo Zhi Jun, Governor of Jiangsu Province, welcomed delegates to the Forum on behalf of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government. He said Jiangsu had a rich culture, outstanding people, diverse ecology as well as a well developed business environment. Over the 30 years of development under the open reform policy, Jiangsu's rich tradition has created a new path of rapid economic development. Up to now it has established quick economic growth. The provincial level of urbanization has risen from 13.7% in 1978 to 53.2% in 2007, but thanks to good urban planning a high quality of life has been maintained. This focus on quality has spilled over to neighbouring regions, with three cities – Nanjing, Yangzhou, Zhangjiagang – also being recognised this year by UN-Habitat. Jiangsu, he added, would continue devoting itself to building harmonious towns and cities. He praised the World Urban Forum for building what he called an interactive exchange platform for the world's cities. The forum theme, *harmonious urbanization*, related to social and economic harmony and harmony between people and the historic and cultural heritage. He said it was important to promote the exchange of ideas and learning from one another.

Statement by H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum

H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and the participants of the World Urban Forum. He said that the theme of the Forum, *harmonious urbanization*, reflected the importance the international community attaches to the harmonious development of cities.

He informed the gathering that the Chinese government stressed the importance of integrated development as well as rational planning considering that China has a large population and limited resources especially in terms of land and water. He further added that the People's Republic of China had taken a people-centred approach for integrated development through rational planning.

The People's Republic of China, he added, was also focusing on coordinated development between its regions and cities, with particular emphasis on energy saving and climate change mitigation. He further added that the People's Republic of China hoped to continue with such policies to ensure harmonious cities and well being of all Chinese people. In conclusion, Mr. Jiang wished the visitors and participants a successful meeting and visit to Nanjing.

Statement by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon

The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, was delivered at the opening session by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs. The Secretary-General said that Nanjing, host of, had survived many tests and was an appropriate place to consider the challenges of

sustainable urbanization. Indeed, it was no coincidence that in 2008, Nanjing won the highest award conferred by the United Nations in the human settlements field, the *Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour*.

Noting that cities were projected to become home to two-thirds of the global population by the year 2030, never before had the world witnessed such rapid urbanization. But at the dawn of this new urban era, roughly a third of the world's population was living in slums and informal settlements. If prevailing trends continued, this figure could reach 2 billion by 2030. The provision of basic services and decent and affordable housing was no longer just a sectoral objective; it was a strategic means for attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Saying rapid urbanization had important links to other crises, he said urban areas consumed most of the world's energy and generated most of its waste. Helping cities cut waste and emissions, and consume less energy was integral to climate change mitigation. He stated that food prices and the global financial turmoil are rooted in part in housing markets and had combined to form a triple crisis that threatened to erase years of effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals – something that should not be allowed to happen. He hoped the forum participants would use the harmonious urbanization theme to guide the world in this work.

Statement by H.E. Mr. Dejiang Zhang, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China

H.E. Mr. Dejiang Zhang, Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, welcomed delegates on behalf of the Chinese Government. He highlighted the importance of the World Urban Forum for exchanging experiences on human settlements development, opportunities for discussing the problems facing urban development and promoting social and economic development. He encouraged all participants to discuss the theme, "harmonious urbanization" and find out the right approaches and strategies towards sustainable urbanization.

The Vice Premier said that urbanization reflected the trend of social development and the pace of industrialization and modernization. He acknowledged that the world was facing a financial crisis due to which many economies were slowing down. As a result, cities were also facing severe challenges. Governments and municipalities had to strengthen their cooperation in order to translate challenges into opportunities.

The Vice Premier noted that China had made great strides in reforms over the past three decades, focusing on economic development that was fast and sustainable with the reforms boosting foreign investment in the country. The rate of urbanization had reached 44.9% at the end of 2007. He said that although the country was doing well, it remained, nevertheless, a developing country with its urbanization levels still lagging behind the developed world. China, however, would explore and practise a Chinese vision of urbanization.

The Vice Premier referred to President Hu Jintao's policy of focusing on ordinary people for comprehensive and sustainable human settlements which could be achieved through innovation, scientific development and comprehensive planning of urban development with Chinese characteristics. He said China welcomed foreign investors in its towns and cities.

Statement by Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director UN-Habitat

Mrs. Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director UN-Habitat, welcomed delegates saying it was most auspicious that the world's premier urban conference was taking place in the ancient, yet modern and very harmonious Chinese city of Nanjing. She thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Province of Jiangsu and the Government and people of the City of Nanjing for hosting the Forum. She said the attendance of prime ministers, ministers and other high government officials from many countries indicated the importance they attached to the meeting and its theme, *harmonious urbanization*.

It was also auspicious, she said, that the meeting was being held in the same year as the Beijing Olympics. She remarked that the opening ceremony contained a most compelling reminder of China's past, present and future, something that is very visible in Nanjing. It was therefore most apt that Nanjing won the 2008 *Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour* – the highest United Nations award in this field.

The Executive Director went on to thank the Government of Bahrain for its decision to sponsor the new Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifah UN-Habitat Award, which she said would henceforth become a standing feature of the World Urban Forum. She also thanked the Government of Norway for generously providing a grant of two million dollars to help launch a new *Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development* at this Forum. She also cited Norway's assistance in ensuring the participation of civil society organizations and helping young people from some of the world's poorest countries make the journey to Nanjing. Since the end of last year, she said the world had witnessed a succession of crises, the scale and pace of which took all by surprise. The year started with a fuel and food crisis, followed by a financial crisis. There is no doubt that the crises we are facing today will impact all countries, developed and developing. She said the United Nations system would do whatever it could to ensure that the poor, the vulnerable, and particularly the one billion people living in urban slums around the world, did not become the casualties of the crises.

She concluded by saying that never before, had the housing and urban development agenda been more central to the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development; and never before had the Habitat Agenda been more relevant to the challenges facing the world, she said.

Statement by Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya

The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, commenced by highlighting the urban transformation that has been taking place culminating in more than half of the world's population living in cities in 2007. Without relevant policy interventions, he said, this would lead to a disaster. He went on to question whether the world's urban areas were adequately prepared to accommodate two thirds of humanity over the next thirty years.

He said that urbanization was an inevitable process which could not be halted as had been attempted through earlier policies. He noted that, in particular, Africa faced tremendous challenges with regards to urbanization. Declining agricultural productivity due to climate change related weather changes, population pressure as well as conflict were pushing a greater number of rural residents towards cities. He provided the example of Nairobi, Kenya

whose population has rocketed from 250,000 in 1960 to about 3 million at present. This had been accompanied by increased pressure on natural resources as well as the proliferation of slums. He said that such pressure was shared by many cities world-wide.

In closing, he urged delegates to give serious thought and attention to the challenges arising from rapid urbanization. He expressed his hope that the Forum would enable the sharing of experiences and workable approaches and enable collaboration between countries. He said there was an urgent need to improve facilities and services in cities as part of a strategy to ensure sustainable urbanization.

Statement by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain underscored the importance of the Forum in the quest for sustainable urbanization.

He called for the establishment of a comprehensive strategy to foster sustainable urban development and provide support to developing countries in this regard. He said this was particularly important in an era when more than half of humanity was living in cities at a time when a global financial crisis was likely to slow down the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum, he said, was instrumental in drawing attention to the need for policies and interventions for inclusive and sustainable development.

He noted that the Kingdom of Bahrain had developed a strategic plan for land use until 2030 that allocates land for residential and construction projects as well as other public facilities. He said that Bahrain's development efforts were strongly premised on an understanding of the importance of citizen's interests and aspirations. The award of the 2006 *Habitat Scroll of Honour Award* to Bahrain had further inspired the country's focus on development.

He informed participants that Bahrain, in recognition of the importance of UN-Habitat's work, would be launching the H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa UN-Habitat Award, an annual prize recognising best practices in the field of human settlements. He then presented the first Award to the Green Brigade from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, a team of women engaged in cleaning the streets.

He thanked the Chinese Government for hosting the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum. He also thanked the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and other organizers for helping to arrange the meeting.

Statement by H.E. Noli de Castro, Vice President, Government of the Philippines

H.E. Mr. Noli de Castro, Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, thanked the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and conveyed warm greetings to the People's Republic of China and the City of Nanjing. He cited China's traditional philosophy and its compatibility with the challenge of harmonious urbanization and balanced territorial development. The Vice President said that the world today faced two global threats in the form of financial crisis and climate change. He suggested that the financial crisis was rooted in a combination of low interest rates and rising asset prices with excessive leveraging and a lax regulatory environment. However, he further qualified the issues as being ultimately driven by human

greed. This drive, he said, resulted in failed markets leaving governments to face the challenges of finding solutions.

On climate change, the Vice President also cited greed as the cause, with excessive production and consumption, fuelling carbon emissions. He said that although the problem had been recognized, it would require more than government acting alone. Ultimately, he called for moderation as an effective strategy to reduce the impacts of urbanization and to help communities adapt to climate change. The Vice President, provided several concrete examples from his country of projects to adapt to climate change and strengthen early warning and surveillance systems. He said that the projects had been implemented within available resources at the local level, and that they were reliant on neither market nor government institutions. Furthermore, they embodied participatory principles and "people power". The Vice President outlined the roles that each different actor should play and how government had to provide an enabling environment. He concluded by saying that resources were required from development partners to achieve objectives and wished all participants a successful conference.

Annex II. SUMMARIES OF THE STATEMENTS AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Statement by the Hon. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Poverty Alleviation of India and President of the Governing Council.

Mrs. Kumari Selja said that the theme of the Forum, "harmonious urbanization" resonated with the people of India as the country's cities grappled with an urban paradox: on the one hand, cities were engines of economic growth; on the other, they were centres of increasing poverty and unemployment.

She noted that a harmonious city was one where everyone had access to basic services, and where there was equal access to resources and opportunities. The Indian Minister said that the Government of India had taken on these challenges by putting in place several measures at the policy and programme level. These include: adopting the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in 2007, that places a special emphasis on the urban poor; and launching the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission that aims to fast-track planned development in 63 Indian cities.

She told delegates that her Ministry had also embarked on preparing an Indian Urban Poverty Report that would collect data on various issues, such as gender, migration, microfinance, urban insecurity and access to basic amenities. She noted that India's historic 74th Constitutional Amendment enacted in 1993 had enabled local governments to play an important role in urban development.

Ms. Selja said that the Government of India has taken steps to establish a Community Development Network that worked with civil society organizations and resource institutions to deliberate on issues related to urban poverty and sustainable neighbourhoods and that several States in India had drawn up time-bound programmes to make their cities slum-free.

Statement Captain John Zefania Chiligati, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Co-Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum

Mr. Zefania Chiligati, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development of the United Republic of Tanzania, the outgoing Co-Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, thanked H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and his Government, and the city of Nanjing for hosting the Forum. He also thanked Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for the preparations of a meeting that enables governments and other global partners to engage in productive consultations.

At the end of the last Forum in Vancouver, he said participants had pledged to strengthen efforts in balancing economic, environmental and social development for achieving sustainable urbanization. Participants committed themselves to fostering partnerships among all stakeholders, promoting innovations in urban development, enhancing the role of local authorities and community-based organizations, as well as improving urban governance.

Mr. Chiligati was satisfied with the progress made towards the vision developed in Vancouver. The experience of his country in implementing the urban sustainability agenda had strengthened his resolve. He thanked UN-HABITAT and the host country for the theme of the Fourth World Urban Forum and hoped that concrete measures would be identified.

He noted that participants from different sectors, regions and countries had to combine their efforts and shared responsibility in pursuit of the common agenda. He congratulated the People's Republic of China on its appointment to the Chair of the World Urban Forum and its Advisory Group. The Minister expressed pleasure and confidence in Mr. Jiang Weixin's ability in achieving a successful meeting.

Statement by Sir John Kaputin, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

The ACP Secretary-General cited what he called the global concerns over climate change, food security, commodities, the financial and energy crises and their impact on developed and developing countries. He called for good leadership and effective action and dynamic change with a sense of urgency. He said that the global issues were felt most by slum dwellers and the poor, and that there was a need to build national and local capacity to improve urban management. He called upon leaders to create the environment necessary for inclusive decision-making following democratic principles, human rights the rule of law and good governance. The Secretary-General endorsed the ACP group in fulfilment of the MDGs with the key objective of poverty alleviation and promotion of sustainable development. He further cited participatory slum-upgrading initiatives and the need to expand them. In conclusion, he cited cities as the "heartbeat" of countries and underscored the importance of safe sustainable urban development, and the need to focus on people-centred programmes which improve the quality of life.

Statement Mr. Zhang Guangning UCLG Co-president, Mayor of Guangzhou City, China

Mr. Zhang Guangning said they were now living in the century of the city, and that there were over 180,000 people flowing from the rural areas to the urban areas every day. This meant that cities and local governments had to take responsibility for public services such as employment, shelter, communications, culture, education and sanitation. With rapid urbanization, the question of how to overcome difficulties such as population expansion, resource limitation, environmental pressure, and traffic jams had become important issues for the international community.

Mr. Guangning noted that local governments, central governments and the international community had to co-exist and that they required mutual support and coordination to respond and solve global challenges – something very important to create an equal and sustainable world. He said his city, Guangzhou, for example, had established friendly relationships with many cities in the world and achieved positive results in solving some of these problems.

The purpose of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was to promote the communication and cooperation of world cities and local governments, he added. It was for this purpose that members from 1,000 cities and 120 local government associations, representing half of the world population had gathered in Nanjing for Forum. As UCLG co-president, Mr. Guangning emphasized the importance of this year's theme and assured the gathering that he and his colleagues fully realised the importance of harmonious urbanization. In this respect, he assured that the UGLC are actively involved in Forum sessions. Forum meetings discuss the Millennium Development Goals, climate change, local government management capacity, as well as the role of local governments in emergencies and public service. In closing, he asked the United Nations and its member States to strengthen their relationship with local governments and local government associations, including UCLG. He promised on behalf of world mayors that they would dedicate themselves to building a better urban future.

Statement by Mr. Peter Goetz, Member of the German Bundestag and President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

In his statement, Mr. Peter Goetz, a member of the German Bundestag, said that over 100 Members of Parliament from many countries had accepted the invitation to attend the Forum. He said that Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was an international organization of Parliamentarians concerned with sustainable development and urban settlements, founded over 30 thirty years ago in Vancouver. Mr. Goetz, who assumed the organization's presidency after Senator Eloy Cantu Segovia of Mexico, paid tribute to his predecessor for his outstanding leadership and excellent teamwork. He said that the World Urban Forum offered Parliamentarians a good opportunity to contribute to the conference and also coordinate the organizations' work at the international level.

Mr. Goetz, like several other speakers, cited the collapse of financial markets, widespread national security crisis generated by terrorist threats, climate change, and the energy crisis

All three crises were interrelated and interdependent, and all office bearers at all spheres of Government had a responsibility for the future of our children. Mr. Goetz pointed out that cities already account for 75% of energy consumption and about 80% of carbon emissions. He noted that the most important resource in climate change was political determination, but

that cities on their own could not win the struggle against climate change which required the support of governments and parliaments. He thanked UN-Habitat and the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting the Forum.

Statement by Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary

The General Secretary started his remarks by citing China's historic contribution to the empowerment and rights of women through the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, together with other international resolutions and protocols. She underscored the importance of women's empowerment and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. She said that the theme of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum was to discuss the plight of people burdened by extreme poverty, homelessness, conflict, wars and the burden of HIV/AIDS. She outlined five key strategies – participatory, inclusive and gender responsive urban governance; economic empowerment; the quality of services; safety, security and gender mainstreaming; and accountability. She concluded her statement by urging better promotion of gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women on the agenda of the World Urban Forum. She also called for due consideration to be given to the rights of women, men and children.

Statement by Mr. Davinder Lamba, President, Habitat International Coalition

The President of the Habitat International Coalition acknowledged the presence of civil society at the Forum. He also said that the civil society was diverse and so were their demands and perspectives. Mr. Lamba chose to share from his experience of the Habitat International Coalition, founded in 1976 in Vancouver.

Mr. Lamba said the organization was inspired by the Chinese philosophy of the Ying and the Yang whereby there are two sides to everything. On the basis of that principle, there could be no harmony without balance, and that the two are mutually interdependent and indivisible.

Mr. Lamba also cited gross social imbalances at the local and national levels, which had resulted in gross inequalities. He called for the realization of human well-being, health, safety and security. Ordinary people had to be brought more into decision making, wealth had to be better distributed, human rights and democracy respected, and that evictions and dispossession had to be stopped. He also said decision-makers had to be more ethical and responsible, that corruption had to be stopped and social imbalances tackled by removing all gender, race, ethnic, class, and north-south discrimination.

He cited the need for harmony and balance in cities throughout the world.

Statement by the Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum and Chair of the Advisory Group, H.E. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China.

H.E. Jiang Weixin, in brief remarks, presented the organisation of work of the Forum for approval by the plenary. He drew the attention of the participants to the advisory group of the fourth session of the Forum, which had been convened by the UN-Habitat Executive Director and sought the approval of the participants, which was accepted. He further presented the meeting agenda including the dialogues and other sessions. He then concluded that keynote presentations would follow.

Annex III. SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENTS AT THE 4 NOVEMBER PLENARY SESSION

Opening statement by Mr. Robert Hunter, President, American Planning Association

Mr. Hunter, who moderated the discussion, opened the proceedings by urging all present to work more closely with urban planners in their respective countries. He said the Association was the oldest and largest NGO dedicated to city and regional planning. In a discussion on access and the right to information, and the roles of the public and private sectors in promoting urban equity, he raised two questions on the impacts of urbanization: who benefits, and who pays? Or as he suggested- who pays and who plays?

Statement by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

The Under-Secretary-General said that strong urban agglomerations contribute to wealth because they are home to vital sectors for economic growth such as industry, commerce and finance. But urbanization also brought problems of poverty especially evident in the growth of slums. He said it was therefore important to build harmony and equity in cities from the perspective of good urban governance so that barriers are broken down, and access to jobs, affordable housing and education can be promoted. Good government at the local level was central to the effective management, development and administration of urban services. To ensure equity, local governments had to be based on the principles of popular participation, transparent and accountable structures, and viable institutional frameworks. Local leaders, he said, had to have the skills and the capacity to manage cities in partnership with community-based organizations, the private sector and other non-governmental bodies.

More and more cities in developed countries were building inclusive communities through committed efforts, citizen participation, and engagement while promoting equal opportunity and fairness, he said.

Yet the institutional framework for the governance of cities, and especially in the example of Africa where his organization was mandated to promote economic and social development, was still an unsettled question. Findings of the Economic Commission for Africa showed that further consideration was required on the balance of responsibilities between central and local governments. There had to be more decentralization, or subsidiarity, in the management of local public affairs.

He cited some examples of programmes to fight social exclusion and induce economic achievement. They included the Single Regeneration Budget and the New Deal for Communities programmes in the UK; the Policy for Cities programmes in France; in Cape Town, community participation in the city's Rebuilding and Development Programme; water delivery in Yaoundé, and Local Agenda 21 Programmes in Uganda, and others. In conclusion, he said that to promote equity and harmonious cities it was important to create awareness and focus attention on the importance and value of inclusive communities.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director UN-Habitat.

The Under-Secretary-General, in a brief intervention, cited the importance of urban planning being brought back to the policy level. For cities without slums, planning had to be firmly in the mainstream, she said. To avoid reactive measures such as slum upgrading, she said proper planning to prevent the formation of slums was the best way to proceed.

Statement by Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya

The Prime Minister opened his remarks saying that slum upgrading and housing were matters of prime concern to his government. Decent, affordable housing was the responsibility of any government. Yet in Kenya it constituted what he called a monumental challenge. His own constituency, for example, he said covered both Karen, one of the wealthiest and most affluent suburbs of the capital Nairobi, and Kibera, an overcrowded slum, home to nearly three-quarters of a million people.

He quoted UN estimates showing urbanization to be growing more rapidly in Africa than any other continent. In the majority of cases rural migrants ended up in slums and conditions worse than those they had left behind. Thus anger, hunger and frustration built up. He explained how the government was working with UN-Habitat in a project set up in 2003 called the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme. The programme being implemented in Nairobi, and the other major cities of Mombasa and Kisumu, he said, was aimed at helping the country attain the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7, Target 11 on improving the lives of slum dwellers around the world. He described the slums as places of disease and misery, dusty during the dry season, muddy during the rains and always stinking of human waste, and always a threat to health. This was why housing was not merely a matter of putting up homes, but ensuring that hospitals, schools and other facilities are also available along with water, sanitation, and electricity services.

He was at pains to explain how people were angry of their plight and sceptical of government promises of better living conditions. He quoted the case of a Kibera resident who said they had been born in slum, would always live there, die in the slum and even go to a slum in heaven. With this sort of mindset, he added, only an accountable and trusted government could ensure improvements. He said that there was resistance to slum upgrading because past upgrading projects had not benefited the urban poor, and had a tendency to benefit non-slum residents.

His message to the Forum, the Prime Minister said: Governments had a duty to ensure that people don't have to believe that if they had been born in a slum, they would remain there forever, and even in death. Governments owed their citizens decent housing.

Statement by Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Director United Nations Office in Vienna, Executive Director United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

In a new urban age with most people living in cities, and most national income generated in cities, Mr. Costa said most crime was committed in cities as well. The rise in crime was bound to continue and accelerate as urbanization – especially in Africa and the Caribbean –

continued to grow at a rapid pace. This carried important implications for global – and not simply local – security, he said.

Urbanization was a challenge at the social, health and security levels. At the social level for example, rioting in Lima, Nairobi, or Paris showed the dangers of social exclusion; when it came to health, most drug users live in cities which themselves are increasingly a source of drug supplies. On security, he said human security was threatened when residents of a city were caught in the crossfire of neighbourhood brawls. He said city residents are threatened by burglary and muggings, and that cities are also magnets for organized crime. People, guns and drugs are trafficked into urban areas where demand is highest. Cities enable criminal groups to launder money and bring illegal goods onto the open market. And they remain the biggest targets for terrorist attacks, while providing the best hiding places for terrorist cells. Most of all, however, the Executive Director said that urbanization is a development issue. He said that the Director United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had issued reports on regions where crime had an impact on development – for example in Africa, the Balkans, the Caribbean and Central America. His office had demonstrated the link: under-development increases vulnerability to crime, and crime hurts development.

He said vulnerability to crime and disease was always highest in poor neighbourhoods where there was less security, justice and public services. This created an environment in which crime thrives, but from which investors turn away.

The key to strengthening justice therefore was to strengthen the rule of law. So if the Millennium Development Goals were to be localized, the rule of law had to be strengthened. This was how, he said, the UNODC in partnership with UN-Habitat, municipalities and civil societies could contribute to building safer cities. Nanjing, host city of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, he concluded, had set a wonderful example of a harmonious, safe city.

Statement by Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing

The Special Rapporteur, in a brief statement, asked how harmony could possibly be achieved in cities and whether the world was capable of being harmonious. The measuring stick, the critical basis, she said was inclusiveness. The world needed harmony in housing and planning policies for all, she said. She stated that social inclusiveness and political participation with the provision of adequate housing were therefore the cornerstones for achieving harmonious cities.

Urban development and urban change was more oriented towards producing for profit and hence serving those with higher purchasing power. As a result low income earners and the poorest tend to be excluded from spaces and access to services. Consequently, when an economic crisis hits, as happened at the time of the Forum, numerous urban facilities including housing are left vacant.

She underscored the point that harmonious urban development could not be achieved in the context of inequities and exclusion, the implication being that inclusiveness was a central axis for fostering harmonious urban development.

Statement by Mr. Greg Peng, Head of Global Commercial Real Estate in China, Merrill Lynch

Mr. Peng addressed the role of capital markets, increasing urbanization in Asia and a low-cost housing project supported by the company in Central America. Describing the global financial crisis as unprecedented, he said the credit crunch prevailing at the time of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum had been brought on by the bursting of a housing bubble financed by securitized sub-prime loans. Adjustments in the property market, especially in the United States would take time to work through before confidence was restored. Nevertheless, the capital markets could still play an important role in facilitating the provision of low-cost housing. The key was that there had to be responsible lenders, responsible counterparts, responsible investors and responsible end-users. There was a case for governments in the less developed economies to put financial instruments to good use in providing low-cost housing for people who need it.

In Asia each year more than 30 million rural workers enter cities. In China, this was part of what he termed a vast migration. He said urbanization in China stood at around 38 percent, still below the world average of 46 percent. Merrill Lynch estimated, however, that by 2010, some 45 to 50 million workers in China would have moved out of agriculture into urban areas in a trend likely to continue.

He concluded with a description of the Global Housing Foundation, a partner of UN-Habitat, providing sustainable housing for the working poor in countries like Panama, Costa Rica and El Salvador. He said Merrill Lynch was working with them in the programme by buying a majority stake in the pools performing mortgages so that banks could offer loans at affordable rates. He said the project was being extended to South Africa and hopefully in Asia at a later stage. He said the company's business philosophy was to contribute to the communities in which it operates.

Annex IV. SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENTS AT THE 5 NOVEMBER

PLENARY SESSION

Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works, Republic of Indonesia, and Hon. Ian Wright, the British Parliamentary Secretary for housing both gave accounts of how they are making their cities cleaner, greener, more harmonious and more inclusive. Both called for better urban planning.

Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works, Republic of Indonesia, thanked UN-Habitat and the Government of the People's Republic of China for inviting him to address the Forum plenary session. He presented an outline of the status of urban development in his country, and explained its strategic policies in regional autonomy, spatial planning, and disaster management. He said Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country after China, India, and the United States of America, with population of more than 224 million people, composed of more than 300 ethnic groups. In 2008, for the first time in Indonesia's history half of the country's population was residing in urban areas. By 2025 it is estimated that about 65 percent of Indonesia's population or 180 million people will occupy urban areas, primarily in 16 large and metropolitan cities.

Regrettably, he said this urbanization had created severe environmental degradation in urban areas. It was compounded by the fact that millions of country's population are still in acute poverty. This was exacerbated at a time of economic stress in a world where every city is linked to global economy.

Climate change would further stress Indonesian cities. Worse still, he said, should the sea level increase by 30 centimetres by 2030, Indonesia could lose more than 2,000 islands including some of its coastal cities and most outer islands.

He said Indonesia was reshaping its urban development through capacity building, active public participation, climate change policies, strong urban leadership and clear urban development policies, planning for open green spaces in cities, harmonious urban growth, and, he stressed, by moving disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction to the top of the agenda.

In terms of harmony with nature and environment, the country had developed more parks and made more cities pedestrian friendly, while conserving the cultural heritage in cities. Better public transport was being introduced in the form of Bus Rapid Transit systems to reduce private motorized transport.

In rural areas, since 2002 the country had introduced several pilot "agropolitan" projects to promote rural productivity, reduce dependency and ensure more modern urban-rural linkages. Through its poverty reduction programmes, Indonesia, he added, remained committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

He said national government had to enhance the capacity of local governments, while local governments had to improve their transparency and accountability. National and regional governments had to promote rural development to reduce urbanization stress. Cities, he said, should protect small-medium enterprises and other local economies from financially driven global capitalism. They should also plan more green spaces, balanced development with their surrounding regions and promote harmony among all their residents. They also had to mitigate better against disasters.

The Minister said it had never been easy for his country to wipe away memories of the tsunami disaster in Aceh in 2004, or the earthquake in Yogyakarta. He thanked UN-Habitat and the international community for their timely assistance in both disasters. And, in closing, he called for the development of an international protocol to facilitate foreign-aid involvement in disaster rescue and relief programmes.

Hon. Wright said the fact that in a generation from now eighty percent of people would be living in cities signified a profound shift in the way the world lives. It carried many challenges for leaders and policy makers. The slums and poverty described by the writer Charles Dickens are recognizable in some of the shanty towns in the modern developing world. Yet, looking at the way China was forging ahead in its drive to create harmonious, inclusive cities, he noted that what had taken Britain 130 years to achieve cities without slums, China had reached that goal in just 30 years.

He said that no matter which cities leaders at the Forum represented, no matter what their strengths or weaknesses – if a city grows too fast, it risks leaving people behind, fostering poverty, inequality and social unrest. At the same time, without growth, he said the foundations for prosperity cannot be laid.

Outlining what he called three principles which had informed the British approach to transforming cities, Hon. Wright said urban regeneration means investing in people, not just buildings; while national leadership is important, local ownership is just as important; and thirdly that no successful city in the modern world can afford to ignore the effects of climate change.

ANNEX V. REPORTS ON DIALOGUES

1. Dialogue on Territorial balance in urban development

4 November 2008

Moderator: Mr. Maoqi Li, United Nations Radio, Department of Public Information.

Panelists

Mr. Nicholas Buchoud, International representative of Société Française des Urbanistes and Office of the President of Paris Ile de France Region, France

Mr. Richard Gill, Planning Consultant, Barbados

Mr. Atsushi Koresawa, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan

Mr. Adam Kowalewski, Chairman, Central Commission on Urbanism, Poland

Ms. Diana Mitlin, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK

Ms. Christine Platt, President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

Mr. Keshav Varma, World Bank Sector Director, Urban, East-Asia and Pacific Region

Mr. Yubin Yang, Director-General, Bureau of Urban-Rural Planning, Harbin City, People's Republic of China

Major Issues and Concerns

The discussion focused on the role of planning in sustainable and harmonious development. Recent developments in spatial planning were examined in the context of new issues highlighted in UN-Habitat's flagship report, the *State of the World's Cities 2008-09*. Using case studies, the session discussed how territorial and regional planning can work in the future –with the growing engagement of civil society and the emergence of an international dimension to planning.

Debate

The dialogue opened with a video message from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who stressed the vulnerability of our planet and the impact of climate change and disasters on development. He highlighted that the significant contribution of urbanization to natural disasters is often overlooked and that slums increased the vulnerability of the urban poor. He

explained the need for exploring more ecological ways of planning and offering adequate and decent housing for all in mixed neighbourhoods. New practices have to be rooted in living traditions, the soul of place and take diversity into account. He re-confirmed that planning can make development more sustainable as long as it builds on local knowledge, is done through partnerships including those involving local communities. He concluded by stating that design is essential for managing cities and called for more creative thinking.

At the start, the moderator Mr. Maoqi Li, summarized the key issues. He pointed out the importance of the Global Planners Network and UN-Habitat's Global Report on Urban Planning 2009 as vehicles to capture new policy considerations emerging out of the Dialogue.

Ms. Christine Platt stressed that it is not "business as usual" for planners, and that the Third Session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver had affirmed the importance of urban planners as agents of change. She highlighted key principles from the Vancouver Declaration on "Re-inventing Planning" that recognized that, while the spatial dimension remains a core consideration, planning needs to be sustainable, integrated and strategic, based on inclusive partnerships and subsidiarity. Grass-root planners are part of the drive to re-invent planning. She emphasized the need for political support and proper funding of capacity development and of planning activities. She summarized by stating that sustainable development will not be possible without sustainable urbanization, which in turn cannot take place without planning.

Mr. Keshav Varma noted with satisfaction the enhanced profile of urban planning and the need for territorial balance to ensure more equitable spread of urban growth and wealth. History, he said, had shown that using state-control to enforce territorial balance, based on identified gaps, is much less successful than a market-led redistribution supported by infrastructure investments. For some disadvantaged regions, however, income transfer might be the only solution, rather than trying to attract investments through infrastructure development. Forward looking planning, based on the comparative advantage of locations, is essential. Referring to the case of Bangalore, which had used information technology to link up with the global economy, he stressed the need for creative planning and a key role for the urban planners.

During a first interactive dialogue with the audience, the need to align national, regional and local policies and planning efforts were emphasized to deal with bigger issues of environmental sustainability and poverty reduction. There was a call to ensure that participatory governance would give sufficient space to women and other vulnerable groups. UN-Habitat was called upon to promote good practices.

Mr. Yubin Yang pointed to the challenges of territorial imbalance arising from a fast rate of industrialization and urbanization. In reference to trends in China, he noted that emerging issues of importance included the urban - rural divide, the need for rural development, the obligation to protect the environment and the natural resource base and the challenge to keep up with infrastructural development. The priority was to focus on strategically important areas, building on the comparative advantage of each region while avoiding monopolies. A government-led approach needs to align itself with market-led developments, while providing macro-control through policies and planning instruments. National policy also needed to be translated into local action.

Mr. Richard Gill focused on the challenges posed by climate change in Barbados, a small island state, and problems related to sea level rise in particular. He made a case to diversify action depending on the characteristics of the location: do nothing where nature can take over, soft control by introducing policies for setbacks in case of new developments, maintain the line by introducing hard protection measures where development has advanced too much and, lastly, advance the line where possible. He made it clear that climate change is a reality and that long term monitoring is essential and emphasized the need to prioritize risk reduction as prevention is cheaper than cure.

Mr. Adam Kowalewski reflected on the European region's experience of balancing territorial development, and its struggle to come up with a workable definition. As planning is a national and local imperative, there has always been tension with European-level directives, he said. He noted that Poland had a long planning tradition and the integration within Europe, which introduced new systems of governance, new planning frameworks and private ownership, had resulted in a de-facto loss of control over development. He said that the region faced new challenges: redefining the public good so as to protect it from the private interests; preserving local identity in the wake of the growing power of international organizations; and ensuring the quality of life when profit is the main credo. Territorial balance will not be possible without a broad coalition including business leaders, government and communities.

Mr. Atsushi Koresawa opened by re-affirming the fundamental role of spatial planning and infrastructure development in guiding territorial development. He highlighted that in the case of Japan, the top-down approach focusing on infrastructure-led development had been to some degree been successful. As the political and economic context has evolved, decentralisation had resulted in the recent development of regional plans. It can already be noted that participation of local actors had increased resulting in better partnerships between the different levels of government and with the private sector. It had also fostered the inclusion of a much broader range of issues, taking planning away from a narrow technical focus. In a place like Japan, planning will need however to find answers to the new challenges of population decrease and the ageing of society, in particular in rural communities, and the shifting of industries towards emerging economies. He finally made a call to make mitigation and adaptation in the face of climate change part of urban policies.

Ms. Diana Mitlin emphasized that planning had not re-invented itself enough, and planners were still too keen on keeping control while being ambivalent about the real involvement of communities. The challenge goes beyond the slums and extends to the cities and the wider regions. Planners have no choice but to build on the capacities of local communities. They cannot rise to the challenge alone. She stressed the need for communities to be organized and to be linked up throughout the city, so they can make informed choices and set priorities. This engagement would also allow the development of inclusive city-wide strategies. Planners will need to be open to make change possible.

Mr. Nicholas Buchoud looked back on the Global Planners Network Conference that took place just before the World Urban Forum, where there was a clear call from planners around the globe for capacity development and global partnerships allowing exchange and mutual support. The Communiqué of the Conference calls for governments to modernize planning systems so that they become more strategic and integrated and acknowledge the right to the city, and planners to mitigate climate change-related risks, and to take cultural aspects into consideration. He concluded by stating that today's complexities require collective global and

local action, inventiveness, and the need to focus on policies and commitments that go beyond glamorous projects. According to him, the Sustainable Urbanization Campaign offers a perfect vehicle to take all of this forward, and for planning to be a strategic tool for the XX1st Century.

In the concluding dialogue with the audience, the call for genuine partnerships was renewed, whereby planners could contribute positively if they engage with the different stakeholders.

Summary and Conclusions:

- Planning is essential for sustainable urbanization, without which sustainable development is not possible.
- Urban planning needs to continue to re-invent itself to respond to the new challenges of a complex globalizing world, including climate change, demographic shifts and migration. Risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation need to be part of urban policies.
- Urban planning, although the core remains spatial, needs to focus on integrated development, be strategic and inclusive and take into account principles of subsidiarity.
- Planning needs to look beyond the cities and consider territorial balance, which requires alignment of national, regional and local policies, while taking into account the comparative advantages of different regions. Creativity will be needed to support development in rural and lagging regions.
- Participatory governance and partnerships should be genuinely inclusive, with active participation of organized community groups and the private sector. It is key to build on local knowledge and take into account cultural diversity. This will require openness from the planners.

2. Dialogue on Promoting social equity and inclusiveness

4 November 2008

Moderator: Ms. Rita Payne, President of the Commonwealth Journalists' Association.

Panellists

Mr. Jockin Arpurtham, Slum Dwellers International (NGO)

Mr. Stig Enemark, President, International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

Mr. Larry English, Homeless International (NGO)

Mr. Chen Feng, Senior City Planner, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, China

Mr. Li Guo, Senior Agricultural Economist, World Bank

Mr. Werner Haug, UNFPA (UN)

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Anders Knappe, President, Swedish Association of Local Authorities (SALAR), Sweden

Ms. Edith Mbanga, Homeless Peoples International, Namibia

Mr. Jean Du Plessis, AGFE (NGO)

Mr. Pasqualino Procacci, Director, Italian Cooperation office, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Lee Yalan, Vice Mayor, Mianyang City, China

Major Issues and Concerns

This dialogue moves the global debate on socially harmonious cities by creating a forum for citizens, local and central authorities, researchers and professionals across the world. It encouraged debate on pro-poor land rights versus unlawful forced evictions; adequate housing for all versus exclusive housing markets; and city-wide basic service provision versus service deprived neighbourhoods. The dialogue explored the merits of approaches related to these ideas with the aim of identifying potential innovations.

Debate

The debate began with a eight-minute film, *The Tale of Two Cities*, which raised the following questions: how to ensure security of tenure and housing rights for all? How to expand basic services to all? How dissolve the “two cities” phenomenon? Introductory remarks were given by Moderator Rita Payne, Chair of the Commonwealth Journalists’ Association, who outlined the dialogue’s three themes: pro-poor land rights vs unlawful forced evictions; adequate housing for all vs exclusive housing markets; and city-wide basic service provision vs service-deprived neighbourhoods.

Mr. Enemark stated that secure tenure is fundamental to slum dwellers. He referred to two key publications, *Secure Land Rights for All* and *Improving Slum Conditions Through Innovative Financing*. A new model for security of tenure needs an expanded conception including objects, subjects and social tenure. NGOs have a special role in the global agenda, which should be about the “three Ps”: people (i.e. human rights and dignity), politics (i.e. land policies and good governance) and places (i.e. shelter and natural resources).

Mr. Li spoke about the characteristics of pro-poor land and housing rights. Land plays a major role in socioeconomic transformation, and harmonious urbanization requires a land policy that promotes social equity and inclusiveness. Such a policy would provide a higher degree of security of tenure to land-rights holders, better protection for land transactions, set clear restrictions on compulsory land acquisitions, give better protection to land holders for economic activities, curb the abuse of power through legal reform and promote a better awareness of the rights of land-holders. He outlined recent policies adopted in China to guarantee land rights for much longer to citizens.

Ms. Kang stated that preventing forced evictions starts with upholding the basic right to adequate housing. States are obliged to respect, protect and fulfil this right and ensure it is enjoyed by all. Forced evictions should only occur when rehabilitation is not feasible. The problem of forced evictions lies in the removal from their homes and/or land occupied

without provision of or access to appropriate forms of legal protection. It can be mitigated through genuine consultation with the affected, providing adequate, giving reasonable notice and the presence of governmental officials. It requires conditions and procedural limits. The way this is conceived, developed and implemented is the key.

Mr. Du Plessis called for a paradigm shift to resolve the crisis of insecure tenure. Forced eviction is widely discussed though insecurity of tenure is much more widespread. Notable examples of forced evictions in several countries occurred in preparation for the Beijing Olympics and irresponsible mortgage lending in US. Their problems lie in peoples' failure to receive compensation, consultation, or offers of credit alternatives. However, poverty, lack of water and sanitation, and fear of eviction contribute equally to insecure tenure. We must target the inherent power structures, achieve solidarity with those most affected and approach the crisis on their terms.

Mr. Li explained that in China the land is government owned and thus change in the land use is done and the people to be displaced are compensated in a variety of ways following due process. Furthermore, citizens who have complaints are allowed to pursue their complaints through an official channel.

Ms. Lee spoke about post-earthquake housing provision and a model for government response. Following recent earthquake disaster in her region, 30% of the rural residents relocated to Mainyang City were moved to premium urban houses. The government provided a portion of the cost of the construction of each house, subsidised materials and transportation of same, provided infrastructure facilities, free drawings and security assessments. In summary, the government was able to provide one-third of the cost of post-disaster housing construction. A stable society with good law and order can ensure that all have access to safe houses.

Ms. Mbanga talked about the importance of incremental processes to providing adequate housing for all. The poor that cannot access housing through the market usually rent. However makeshift, it must in some sense "belong" to them so they are protected against eviction. This can be the first step in an incremental development approach that upgrades slums by installing community toilets, lending building money, negotiating with suppliers and builders for affordable houses, and later adding water and sanitation infrastructure.

Ms. Rolnik stated that markets have failed to provide adequate housing for all. Home is not a commodity, rather a place to live in security and dignity. The sub-prime mortgage crisis has led to a sharp increase in evictions and homelessness. Structural problems such as lack of liquidity and regulation may be involved, but markets on their own are fundamentally inequitable. Not only material deprivation but also the loss of other human rights ensues. Ownership may remain a preference, but adequate housing for all is universal and its success may require a wide range of subsidies and options.

Mr. Arpurtham has lived in a slum for 35 years. Slum dwellers are a fact of life in cities, and their numbers will continue to increase. Until housing and finance policy directly includes the community, they will deliver nothing. The average woman on the street of a slum can tell a planner infinitely more about inhabitants' needs than statistics can. Community participation is the only real solution to housing access problems, but policy makers are still not sufficiently inclusive.

Mr. Knappe spoke about how to provide access to high-quality services at affordable prices. Any model will vary in its degree of decentralisation and privatisation. Cities must be well-informed about local conditions and demands. Positive results depend on decentralisation by central governments, adequate financial means, and increased administrative capacity. Decentralisation cannot solve everything, but is a good framework for promoting equality and inclusion.

Mr. Feng spoke about the pressure of accelerated urbanization on basic service provisions. To confront this, governments need to look holistically at the full range of services and sectors that can provide them. Such an approach requires the full participation of all stakeholders. Vulnerable groups, including migrant workers and the unemployed, need basic rights and benefits, including training. Residents require different levels of housing provision, but the lowest should be prioritised.

Mr. Huang spoke about the public sector's role in ensuring service access for the urban poor. New slums are growing most heavily in environmentally-vulnerable areas. A proactive strategy is more effective than corrective measures, and migration-reduction policies will not stop internal growth. Therefore the public sector must ensure land availability and affordability. Likewise, holistic improvement will combine both city-wide service provisions and targeted interventions.

Mr. English spoke about the role of civil society in community-led finance. Planners must regard people as an asset rather than a liability, and urbanism as positive rather than negative. Slums and exclusion are not inevitable. Governments alone may not adequately represent slum dwellers. Civil society institutions are thus key agents of mediation and implementation. Upgrading is a long process, and institutions must be dedicated to financing it for the "long haul".

Mr. Procacci spoke about implementation and sustainability of service provisions. With the example of Korogocho, Kenya, he detailed the components of an holistic approach: strengthened intersectoral dialogue, improved intergenerational and cultural communication, community representation and income-generation projects. Community participation will create condition for their ownership, which is key. However economic challenges like high risk and unprofitability remain.

Summary and Conclusions

Key messages delivered by speakers and the discussion sessions include:

- Adequate housing for all is a basic need that all governments should respect, protect and fulfil. Forced evictions are less widespread than insecure tenure and less important for adequate housing, but when unavoidable, their negative effects can be mitigated by consultation, advance notice and procedural limitations.
- Market mechanisms, even regulated, cannot provide adequate housing for all. Treating housing as a commodity has led to real estate crises, which in turn have precipitated homelessness and other human rights abuses. Targeted subsidies are among a wide range of options for meeting housing needs.

- Equity in service distribution depends in part on decentralisation of power to local authorities. But it also demands a thorough knowledge of on-the-ground conditions, the consultation of all stakeholders and a focus on the most vulnerable, especially women.
- The participation of civil society is vital to urban housing and infrastructural improvements: it often understands the needs of inhabitants better than central governments, is more likely to view people as assets and is more motivated by long-term gains than electoral cycles.
- Until housing policy directly engages the poor it will deliver inadequate results. Incremental upgrading is one effective measure that recognises the real needs of slum dwellers. Land is a key issue in socioeconomic transformation, and urbanisation cannot be harmonious without pro-poor land policy.

3. Dialogue on making cities productive and equitable

5 November 2008

Moderator: Mr. Anver Versi, Editor, African Business

Panelists

Ms. Amani Abou-Zeid, Lead Expert, African Development Bank

Ms. Pamela Agnone, Vice-President, United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU)

Mr. Tayo Fashoyin, Director, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms. Abha Joshi-Ghani, Sector Manager, World Bank

Mr. Ali Mchumo, Managing Director, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

Mr. Nan Shi, Secretary-General, China Society of Urban Planning

Ms. Grammatiki Tsingou-Papadopetrou, Director-General, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Major Issues and Concerns

Many cities around the world are faced with an urban paradox. They are the driving force of national economic development, and also the centres of increasing poverty, inequality and unemployment. The panellists examined best options for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and looked at the best ways, including public-private partnerships, of generating employment, providing better services and financing sustainable cities.

Debate

The moderator, Mr. Versi opened the dialogue by noting that the major challenge for the future is to promote development strategies that simultaneously increase urban economic productivity and ensure more equitable development paths. A short video then highlighted the urgent need to mobilize adequate resources to fund the increasing demand for urban services around the world. The video also challenged participants to come up with the most effective economic policies to provide productive urban employment, affordable housing and basic services to the urban poor.

Mr. Mchumo underscored that cities could become true engines of national development only if governments ensured that the benefits of urbanization are spilled over into rural areas. In his view, there is a need to look beyond the traditional rural versus urban dichotomy which still characterizes much of the debate on rural and urban development. Rural development in a rapidly urbanizing and globalizing world relies increasingly on cities, whose success, in turn, depends on the provision of adequate infrastructure networks to support transportation, distribution and marketing systems. He concluded that cities and rural areas are complementary spaces for economic planning purposes.

Mr. Yumkella called attention to the contribution of industrial development to promote technology transfer, building domestic industrial capacity, and contributing to urban economic growth across different geographical regions. He discussed the main results of an extensive UNIDO survey on industrial clusters around the world. He suggested that governments focus on three key policy issues: (i) the implementation of policies to create an enabling environment for the expansion of the private sector; (ii) the critical role of national and local authorities in the provision of basic infrastructure and services; and (iii) the implementation of forward-looking industrial development policies.

Ms. Joshi-Ghani emphasized the critical importance of public-private partnerships to finance sustainable urban development and improve key urban infrastructure. In the new urban era, local authorities are assuming greater responsibility for providing and financing effective public services. She specified the following innovative financing mechanisms for municipalities to consider: (i) valuation and sale of underutilized state urban land; (ii) greater use of carbon trading to finance critical urban infrastructure, and (iii) the need for a clear policy framework for public-private partnerships.

Mr. Fashoyin focused on measures to create an appropriate regulatory and policy framework to release the economic potential of the urban economy. He spoke about employment-intensive investment policies, with particular attention to youth unemployment. He also called attention to the importance of pro-poor employment policies – including those targeting small and medium enterprises – as well as complementary development policies, such as improved access to urban infrastructure and credit. In his view, it is essential to base all such policies within a ‘decent work’ agenda that includes social protection and social dialogue.

Ms. Tsingou-Papadopetrou pointed out the need for adopting an integrated approach to urban planning as in the case of the European “environment and sustainable communities” approach. She emphasized the role the international financial institutions could play in introducing new financial instruments to address the financial crises cities are facing today. As an example, she shared the experiences of a recently created urban development fund for the municipality of Leipzig in Germany, under the Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas (the JESSICA Initiative).

Ms. Abou-Zeid emphasized that African cities can become engines of economic growth only if they: (i) improve transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure, (ii) promote public-private partnerships for infrastructure delivery, and (iii) implement policies to encourage small business development and private sector investment. In addition, national and local governments should implement specific policies to combat poverty in slum areas, such as more targeted provision of water supply, sanitation, waste disposal and electricity.

Ms. Agnone spoke about the approach taken by her organization, UNFCU to promote both affordable housing programmes and community outreach policies that benefit local communities and ensure more equitable urban development paths. These include youth internships; the Kilimanjaro initiative to support youths in becoming agents of affirmative change; and the formation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives as a key to microfinance.

Mr. Shi underlined the important role planning legislation should play in addressing the increasing gap between urban and rural development in China. He noted that the legal status of rural-to-urban migrants has become a key issue in China's rapid urbanization and stressed that adequate urban housing should be provided to low-income groups, including rural migrants. He concluded by providing details of successful policies and legislation in China, including the provision of low income housing, public participation in planning and effective measures to narrow the rural-urban gap. One participant inquired about the potential role of carbon swaps in financing urban development. Ms Joshi-Ghani replied that developed countries can contribute to finance key infrastructure projects in developing countries in exchange for carbon credits that are used to meet their national targets for greenhouse gas reductions. Mr Yumkella added that clean development mechanisms are helping several developing countries access critical technologies. However, more efforts should be made to assist poor African developing countries make greater use of these mechanisms.

A representative of the municipality of Libreville (Gabon) asked for more information about guarantees required by municipalities in developing countries to access development finance. The representative of the ADB replied that no such guarantees are usually required by ADB but that proposed projects should meet the minimum ADB technical requirements. Other representatives also noted the need to ensure greater transparency and environment sustainability, and meet minimum financial requirements.

Policies to promote efficient patterns of sustainable urbanization, together with effective poor-poor measures, can make a significant contribution to overcome the social divide. Such patterns of sustainable urbanization must also go hand in hand with more balanced processes of territorial development, with a focus on enhanced rural-urban development linkages.

Summary and Conclusions

- Integrated urban and regional development strategies have great potential for accelerating socio-economic development, reducing poverty, and generating new employment opportunities for both the urban and rural poor.
- While FDI can help improve the skills base and diversification, measures to expand the national technological base are essential to maximize positive results in building urban industrial capacity.
- In order to meet the increasing demand for urban infrastructure and basic services, local and national governments should manage available resources more efficiently;

mobilize new sources of finance, such as urban development funds and the sale of municipal bonds; and encourage greater private investment participation.

- Governments need to formulate and implement innovative housing finance mechanisms to increase access to affordable housing, such as special housing funds, housing bond issuance and community-based savings schemes for low-income housing.
- In order to achieve the poverty-related MDGs, there is an urgent need to implement pro-poor employment policies, such as measures to simplify the operation of small businesses, improved access to credit and finance, and policies to promote macro-economic stability and urban economic development.

4. Dialogue on Harmonising the built and natural environments

5 November 2008

Moderator: Mr. Steve Bradshaw, BBC, United Kingdom

Panelists

Mr. Morten Wasstøl, Norwegian Junior Minister for the Environment and International Development

Mr. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI, Canada

Mr. Timeyin Uwejamomere, Urban Policy Officer, WaterAid, United Kingdom

Mr. Henrik Johansson, Environmental Controller, Växjö Planning Department, Sweden

Ms. Alejandra Maria Devecchi, São Paulo Municipality, Brazil

Mr. Fadi Fawaz, Executive Director, Hariri Group, Lebanon

Professor Kwi-Gon Kim, Director, International Urban Training Center, Korea

Mr. Leonard Bihondo, Mayor, City of Mwanza, Tanzania

Mr. Ni Lei, Architect, Urban Planning and Design Institute, Nanjing University, China

Professor David Simon, Head of the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway College, University of London, United Kingdom

Major Issues and Concerns

Some cities are significant consumers of energy and emit excessive amounts of greenhouse gases from production, heating and transport. The Dialogue shared the experiences of selected cities to showcase innovative ways of preventing and mitigating adverse effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in a way that includes the urban poor in the debate. The special focus here was on climate change, energy efficiency and environmental management.

Debate

The Dialogue was opened by Mr. Morten Wasstøl, who reminded participants that the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize jointly awarded to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore recognized climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and our world. Every place on earth will be impacted by the consequences of climate change: the effects will be distributed unequally, with developing countries and the urban poor most at risk from the adverse impacts of global warming and sea level rise.

Mr. Wasstøl warned that an increase in global of temperature by more than 2 per cent will have devastating effects – which is why the government of Norway is pushing for an 85 per cent cut in CO₂ emissions compared to the 1990 level. Although major cuts have to be made in the developed world, the developing world must be part of the solution, and it is vital that the urban poor get involved in developing solutions.

The debate was structured in two parts. The first part focused on sustainable urbanization, while the second part focused on climate change. The moderator, Mr. Steve Bradshaw, opened the discussion on sustainable urbanization by quoting Prof. Paul Crutzen who stated that we are living in a new geological age, ‘the Anthropocene’ – a geological age in which mankind is changing the planet as dramatically as natural extreme events like earthquakes. This development could make the planet unliveable.

Mr. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann criticised cities for continuing to work against nature by building and expanding cities in low-lying coastal areas in spite of expected sea-level rise; in deserts where enormous amounts of energy-based fossil fuels are required to provide people with water, food and cooling; on prime agricultural land in spite of the ongoing global loss of fertile topsoil; with inefficient, and non-durable buildings; and with energy inefficient infrastructure. He said that the world needed to make a radical shift towards eco-efficiency – which does not necessarily have to be high-tech.

Mr. Timeyin Uwejamomere stressed the need to include the urban poor if urbanization is to be sustainable as their living conditions, particularly lack of proper sanitation, posed a threat to not only themselves but to humanity.

Mr. Henrik Johansson argued that it is easier to build sustainable cities when constructing new cities than trying to fix existing urban structure. He gave the example of the Swedish city of Vaxjo which has introduced an environmental audit plan for new development areas that emphasizes public transport, energy efficiency, water management and biodiversity conservation. Mr. Johansson also underlined that local authorities do not need to wait for international agreements in order to become more sustainable.

The moderator invited Mr. David Simon, the rapporteur of the Dialogue, to briefly comment on the statements so far. Mr. Simon underlined that we have to broaden our view on cities. Cities should not be seen as isolated from their spatial surroundings as they depended on the resources around them - including urban hinterlands and the urban fringe, or what is also known as the peri-urban interface. Furthermore, cities needed to take on global and local responsibility, not just towards their rural hinterlands but also towards fellow citizens across the world.

Ms. Alejandra Devecchi called for a new development paradigm focusing on energy efficient housing and transport without cars.

Mr. Fadi Fawaz gave the examples of Lebanon and the city of Beirut which was devastated by 16 years of civil war. The model for reconstructing Beirut did not follow the common “Western” model. Instead of providing the slum dwellers – who were displaced during the civil war – with low-income housing, the government provided them with funds to build their own homes. These funds enabled the citizens to make their own decisions and choices according to their own priorities. By doing so, the former slum dwellers were no longer marginalized as they were not artificially concentrated in one area but located all over the city.

Professor Kwi-Gon Kim highlighted the importance of water and biodiversity as key resources for sustainable urban development. Cities should also create environmental plans identifying green spaces within urban areas to be protected during the future growth of the city. Green spaces could help cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Leonard Bihondo shared the challenges the Tanzanian city of Mwanza is currently facing: annual urban growth rates of 11 per cent, mainly through rural-urban migration, led to an uncontrolled spread of unplanned settlements, largely to hazardous areas. Support from the Ministry of Lands, resettlement initiatives and donors have not yet had an effect in reducing the uncontrolled growth of Mwanza.

Ms. Ni Lei stated that housing design in China has changed recently to respond to environmental concerns. Eco-friendly neighbourhoods, including court yards with green spaces promoting “comfortable living”, have been developed.

During the discussion, the lack of awareness of existing energy-efficient technologies among local authorities was highlighted. It was reported that ICLEI was developing a platform for information and discussion on this issue.

The second segment of the Dialogue focused on the potential of cities to adapt to climate change. The moderator raised the question of mobilizing cities to commit themselves to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions even if they were not directly affected by the consequences of climate change.

Mr. Otto-Zimmermann highlighted that immediately after the Rio Summit in 1992, ICLEI gathered over 800 cities in a climate action campaign focusing on mitigation, but many other cities had not yet implemented the campaign’s recommendations.

Mr. Uwejamomere linked the climate change debate to water as a most basic resource. He said that we should not focus on long-term plans but day-to-day actions and realistic measures.

Mr. Johansson gave the practical example of Växjö. After the oil shock, the city decided in the early 1980s already to become fossil-free by 2050 in order to rely on cheap and locally produced energy resources. By 2010 carbon dioxide emissions should have reduced by 50 per cent but so far, the city has managed to reduce its emissions by 32 per cent by taking simple measures such as by switching to biomass for heating and cooling as well as increasingly using other renewable energy sources such as solar energy. The switch to biomass has also generated jobs.

Ms. Devecchi underlined the close connection between climate change and urban transport, emphasizing that urban density could reduce dependency on energy for transport. Mr. Fawaz stated that climate change is a globalisation challenge and therefore needed a global perspective.

Prof. Simon stated that urban areas of all sizes are contributing to climate change. He proposed the use of the term “environmental changes” as this would encourage all cities to take part in the debate as well as trying to be part of the solution.

Mr. Kim presented green urban spaces as one example of urban adaptation and mitigation. He underlined the importance of political will of high level politicians and heads of state in committing themselves to combating climate change. He used the Korean example of eco-towns utilizing the best available energy techniques.

In reference to the environmental changes in the Lake Victoria region, Mr. Bihondo supported Mr. Uwejamomere by stating that there was no need to raise awareness about climate change as local people in the region were aware of the changing climate due to changes in rain patterns and food insecurity due to reduced agricultural production.

Ms. Lei stated that cities should focus on good building standards using the latest design and technologies in order to address climate change.

Mr. Uwejamomere underlined that not only should the focus be on experts but also on the local population and the urban poor as their knowledge and traditional way of life could have greater relevance and value.

Mr. David Simon underlined the need to avoid a global blue print as there was no “one solution fits all” when it comes to climate change. He also emphasized that local management structures should go beyond the jurisdictions of cities.

A member of the audience referred to Mauritius as one example to learn from, as 20 per cent of the total energy was produced with renewable sources such as sugar cane. Furthermore, the government subsidized energy-efficient light bulbs and solar water heaters in order to decrease Mauritius’ ecological footprint.

Mr. Simon wrapped up the discussion highlighting the following elements:

Summary and Conclusions

- There is no need to reinvent the wheel – we should identify existing examples we can try to adapt and apply to our own urban context.
- Do not repeat the mistakes from the past. In particular, cities from the South should not replicate the mistakes made by cities in the North.
- High technology is not the only way to address challenges such as climate change; the perspectives and involvement of local and grassroots communities should also be taken into consideration.
- Provide people with the resources to deal with environmental challenges instead of providing them with ready-made solutions
- Cities are not isolated but part of a broader ecosystem. When talking about cities, we should try to keep in mind that a sustainable city is also a dense and compact city.

5. Preserving the historical roots and soul of the city

6 November 2008

Moderator: Mr Tiff Roberts, Journalist, Business Week, Beijing

Panelists:

Hon. Amir Farjami, Vice Minister of Urban Development and Architecture, Government of Iran

Mr. Diébédo Francis Kéré, Principal, Francis Kéré Architecture, Burkina Faso

Mr. Mutula Kilonzo, Minister for Nairobi's Metropolitan Development, Kenya

Ms. Inger Liljequist, Director General, Swedish National Heritage Board, Sweden

Mr. Bing Lu, Vice-Mayor, City of Nanjing, China

Mr. Ngoné Ndoye, Mayor, City of Rufisque, Senegal

Mr. Estéban Wario Hernández, Director General of Projects, City of Guadalajara, Mexico

Major issues and concerns

Cities are the hub of knowledge, art and culture, setting virtually every trend. The panel discussed ways of preserving the cultural heritage in an urbanizing world where we have to allocate new investments for competing demands such as regeneration, increased productivity and improved welfare. The dialogue began with a brief presentation on tensions inherent in heritage preservation and some examples of new initiatives to ensure the conservation of cultural heritage.

Debate

Mr Farjami said decades of deterioration of cultural heritage had brought many cities in the world to the point where they were losing their identity. Training institutions did not sufficiently appreciate this sufficiently.

Mr Kéré spoke about living in two cultures—Burkina Faso and Germany. He highlighted the differences in symbolism between, for example, residents in Germany who wanted to preserve Berlin airport for its historical role, and what was viewed as heritage by people living in informal settlements in Ouagadougou. He noted a danger of African architects copying Western ideals. The relationship between people, buildings and their cities was soul of the city.

Ms Liljequist said she appreciated the fact that the Forum was examining these matters and hoped that they would remain on the agenda. She said people perceived heritage differently

and that such issues should be democratically reconciled. Heritage is not simply objects or monuments, but the wider urban landscape - both tangible and intangible.

Mr Lu outlined the process of balancing expansion and modernization with protection of heritage in Nanjing. Referring to conflict between the two, he cited the need to: (i) build new towns and buildings while preserving the old and always managing the environment. Nanjing, for example, had built a new state-of-the-art convention centre while preserving the old inner city where high rise buildings are banned.

Ms Ndoye said that in Rufisque, Senegal, for example, previous policies had simply failed to take cultural heritage into account.

Mr Wario Hernández spoke about the soul of city in the Latin American context, often symbolized by festivals. The reality, however, can be quite different: Latin American cities are the most income differentiated cities in the world, based on a heritage of colonial segregation. Regenerating a city's soul required high levels of political capital and enlightened leadership.

Mr Kilonzo's response was focused on the national park bordering abutting the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The challenge for Nairobi was how to sustain the natural habitat of the park while improving the living conditions in Africa's largest slum which lies adjacent to the park. An international design and planning competition would be announced shortly for an innovative spatial planning solution.

Remarks from the floor included the wider definitions of the soul of a city, such as social attributes of the city, the necessity of accommodating spiritual aspects of a city, and the role of the rapidly changing media in defining our heritage.

UN-HABITAT and UNESCO were urged to collaborate more closely.

The second half of the debate dealt with how to cope with rapid urbanization without destroying the traditional fabric of a city.

Mr. Farjami said that this was complicated but not difficult, even with accelerated growth. For him the Petronas Towers exemplifies Southeast Asian architecture in a modern context and stressed a need for all modern architecture to incorporate historic references in the design vocabulary.

Mr Kéré highlighted his work in teaching local people to improve their homes using traditional building materials such as clay.

Ms Liljequist cited the lessons to be learned from many UNESCO sites.

Mr Lu pointed to the advantages of integrated policies that address conservation cultural heritage, the needs of low-income groups and new urban development.

Ms Ndoye said that the preservation of cultural heritage had to go hand in hand with boosting the local economy. She cited the important role that youth can play in promoting and further developing local culture, such as traditional music.

Mr Wario Hernández pointed to the 2011 Pan-American games scheduled in Guadalajara, Mexico, and the need to balance capital investments for new infrastructure with the daily needs of the average citizen. He said the games would revive the city centre while improving basic infrastructure and mobility. He urged UN-HABITAT to campaign for indigenous cultural values.

Mr Kilonzo said that conservation and modernization were not mutually exclusive. A city that does not reinvent itself, dies, he said.

Summary and Conclusions:

The soul of the city can be seen from many angles—cultural, spiritual, economic and political. It is not only reflected in the built environment, but in people, their memories and their use of spaces. Nurturing the soul of the city needs to be tackled on many fronts. It is about reconciling architectural and economic innovation with social equity as much as reconciling preservation with a city’s natural evolution. Providing for the needs of people and maintaining the traditional fabric of a city are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, both are necessary for a city to survive. Conservation strategies need to be pursued at the same time as other strategies for providing affordable housing and urban facilities. In all cases stakeholder participation is necessary to forge a common appreciation and approach on what needs to be preserved and why. UN-Habitat and UNESCO were encouraged to collaborate closely to bridge the human settlements and historical preservation lenses.

6. A city for all generations

6 November 2008

Moderator: Mr. Gideon Mandara, Director, Entrepreneurs Resource Center, Kenya

Panelists:

Councillor Roger Stone, Leader of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, United Kingdom

Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Government of India

Ms. Ekua Taylor Kregel, Public Health Professional, United Children Hospital, United States

Ms. Narelle Townsend, Board Member, Global Housing Foundation

Mr. Allen Massawe Kivaisi, Teacher of Information Technology, Joha Girls Secondary School

Hon. Moussa Daby Diagne, Former Mayor of Louga and Member of Parliament, Senegal

Hon. Fatma Said Ali, Member of Parliament, Tanzania

Mr. Timothy Challen, Business Development Associate of Marketing, United Nations Federal Credit Union, Geneva

Ms. Aba Taylor Ofori-Atta, Clinical Assistant, Mayo Clinic, United States

Hon. A.S.J. Kwegir, Member of Parliament, Tanzania

Mr. Davinder Lamba, Executive Director, Mazingira Institute, Kenya

Major issues and concerns

The dialogue discussed matters of generations, the fact that more and more cities had more and more elderly people in modern times. Were cities taking their needs into account, and not least the needs of the growing youth populations? It explored the economic pressures on health care and pension systems, and the need for local authorities to harmonise the interests of all groups.

Debate

Mr. Stone raised the fact that although the young and the elderly often shared the same space, there were nevertheless communication problems and gaps in harmony between the generations. Instruments such as youth cabinets, imagination libraries and information technology were excellent tools to promote harmony. Communication, engagement, creating partnerships, establishing plans and strategies, he said, were critical to intergenerational harmony.

Mr. Singh explained the workings of youth and family integration in India. Despite the existing national policy on youth and intergenerational problems in India, he said, significant changes were taking place in family structures owing to urbanization, migration, and globalization. Indeed, he added, conflict between young and old in India was causing societal problems.

Ms. Kregel said health care systems were important for the wellbeing of all age groups, especially the elderly. It was equally important that clinical costs be kept as low as possible so that care for the elderly can be sustained.

Likewise access to clinics had to be made as easy as possible. She said culturally sensitive care, combined with suitable legislative support taking into account the health requirements of all generations was also most important.

Ms. Townsend elaborated upon the need for housing and shelter for young people, saying the recent launch of the global housing foundation constituted a significant step in the right direction.

Mr. Kivaisi spoke about problems confronting young people in the North and the South. In the United States, he said the majority of the problems facing youth were in big cities, and that solutions needed to focus therefore on big city dynamics. In the developed world support systems were in place to help young people. However young residents from the developing world with 'irregular' residence status risked finding themselves deported, and thus unable to turn to the system for help.

Mr. Daby explained how in Africa it was important to engage with the traditional cultural norms of solidarity and respect for one's elders. He stressed that good governance was

imperative to provide solutions to the problems of young people. Local knowledge, he said, had to be incorporated in the governance and planning of the cities.

Ms. Ali said that for different age groups to live harmoniously in cities, some important challenges need to be addressed such as sanitation, infrastructure, water, transport, land use. She stressed that the duress under which women in poverty live in developing countries would simply be exacerbated without policies in place to address these problems. The generational debate therefore had to include a gender perspective of age, ethnicity, social status and income level. She recommended that local authorities needed to include women of all generations in urban planning and design.

Mr. Challen gave an outline of the Kilimanjaro Initiative which each year brings the various age groups together to climb Africa's highest mountain. He said it was important that civil society groups engage in cross-generational exchange programmes.

Ms. Ofori-Atta called for better dialogue on the subject at hand between North and South. She gave the example of the Minnesota Kinship Programme in Bloomington which gave young and old alike the opportunity to volunteer in schools, or with meals-on-wheels for older people unable to leave home. She suggested exchanging project ideas and lessons learned between the North and South while recognizing the challenges of transference and the need for innovative solutions.

Hon. Kwegir said the problems of people with disabilities should not be excluded from the discussion. In bringing together different age groups, planning systems had to take their considerations into account as well. Financing systems had to help senior citizens with low incomes and less education. It would be useful for civil society bodies and other agencies to promote city to city exchanges between North and South.

Mr. Lamba, in summing up the discussion, asked participants whether there was in fact a demand by different interest groups to get organized. He stressed that organization of the groups and initiating dialogues is fundamental to the promotion of inter-generational harmony. Cities evolve and shape people, and generations shape cities through an evolutionary process. He emphasized that in today's cities safety and wellbeing were important social services that should be provided by the State.

Summary and Conclusions:

The moderator, Mr. Mandara, gave a précis of the dialogue, summed upon the main points of the dialogue. It was clear he said that inter-generational matters should be brought to the forefront of local, national and global agendas. It was clear too that this meant taking into account the ways that gender, disability, socio-economic standing, cultural background come into the debate.

A better exchange of information, lessons learned and even traditions was called for because solutions that work in one place, might not work somewhere else. Urban planning had to take into account the needs of all age groups. And this meant providing for access for all generations to opportunities, services, shelter, welfare, and infrastructure.

ANNEX VI. REPORT OF THE ROUNDTABLES

1. Ministers' Roundtable: Recommendations to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and major regional groupings

3 November 2008

Chair:

Hon. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, People's Republic of China

Vice-Chairs:

Hon. Ms. Elisabet Falemo, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sweden

Hon. Mr. Mario Fortes, Minister of Cities, Brazil

Hon. Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and urban Poverty Alleviation, India and President, UN-Habitat Governing Council

Hon. Mr. Mohammad Saieedikia, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Chairperson, Asian-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)

Hon. Mr. Chuka Odom, Minister of State for Environment, Housing and Urban Development, Nigeria

Moderator: Mr. Alioune Badiane, Director, Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States, UN-Habitat

Highlights of the Roundtable

Hon. Jiang Weixin summarized China's approach to urbanization which includes utilizing the cluster effect of cities, regional coordination and programmes for the regions. The preservation of environmental resources and social justice are important and the protection of cultural and historical heritage has been legislated. Other issues mentioned were the provision of infrastructure, the prevention of damage from natural disasters and strategic planning to reduce the effects of climate change.

Hon. Kumari Selja stated that developing economies need to learn from each other. Harmony implies equal access to the city. India works to overcome exclusion, the income divide and unbalanced growth through development visions, including standards for habitat and environmental reform. India promotes co-existence of rich and poor, built and natural environments, modern cities and historic heritage.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, emphasized the role of government in promoting sustainable urban development through harmony. The *State of the World's Cities 2008-2009* proposes operational tools to confront urbanization challenges, including spatial disparities, inequality, environmental degradation and historic heritage. Environmental degradation requires that

consumption and lifestyles be adjusted. Governments can promote cultural and generational harmony by protecting different societal relations and resources.

The representative of Nigeria remarked on rapid unplanned urbanization, slum formation, scarcity of infrastructure and financing constraints in Africa. The Minister requested support for urban governance, housing finance, poverty reduction and slum prevention, as well as renewed political will. He urged the African Union to convene a Summit to address the impacts of the global financial crisis on Africa.

The representative of Sweden stated that urbanization influences the living conditions of the poor, cultural heritage and the natural environment. Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time. Cities become more sustainable through comprehensive planning, better transport and recycling. Sweden is interested in sharing its experiences in these areas and to learn from others.

The representative of Iran requested the Forum to advance actions to promote sustainable and harmonious urbanisation. The Minister declared the readiness of Iran to host a secretariat for the exchange of information and country experiences on urban and rural development and on the values of indigenous planning and architecture in contemporary construction.

The representative of Brazil stated that rules and instruments for land reform have been established, addressing the needs of the urban population and rethinking urban fundamentals through social consensus. Housing, planning and urban mobility policies have been integrated and strengthened with federal funding for sanitation, slum upgrading and housing to reverse urban inequalities. The challenge is a healthy expansion of the private sector by going downmarket to maximize pro-poor investments.

The representative of Hong Kong made a presentation on Hong Kong's experience with regards to harmonious urbanisation. The city has a low ecological footprint due to the widespread use of public transport. Hong Kong has policies for advancing green buildings, waste management and water conservation. The city is undertaking urban regeneration and engages its people in urban development for a harmonious city with quality of life being a central focus.

After these initial statements and presentations, 15 Ministers from Kenya, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Israel, Slovak Republic, Palestine, United States, United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Cameroun, Namibia and Turkey delivered statements on harmonious urbanization.

The topics covered resource mobilisation for slum eradication, the need for housing credit facilities, the deterioration of the aging urban fabric, the lack of adequate urban planning and the lack of good urban governance. There was a call for social and economic integration through human settlements development and the need for greater involvement of communities in the planning and implementation of slum improvement and city development.

Expectations of the World Urban Forum included the need to clearly define goals and terms for harmonious urban development. It was further noted that more than US\$ 600 billion was raised almost overnight to bail out ailing banks and many more billions are allocated for war, yet it remains almost impossible to raise the US\$18 billion required to support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Summary and Conclusions:

In conclusion, it was emphasized that harmonious urbanization hinges around the concepts of inclusiveness, participation, equality and culture as pillars of sustainable development. The following issues were especially underscored:

- There is a need to overcome income divides and address unsustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles;
- Standards need to be set for habitat and environmental reform with clear guidelines and timelines;
- With climate change, one of the greatest challenges of our time, countries need to share experiences and continuously learn from one another;
- Mobility policies in particular need to be strengthened to reduce green house gas emissions and more work is needed to better engage the private sector, in partnership with local authorities, in pro-poor investments and to advance green technologies;
- Local authorities need to be strengthened in their understanding of credit and financial markets so they can operate better in the global market;
- Human settlement development should promote social and economic integration and involve communities in slum improvement and city development; and
- Clearly defined goals and terms of achievement need to be set for harmonious urban development.

2. Mayors' Roundtable — The Role of Local Government in harmonious urbanization

3 November 2008

Chair:

Hon. Zhang Guangning, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Vice-President of China Association of Mayors, Mayor of Guangzhou

Conveners:

Ms. Inga Klevby, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Mr. Qi Ji, Vice-Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, People's Republic of China (MOHURD)

Facilitators: Mr. Dan Ericsson, State Secretary, Swedish Ministry of Finance, Ms. Tao Siliang, Vice-President, China Association of Mayors

Speakers:

Hon. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing, China

Hon. Guan Aiguo, Mayor of Kunshan, China

Hon. Chen Anjie, Mayor of Yangpu District, China

Hon. José Fogaça, Mayor of Porto Alegre, Brazil

Hon. Julio Cesar Garcia Garza, Mayor of Monterrey, Mexico

Hon. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments
UCLG,

Hon. Yang Guangxin, Mayor of Xi'an, China

Hon. S. Mehdi Hashemi, Vice Prime Minister of Road and Transportation, Iran

Hon. Henrich Hoffschulte, first Vice-President of the Council of European Municipalities
and Regions, CEMR

Hon. Pei Jinjia, Mayor of Xiamen, China

Hon. Anders Knape, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions,
SALAR, Sweden

Hon. Wang Kouzhu, Mayor of Changsha, China

Hon. Ousmane Masseck Ndiaye, Mayor, Saint Louis and Ministre d'Etat de la
Décentralisation et des Collectivités locales, Senegal

Hon. Gunde Odgaard Representative of Building and Wood Workers' International, BWI

Hon. Sam Okello, Mayor of Kisumu, Kenya

Hon. Wang Peiting, Mayor of Weihai, China

Hon. Olga Ramalason, Mayor of Antsirabe

Hon. Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden

Hon. Mir Abdul Ahad Sahibi, Mayor, Kabul, Afghanistan

Hon. Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Mayor, Calbayog City, The Philippines

Hon. Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Stuttgart, Germany

Hon. Al Haji Nasser Ntege Sebagala, Mayor of Kampala, Uganda

Hon. Berry Vrbanovic, Third Vice-President of Federation of Canadian Municipalities, FCM

Hon. Xu Weixi, Mayor of Karamay, China

Highlights of the Roundtable

The objective of this roundtable was to identify the role of mayors and local authorities in the search for “harmonious urbanization” as well as to stress the relevance of decentralization in promoting urban harmony and social inclusion. The meeting also discussed the need to balance development and urbanization with environmental concerns and enhance inter-

governmental relations and citizen participation in the planning process, and in decision making in general.

The roundtable was attended by more than 60 mayors representing all continents of the world. With over half of the world living in cities, the governments of these urban areas need to be part of the solution to global challenges.

There was general support for the view that the solutions needed to come from the local level and be supported from the top. Hon. Sarmiento, the Mayor of Calbayog City from the Philippines, stressed that national plans needed to be harmonized with local plans and that city development strategies needed national level support. Mr. Anders Knape, the President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and President of UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), pointed to the fact that UN-Habitat's Guidelines on Decentralization provided for local government autonomy but that there was a need for improved cooperation and coordination in work done vertically with other spheres of government and horizontally with local stakeholders in the business, NGO and academic communities. Mr. Berry Vrbanovic from the Federation of Canadian municipalities emphasized the need for increasing capacity of both local elected and administrative leaders to lead the municipality and be able to take advantage of decentralized competences.

The Mayor of Stuttgart highlighted the need to invest in environmental policies to ensure the sustainability of cities at social and economic level. In this context, the development by UCLG of the Global Report on Decentralization is important.

There was concern about the problems being experienced in African urban areas where local government power is often limited and a lack of land-use planning, urban sprawl, and rapid proliferation of informal settlements are prevalent. There was a plea from Hon. Councillor Mulumba Aisha Nakijjoba from Kampala about the need to address the problems of urban poverty and homelessness which made social harmony impossible to achieve.

Ms. Janet Michael, Mayor of Ramallah, and Mr. Abdul Ahad, Deputy Mayor of Kabul, focused on special problems with reference to post- conflict, occupation and post-disaster situations. Solidarity needed to be demonstrated by the local government community for municipalities that faced with such special circumstances.

In terms of social inclusion, speakers highlighted the issues of increasing mobility and attending to the needs of migrants as important. Mr. Gunde Odgaard , from the Federation of Building Construction and Wood Workers Unions, emphasized that inclusion should also focus on the position of migrants in the labour market and appealed to the mayors to ensure that workers' rights were secured in procurement policies. There was recognition that social infrastructure often lagged behind physical infrastructure.

Ms. Elizabeth Gateau, Secretary General of UCLG, said that in order to achieve harmonious urbanization there was a need for harmonious decentralization, harmonious finances and a partnership between UN-Habitat and local authorities. She emphasized that progress is already being made through Rule 64 (participation of local governments in UN-Habitat Governing Council), the establishment of UNACLA and the adoption of UN-Habitat's Guidelines on Decentralization and that there was now a need to engage in their implementation.

In conclusion, the chairperson summarized the main points of discussion and formulated the following set of recommendations:

- There is a need to decentralize competencies and responsibilities making sufficient resources available for effective governance;
- The competencies of local authorities should be included in all relevant national legislation including the constitution;
- Regular consultations between all spheres of governments are necessary for the definition of policies;
- There should also be reporting on an annual basis by the countries on the implementation of the UN-Habitat Guidelines on Decentralization; complemented by the UCLG Report on Decentralization;
- Partnerships should be promoted with the private sector and the civil society, in particular with grassroots organizations;
- The World Urban Forum should put greater efforts in facilitating dialogue between all spheres of government and within cities with all stakeholders (civil society, business, academia);
- Municipalities should become the focus for international development assistance with regard to urban development;
- Efforts should be made to build institutional capacity at the local level and carry out joint activities building on lessons learned;
- Direct access to development funds by local governments will be crucial to face urban challenges.

3. Women’s Roundtable — Women in Harmonious Cities

3 November 2008

Chairs:

Ms. Wang Yonghong, Vice Mayor, City of Nanjing, People’s Republic of China

Ms. Christine Platt, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners

The panel:

Ms. Kyun-Wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on Affordable Housing

Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Ms. Sheela Patel, Founding Director, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC)

Ms. Lorna Chavez, Member Huariou Commission

Dr. Carolyn Whitzman, Member Commonwealth Association of Planner (CAP) and Women in Cities International

Ms. Jin Yihong, Director, Woman's Development Center of Nanjing Normal University and Professor, Jinling Woman College of Nanjing Normal University

Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, YWCA

Dr. Alison Todes, Member Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

Moderator: Dr. Clara Greed, CAP

Highlights of the Roundtable

Ms. Christine Platt, the Chair of the first session noted that although a significant amount of work has been done on gender equality, women remain overwhelmingly the group most affected by the worst impacts of poverty, especially in slums. Coordinated strategies and planning tools are needed to mainstream women's concerns into the planning and management of cities, including addressing violence, providing infrastructure and services, as well as in designing housing and slum upgrading programmes.

Ms. Kyun-Wha Kang emphasized the importance of promoting adequate housing as a right of women, by applying and utilizing existing international human rights norms and instruments. Security of tenure, the cornerstone of the right to adequate housing, is one area where discrimination is particularly severe, undermining women's access to and control over housing, land and property. There is need to explore and implement strategies and actions to ensure that the concerns of women are fully taken into account in urban development policies and practices

Ms. Raquel Rolnik re-emphasized the right to adequate housing as a fundamental right of women and the role of the State to guarantee it. She discussed the content of urban housing policies and recommended that housing policies for urban sector be reviewed, ensuring women's participation as decision makers in the design of such policies.

Ms. Alison Todes underlined the role planning can play in the promotion of women's rights in particular in informal settlements and illustrated the findings from the Commonwealth survey on gender-aware planning. She suggested that gender mainstreaming is too broad and requires specific approaches. A lot of interventions have been around policy development and less on implementation.

Ms. Carolyn Whitzman underscored that violence is a planning and an urban developmental issue. Men and women have different experiences and impacts of violence, which has both direct and indirect costs, and should be addressed through coordinated strategies and planning tools at the local level.

Ms. Anna Tibaijuka stated that socially, economically and environmentally harmonious cities should provide an enabling environment for women to live and work. Women and men

regardless of their locality should equally enjoy the social, economic and cultural benefits of living in cities. She stressed that the recommendations of the roundtable would inform the development of the UN-Habitat's Gender Equality Action Plan.

Ms. Yonghong said that government interventions and women-friendly policies in health, education and child care had done a lot to promote harmony in Chinese cities.

Ms. Sheela Patel said that the actualization of entitlements is important for women and there is a need for enhancing capacity to address the challenge of forced evictions. She said that women's livelihoods are the main contributors to women's economic empowerment.

Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbovanza emphasized the role of women's land rights in post crisis contexts which is in line with the Habitat Agenda and United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. Women's right to land should be an integral component of peace negotiations and agreements.

Ms. Lorna Chavez highlighted the role of grassroots networks in disaster preparedness and emphasized the need for enhancing capacity of grassroots networks for resilience and response. She summarised the lessons learnt from the grassroots academy held in the city of Cebu as a pre-Forum event and underlined the role of grassroots coalitions in human settlements.

Ms. Jin Yihong illustrated the role of planning in creating harmonious cities for women in cities and towns of China. She gave examples from cities in China focusing on the provision of basic services.

Summary and Conclusions

The roundtable concluded that:

- Supporting gender mainstreaming in urban planning and management, including in budgeting, hiring and political leadership decisions, helps cities become more socially and culturally inclusive. Knowledge and tools for this exist; the critical need is for local governments to apply these at scale, fully taking into account women's concerns and abilities.
- Women have valuable local knowledge that is important for disaster mitigation and response, as well as for post-disaster reconstruction. This is significant for disaster preparedness and resilience, especially in the context of climate change adaptation. The capacity of grassroots networks should be enhanced.
- The right to adequate housing is a human right and all States should ensure that women's equal right to land, housing, property and secure tenure is respected and promoted. Further, instruments and tools should be developed to protect women's right to land in crisis and post-crisis situations.

- Women are often the custodians of neighbourhood history and of the social fabric; Women also play an important role in caring for the young, the elderly, and the infirm, including those who are HIV positive. Involving women and their community-based organizations is therefore critical to maintaining community solidarity, preserving a sense of place and belonging, and maintaining inter-generational relations.

4. Parliamentarian Roundtable

4 November 2008

Chair:

Mr. Peter Götz, President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

The panel:

Mr. Chen Jia Bao, Chairman of Nanjing Municipal Congress, People's Republic of China

Mr. Eloy Cantu Segovia, Senator of Mexico and Vice President of GPH, representing Latin America

Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and President of UN-Habitat Governing Council 21, representing Asia

Ms. Mariam Nalubega, Member of Parliament, Uganda, representing Africa

Mr. Mohammad Saeedi Kia, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Rodolfo G. Biazon, Senator of the Philippines and Vice-President of Global Parliamentarians for Habitat

Mr. Wang De Jun, Nanjing People's Congress, People's Republic of China

Mr. Wang Ping, People's Republic of China

Highlights of the Roundtable

The Chair opened the Round Table by emphasizing the important role that parliamentarians have to play in mitigating climate change. He also introduced the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, an organization of parliamentarians which strives to support the implementation of the Habitat-Agenda.

Mr. Jia Bao emphasized the impact of climate change in Nanjing and the efforts the Municipality has undertaken to protect the environment through practical and legislative work.

Mr. Segovia drew attention to the global scale of the issue which has been of particular importance for Mexico recently when hurricane Wilma led to a devastating natural disaster. He called for national legislative bodies to address the challenges of global environmental changes. Furthermore, he called upon parliamentarians to commit political will and recognize the prevailing global economic crisis that necessitates linking and coordinating national actions in legislation to those at international level.

Ms. Selja reiterated that climate change is a global challenge and that three-quarters of all carbon dioxide is emitted by cities. She emphasized the role of parliamentarians in educating the public and framing legislation and pointed to India's recent initiatives including the National Action Plan on Climate Change. This plan foresees actions to enhance energy efficiency across economic sectors, including buildings, management of solid waste management and public transport. For example, New Delhi is one of the first cities in the world that operates its public transport system on compressed natural gas.

Ms. Nalubega pointed out the effects of climate change experienced in Uganda, such as drought, flooding and melting of snow on mountains caps. Some of these have caused loss of life and property. She mentioned the environmental principles embedded in the national constitution and relevant legislation. She called upon parliamentarians to play an active role in protecting the environment through campaigns, by adopting conventions, enacting regulations and involving women and youth. She recommended that parliamentarians should raise awareness amongst their communities on the issue of climate change and monitor institutions that oversee implementation of environmental laws and hold them accountable.

Mr. Biazon reminded parliamentarians that they must continue to forge ahead with addressing the goal of adequate shelter for all. In particular, he warned about the alarming prospect of islands being reclaimed by sea waters. He urged parliamentarians to cooperate with local and national government agencies to reduce the vulnerabilities of coastal cities and villages to climate change. He drew attention to the food and fuel crises.

Mr. Saeedi Kia emphasized that countries in the Asia-Pacific region are most vulnerable to climate change, especially inhabitants of poor countries. Industrial growth in Iran has exacerbated air pollution and water shortages. He pointed out the importance of addressing the needs of urban populations and to reduce the use of fossil fuel through alternative energies. Developed countries have a responsibility to provide technical support to developing countries in this regard.

Mr. De Jun described the efforts of the Nanjing people's congress to enact legislation in a scientific and democratic manner, promote an ecological city and green construction, and ensure punishment of lawbreakers.

Mr. Ping enumerated the numerous environmental policies passed, *inter alia*, to establish clean manufacturing methods, waste water and garbage treatment, efficient resource use, recycling and renewable energy. He suggested that parliamentarians should adopt policies for the transformation of polluting industries, promotion of energy saving and renewable technologies, taxation for environmental protection and public participation mechanisms.

The following recommendations were made by parliamentarians during the debate:

- While all countries have to work together to meet the challenge of climate change, developed countries have a particular responsibility in facilitating the provision of resources for action plans of developing countries.
- All parliamentarians should use their oversight role to ensure that resources are used for their intended purpose.
- Parliamentarians should collaborate regionally as countries are interlinked through trans-boundary water resources and eco-systems, and food security concerns.

- Parliamentarians should play a pro-active role to ensure that the policies they enact are also implemented, and that adequate budgetary allocations are made.

Summary and Conclusions

The Roundtable contributed to further develop UN-Habitat's programmatic focus in the area of 'cities and climate change'. It also strengthened working relations between Global Parliamentarians for Habitat and UN-Habitat. Participating parliamentarians repeatedly highlighted the importance of legislation that is conducive to sustainable urbanization. Parliamentarians attending the Roundtable came from all parts of the world, representing a wealth of different cultures, traditions and parliamentary systems. The Roundtable presented an opportunity for mutual learning and experience exchange and thus brought out the positive aspects of globalization.

5. Youth Roundtable: A look at Best Practices in Youth-led Development

4 November 2008

Chairs:

Mr. Kunrong Shen, School of Economics, Nanjing University,

Mr. Oyebanji Oyeyinka, Director, Monitoring and Research, UN-Habitat

Moderator:

Mr. Kunrong Shen, School of Economics, Nanjing University

Highlights of the Roundtable

Mr. Anantha Krishnan presented the background and deadlines for the implementation of the new *Opportunities fund for urban youth-led development*, which was launched officially the same day. Taking into consideration that youth-led practices need both human and financial resources, he said that the fund, with the support of Norway, can play a crucial role in promoting youth-led development.

Mr. Erik Berg, representative of Ministry of Development Cooperation, Norway, described the challenges facing young people in the world today. He noted that it is important for different stakeholders to work together on youth-led development and to invest in a more holistic and broad-based approach to youth development. Using this approach in development cooperation demanded certain prerequisites, including; recognising children as having rights and being actors and stakeholders in the process; recognizing that parents and families are the primary care-givers, protectors and guardians of children and thus in need of support in these roles; recognizing the challenges of and taking gender into account. He also said that the fund had to recognize the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Millennium Development Goals and the *Habitat Agenda* and strives to support their implementation and meet their goals.

Mr. Laiheng Tao of the Nanjing Psychological Rescue Centre cited the importance of psychological care for youth in order to promote balanced development of Nanjing. He also cited the increased pressures on youth, particularly with regard to education as part of the problem. He went on to describe the Nanjing Psychological Centre, where help is available to

youth through the provision of hotlines, therapy, training, face to face meetings and education programmes.

A number of organizations were then called on to present case studies on youth-led development.

Discussions from the floor opened with concerns on the definition of youth. It was noted that the Fund currently works on the United Nations definition of youth; the age-group between 10 and 24.

It was proposed that the World Urban Forum be used as a sort of General Assembly on the development and implementation of the Fund, with the youth, as key constituents, giving their input on the Fund's work at every session. The participants were encouraged to actively take part in the development of the framework for the Fund, as well as establishing its criteria and modalities. One such suggestion was that a success indicator of the Fund could be 75-80% of the Fund disbursements going to youth-led institutions/organization, free of administrative or managerial costs. It was agreed that the Fund would be used by youth-led organizations and organizations that report or answer to youth as a constituency. The importance of other countries and donors joining the Fund was strongly expressed.

The Fund was also seen as possible resource for networking and partnership development. The development of cooperative societies as mechanisms to channel funds for youth-led activities and revolving fund models were suggested as ways young people's groups could access the fund.

Summary and Conclusions

In closing, it was pointed out that lack of equal opportunities leads to imbalanced development. It was also noted that cities were the locus where growth is occurring at the highest rates especially among the poorest segments of the population. He said young people should be given a fair hearing and encouraged to grasp opportunities as they arise.

The Youth Roundtable, and the World Youth Forum which immediately preceded the World Urban Forum, were important components of the advocacy and partnership strategies of UN-Habitat.

6. Roundtable on the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Roundtable: Land governance within a grassroots and gender framework

4 November 2008

Chair/Moderator: Ms. Agnes Kalibbala, High Commissioner of Uganda and Chair of the GLTN International Advisory Board, Kenya

The panel:

Mr. Alain Durand-Lasserve, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France

Ms. Ayse Yonder, Pratt Institute and the Huairou Commission, New-York, United States

Mr. Chris Paresi, International Institute of Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Enschede, The Netherlands

Ms. Clarissa Augustinus, Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya

Ms. Edith Mbangi, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Windhoek, Namibia

Mr. Geoffrey Payne, Geoffrey Payne & Associates (GPA), London, United Kingdom

Mr. Humphrey Otieno, Nairobi Peoples Settlements Network and Hakijamii, Nairobi, Kenya

Mr. Morten Wasstøl, Political Advisor to the Norwegian Minister of International Development and Environment, Norway

Mr. Li Guo, Senior Agricultural Economist, World Bank, Washington, United States

Mr. Paul Munro Faure, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy

Mr. Per Nygard, Ministry of Local Government and Regions, Oslo, Norway

Mr. Stig Enemark, International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), Copenhagen, Denmark

Mr. Siseho Kamwi, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Windhoek, Namibia

Mr. Ulrik Westman, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Coordinator, UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya

Ms. Violet Shivtse, Huairou Commission, Kenya

Highlights of the Roundtable

The main objective of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Roundtable was to bring GLTN partners (representing multilateral, bilateral organizations, NGOs, academia, training institutions and grassroots organizations) to develop the Network's understanding of the overarching concept of land governance, gender and grassroots and for GLTN partners to report on current activities.

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Ambassador Kalibbala, who introduced the discussion on the way forward for GLTN and on how land governance relates to the GLTN gender and grassroots mechanisms. The Norwegian delegation highlighted the progress made by GLTN in regard to gendered pro poor land tool development and reiterated its support to the initiative.

Mr. Westman stated that the objectives of GLTN are to contribute to poverty alleviation and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure. Mrs. Augustinus informed the meeting about a common land governance framework developed in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The framework recognizes that land governance concerns the rules, processes and organizations through which decisions are made about access to land and its use, the manner in which decisions are implemented and the way that competing interests in land are managed.

The recently developed criteria for evaluation of land administration and good governance were presented by Mr. Guo. These indicators aim to evaluate the efficiency and accessibility of different aspects of good governance such as land information and management, legal and institutional framework, etc.

Furthermore, Mr. Munroe-Faure introduced the work towards transparent land administration for good governance and presented the voluntary guidelines on land and natural resources tenure which will be presented to member states for approval to establish a common code of conduct.

GLTN partners have developed criteria to mainstream gender within existing land tools and to develop new tools that are gender responsive. Ms. Yonder highlighted the importance of security of tenure and governance for grassroots women.

Ms. Shivtse and Mr. Otieno stated that as part of the land governance framework, GLTN partners has developed a grassroots mechanisms which provide detailed criteria to assess grassroots participation in order to determine whether it is genuine, effective and rights-based.

Mr. Enemark presented the findings from a practitioners dialogue on improving slum conditions through innovative financing. A publication summarizes the outcomes in regard to the linkages between mapping, planning, land rights, cadastre, valuation and financial services (available on www.fig.net and www.gltm.net).

As an example of current land tool development, Mr. Paresi introduced the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) and how this new approach to pro poor land records is flexible enough to be applied in informal settlements in developing countries. STDM allows registration of informal rights, overlapping claims as well as land disputes.

Ms. Mbanga and Mr. Kamwi presented the results from socio-economic enumerations that were carried out by local communities in informal settlements in Namibia.

Messrs. Durand-Lasserve and Payne presented the findings from research on the social and economic impacts of land titling programmes, indicating that land titling may not always be the most appropriate or pro-poor option to provide security of tenure.

Summary and Conclusions

The meeting concluded by a presentation on the way forward in regard to GLTN land governance activities proposed for the next two years. The GLTN partners present at the meeting reiterated their support towards the work of UN-Habitat in the area of land governance and management and its participatory process used for developing pro-poor land tools.

7. Urban researchers' Roundtable - Policy challenges of sustainable urbanization

5 November 2008

Chairs

Professor Winnie Mitullah, University of Nairobi, Nairobi and Chairperson, Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net)

Professor Soucheng Dong, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, People's Republic of China

Moderator

Dr. Graham Tipple, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, UK and Vice-Chairperson, Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net)

Speakers

Professor David Simon, Royal Holloway College, London University, United Kingdom

Professor Xingpeng Chen, Lanzhou University, People's Republic of China

Ms. Cynthia Awuor, African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Mark Pelling, Kings College, London University, United Kingdom

Mr. Daniel Hoornweg, Sustainable Development Network, World Bank, USA

Ms. Ceclina Njenga, Environmental Planning Branch, UN-Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya
Professor Li Nu Yun, State Forestry Administration, People's Republic of China

Professor Jian Yulin, China Academy of Transportation Sciences, Ministry of Transport, People's Republic of China

Professor Sun Jilin, College of Physical and Environmental Oceanography, Ocean University of China, People's Republic of China

Dr. Wu Yuping, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), People's Republic of China

Dr. Li Yu, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, People's Republic of China

Highlights of the Roundtable

Professor Mitullah opened the meeting by welcoming participants and outlining the purpose of the roundtable.

Professor Oyeyinka, in his introductory statement, emphasised the centrality of climate change in the quest of harmonious urbanization and thus in UN-Habitat's work. He said cities would be held responsible for global warming and its effects. He hoped that the meeting would enhance UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) and provide inputs for the Global Report on Human Settlements 2011.

Professor Simon outlined the extent to which cities contribute to climate change and the impacts of global environmental change for cities. He said there was a need for climate

change policies to focus on the most vulnerable populations and poorer countries, urban areas and tropical zones.

Professor Chen discussed the sustainable development challenges arising from rapid urban growth in China. Proposed solutions to those challenges include: introduction of cleaner production techniques, pollution control measures, more efficient patterns of resource use and greater resource conservation.

Dr. Pelling paid particular attention to social learning and self-organization. Based on a case study of small towns in Mexico's Caribbean coast, he showed that local capacity for social learning needed to be enhanced through improved knowledge and awareness of the urban impacts of climate change. Similarly, measures should be taken to overcome the constraints to self-organization in cities, including community fragmentation and an overly bureaucratic government.

Ms. Awour described the vulnerability of Mombasa, Kenya's second largest city and east Africa's largest port, to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change. She emphasized the need for immediate mitigation and adaptation actions, including: the integration of climate change concerns into physical planning and land use and building codes; launch of public awareness and sensitization campaigns; and strategic planning to guide future developments in the most vulnerable coastal areas.

The moderator, Dr. Tipple, summarized key issues raised in the presentations. These included the challenges faced by rapid urbanization and widespread poverty; the particular problems faced by vulnerable people living in vulnerable places; the need for support for local authorities to cope with climate change; the need for enforceable coastal management policy; and the importance of strengthening of social capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

One participant called attention to the urgent need to incorporate climate change into education systems so that awareness could be raised in the long run. The role of the media in raising awareness should also be emphasized. Another participant stressed the need to enforce minimum building codes to improve coping capacity in the face of climate change related disasters. Other issues raised in the debate included social and environmental justice, the need to refine the concept of urbanization and in terms of its spatial manifestation and the impact of climate change on mountainous towns.

The representative of the World Bank, Mr. Daniel Hoornweg, described the preparatory work for the 2009 World Bank Urban Research Symposium which focuses on Cities and Climate Change. He said that over 500 proposals had already been received in the areas of slums and adaptation, metabolism of cities, energy efficiency, governance, social inclusion, urban heat islands, risk reduction and modelling.

A UN-Habitat staff member, Ms Cecilia Njenga, told the meeting about the agency's Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net), recently established to promote and support sustainable urban development. It follows an interdisciplinary approach to support local action and seeks to reinforce synergies among different institutions. It also seeks to mobilize and strengthen global, regional, national and local partnerships/networks. Its main entry points include decentralization and the relationship between cities and climate change.

These presentations were followed by six short presentation on Chinese experiences, highlighting (i) China's carbon sequestration efforts; (ii) urban transportation policies to combat climate change; (iii) the impacts of sea-level rise and other climate related disasters on urban planning; (iv) improvements in energy efficiency in the construction industry; and (v) sustainable urbanization strategies in North-west China.

The facilitator concluded by reiterating the need to incorporate climate change into future policy implementation at all levels. Measures to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation should also include economic, technological, social and governance dimensions. He stressed that the Chinese presentations had shown that efforts to combat climate change would have to involve professionals from a range of social and natural science disciplines.

8. Habitat Partner Universities Roundtable – Broadening Cooperation with Institutions

5 November 2008

Co-Chair

Prof. Tore Haugen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway

Prof. Sigfrid Wu, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Moderators

Prof. Karl Otto Ellefsen, Oslo School of Architecture, Oslo, Norway

Hans Skotte, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Prof. Stephen Agong, Maseno University, Kenya

Speakers

Mr. Raf Tuts, Chief, Environment Planning Branch, UN-Habitat

Mr. Lars Reutersward, Director, Global Division, UN-Habitat

Prof. Bjorn Malbert, Chalmers University of Technology

Highlights of the Roundtable

The roundtable was opened by the co-chair, Prof. Haugen from NTNU, followed by words of welcome by Vice Dean Dong Wei, School of Architecture, Southeastern University, Nanjing, China.

It was recognized that UN-Habitat sought to partner with universities, creating Habitat Partner Universities as a means of enlarging cooperation between the organization and institutions of higher learning, as well as facilitating exchange and cooperation between

universities. A key concern of the Habitat Partner University initiative is to bridge the gap between research, education, policy and practice in sustainable urban development. Mr. Reutersward and Mr. Tuts from UN-Habitat introduced the objectives of the meeting, which were to identify and explore potential for cooperation between existing and prospective Habitat Partner Universities. They stressed the principles of the network collaboration, including systemic approach towards sustainable urban development, the focus on urban poverty reduction, the need for inter-disciplinary and practice-oriented approaches covering various scale levels and the institutional commitment from universities. Examples of collaboration modalities were highlighted, covering the areas of research, education, knowledge management and institutional strengthening.

Prof. Sjoberg and Prof. Malbert from Chalmers University of Technology presented their experiences of having been a Habitat Partner University since 2006, followed by a presentation by Prof. Wu of Tongji University on Tongji's views on the Habitat Partner University collaboration as a prospective partner.

The co-chair opened the floor for a short session of questions and answers before handing over to the moderators to lead a discussion on the expected benefits for cities, universities and UN-Habitat in this collaboration, its thematic and geographical focus as well as on the possible structure and scale of the Habitat Partner University collaboration.

University representatives from a wide range of countries, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, Sweden and Tanzania contributed to the debate.

As regards the benefits for universities to engage in this type of partnership, it was recognized that partnering with UN-Habitat was helpful in validating research efforts and approaches on sustainable urban development vis-à-vis the university management and also towards partners. The meeting noted that benefits could also be derived through joint fundraising for priority research and educational initiatives.

A key thematic issue that was raised was the importance of recognizing the built environment as an important component of sustainable development, as well as the importance of engaging in both inter- and intra-disciplinary research.

Also highlighted were the links between universities in the South, in particular on issues such as curricula development. Furthermore, it was stressed that universities needed to link more with grassroots organizations and communities, as well as with local and central government officials, with a role for UN-Habitat as a convenor.

Discussions on the possible structure of the initiative included an offer from Tongji University to create a website for the collaboration. Here it was stressed that universities should be prepared to be committed giving time and resources to the initiative, and that an assessment of the collaboration from both sides should be done on a regular basis.

Participants concluded by stating that there was a genuine interest from partner universities to support sustainable urban development. The Habitat Partner University network was still a young initiative and the detailed modus operandi ought to be discussed further in the near future.

ANNEX VII. SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL SESSIONS

1. Private Sector Consultation: Corporate Responsibility towards Harmonious Cities

4 November 2008

Moderator

Mr. Gordon Feller, CEO, Urban Age Institute, USA

Panelists

Mr. J. Gary Lawrence, Urban Strategy Leader, ARUP, USA

Ms. Nie Meisheng, President, China Real Estate Chamber of Commerce, People's Republic of China

Mr. Eduardo Sevilla, Member of the Executive Board, Global Housing Foundation, USA

Mr. Ramin Keivani, Director, International Land Markets Research Group, Oxford Brookes University, UK

Mr. Edmundo Werna, Construction Industry Expert, International Labour Organisation, Switzerland

Mr. Daniel Cukierman, Director of Veolia Transport, People's Republic of China

Ms. Inga Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Major Issues and Concerns

A consultation meeting of private sector companies committed to corporate responsibility examined ways of improving living conditions and achieving harmonious cities. They discussed responsible business practices for sustainable urbanization and the relevant core principles. They also discussed affordable technologies and business models that can work for the urban poor at the bottom of the economic pyramid, so that cities and towns are safer, more equitable, harmonious – and better for business.

Debate

Mr. Lawrence opened the session emphasizing the importance of and the need for creating opportunities to enable the private sector to play a bigger role in the improvement of the lives of the urban poor. One of the biggest challenges the private sector is facing today is to find ways to improve urban neighbourhoods without destroying low income housing and other informal settlements. The poor are not only a source of hidden wealth but also a great source of intellectual capital.

Citing the example of China, where private sector accounts for as much as 60% of the GDP, Ms. Meisheng emphasized the important role private sector plays in urban development. The private sector in many countries is the biggest employer and contributor to national income. In many instances, it also plays an active and a crucial role in disaster relief measures, which is a clear manifestation of its corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Sevilla described successful micro-mortgage programs of Global Housing Foundation (GHF). She further underscored the need to bridge the gap between civil society and the private sector. GHF's mission is to provide affordable housing for economically disadvantaged families. Recently, an agreement was finalized with UN-HABITAT and Merrill Lynch to provide up to USD 250 million in long-term financing to allow the working poor to finance their home purchases.

Mr. Keivani emphasized the policy issues with regard to the private sector's role in the low-income housing sector, particularly the informal sector. There needs to be a paradigm shift to remove barriers incrementally in order for the private sector to be able to meet the demand for housing and services at the bottom of the pyramid. For that, partnerships between local communities, civil society organizations and the private sector are imperative.

Mr. Werna underlined the importance of the construction industry as a main driver of national economies. But it also accounts for one third of CO₂ emissions. Climate change provides an opportunity to generate new 'green jobs' through the need for mitigating such emissions. Mr. Cukierman focused on forging strong cooperation between private operators and public authorities in order to build sustainable cities. Clear public sector policies and guidelines are necessary to guide private sector investments and operations in cities. Seoul Metro System and Bogota Transmillenio Projects were mentioned as successful business models that are based on cooperation between strong local governments and Veolia.

Ms. Klevby concluded the special session by saying that business cannot succeed in a society that fails. Therefore, all stakeholders need to have a clear interest in helping to create functioning cities that are good places for doing business. Building and sustaining the city with the private sector is a strategic direction for UN-Habitat, which is committed to act as a catalyst between partners for a better and sustainable urban future.

Summary and Conclusions

The private sector is of paramount importance to the creation of harmonious cities. The coming of an urban age and global environmental change necessitates a new focus on innovative technologies and alternative business approaches that will reduce dependence on natural resources and carbon emissions whilst producing higher outputs. This requires refocusing current market systems towards the creation of wealth at optimally sustainable points through socially and environmentally responsible business.

A new framework is needed that will strengthen business practices that are profitable yet environmentally sustainable. Improving the lives of those at the bottom of the economic pyramid should be a key outcome of private sector investments in cities. The private sector has a lot to gain by collaborating with and developing the market chain at the bottom of the pyramid. What is required are innovative business models, affordable and flexible technologies and enhanced social and ecological consciousness. It is also important for public authorities to create an enabling governance and regulatory environment to facilitate urban investments by the private sector.

While acknowledging the crucial role the private sector plays in terms of its contribution to economic development and employment generation, participants also recognized the importance of fair and equitable wages, especially for new rural-to-urban migrants, as another social responsibility of the corporate sector.

2. The UN-HABITAT Lecture Award and the Launch of *Urban World*

4 November 2008

Chair:

Ms. Winnie Mitullah, Professor, Kenya (Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi)

Opening Statement and Presentation of Award

Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka, Director, Monitoring and Research Division, UN-Habitat

Lecture:

Professor Anthony Gar-on Yeh, Professor, People's Republic of China (Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, University of Hong Kong)

Panelists:

Dr. Richard Sliuzas, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, The Netherlands

Dr. Graham Tipple, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Professor Suocheng Dong Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, People's Republic of China

The UN-Habitat Lecture Award recognizes outstanding and sustained contribution to research and thinking in the human settlements field. The Award rotates regionally every year and in 2008 it focused on the Asia Pacific region. The winner, Professor Anthony Gar-On Yeh of the University of Hong Kong, is one of the foremost planners in Asia today. He delivered his lecture entitled, “*GIS as a Planning Support System for Harmonious Cities*” at the Forum. The launch of UN-Habitat's new quarterly flagship magazine, *Urban World*, a more modern magazine to replace *Habitat Debate*, was also announced during this occasion.

Professor Winnie Mitullah, Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net) opened the event by welcoming Professor Yeh and all participants. She also briefly explained the rationale and criteria for the UN-Habitat Lecture Award. She then invited Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka to present the Award.

In his opening statement, Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka introduced Professor Yeh and his outstanding research achievements and then proceeded to present the Award, which carries a

cash prize of USD 10, 000 and comes with a commemorative plaque. Before inviting Professor Yeh to deliver his lecture, he announced the launch of the new magazine, *Urban World*.

Professor Yeh commenced by outlining how the notion of ‘harmony’ has been represented in China through ancient concepts such as *Ying-yang* and *I-ching*, dating back thousands of years. He also reviewed the emergence of modern conceptualizations of ‘harmony’, including sustainable urbanization, encompassing the three pillars of social, economic and environmental sustainability. He then mapped the sustained relationship between GIS and urban planning over the past several decades. Professor Yeh went on to highlight the numerous ways in which GIS can enhance planning for harmonious cities, including through improved data collection and analysis, plan evaluation and implementation. He stated that fundamental urban challenges such as the spatial layout of services and infrastructure as well as land use management could be addressed effectively through GIS. Participatory GIS techniques could also enhance public participation in urban planning.

Professor Yeh provided a number of examples of how GIS has been applied in urban planning, including in determining and evaluating the consequences of urban growth and testing different planning alternatives. Current constraints in the application of GIS in urban planning, he stated, are no longer technical but rather relate to data, skills and resource limitations. He concluded by stating that GIS is a fundamental support tool for the planning of harmonious cities regardless of how they are defined and what urban planning paradigms are applied.

The three panellists further praised Professor Yeh for his outstanding research achievements to date, especially in the area of GIS and urban planning. The panel went on to reiterate the important role of GIS in planning for harmonious cities especially given the current complexity and pace of urbanization. It was stated that GIS is particularly relevant for determining future scenarios and consequences of urbanization and planning for these accordingly. It was further noted that GIS can revolutionaries information sharing both between and within government departments and various institutions. However, a more open and positive attitude towards information and data sharing was necessary for GIS to effectively contribute towards urban planning.

A number of issues were raised in the ensuing discussion, including the importance of balancing public participation with more technical expertise when applying GIS in urban planning. The resource limitations faced by governments in developing countries with regards to the application of GIS in urban planning were also underscored.

3. Harmony in the Rapid Urbanization Process

4 November 2008

Special message by Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary General of the United Nations, and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Keynote address

Mr. He Quan, Deputy Governor of Jiangsu Province

Presentations

Mr. Xu Zhongzhi, Deputy Mayor of Nanjing
Ms. Wang Jingxia, Deputy Mayor of Yangzhou
Mr. Xu Meijian, Mayor of Zhangjiagang
Mr. Guan Aiguo, Mayor of Kunshan

Comments and recommendations

Mr. Qiji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction, People's Republic of China

Mr. Michel Savy, Université de Paris – Val de Marne et l'Ecole nationale des Ponts et Chaussées

Ms. Clin, Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy, UNESCO

Mr. Lu Weimin, Adviser for Beijing Capital Planning, USA

Mr. Cui Gonghao, Professor of Nanjing University

Mr. Wu Zhiqiang, Professor for Tongji University

Mr. Mao Qizhi, Professor of Tsinghua University

Mr. Dong Wei, Professor of Southeast University

Major Issues and Concerns

This meeting, organized by the authorities of Jiangsu Province, provided several insights into ways of building harmonious cities. An important aspect of harmonious urbanization is balanced urban and rural development while drawing on advantages of location. Because of the rapid pace of urbanization in China, despite immense progress over a short period of time, challenges persist. These can only be successfully addressed if all levels of government work in partnership with communities to realize local level implementation. A concern is that the rapid pace of government-led urbanization has resulted in Chinese cities increasingly looking the same and losing their specific identity and uniqueness in this rapid process of urbanization.

Mrs. Tibaijuka welcomed the speakers and participants and stated that China has done well in balancing rural and urban development. As a result, she noted, several best practices have emerged and three cities in the Jiangsu Province have been awarded the *Habitat Scroll of Honour*. Although the country has demonstrated 30 years of remarkable reforms and achievements, urbanization challenges are expected to continue to emerge. The world, and Africa in particular, can learn a great deal from China's experiences and more deeply understand the processes and expertise required for realizing harmonious urbanization.

The Deputy Governor of Jiangsu recalled the 2,500 year old historic development of Nanjing. Despite successful industrialization and urbanization, the city continues to face structural problems including environmental pressures, imbalanced spatial development, friction between population growth and the need for human-centred urban development and frictions

between different interest groups. The need for coordinated metropolitan region development becomes clearer as does the need for greater local identity and a focus on human-centred urban development. Four harmonies need to be realized: urban modernization; high-tech industrialization; capitalizing on cultural resources and promoting eco-civilization.

The Vice-Mayor of Yangzhou gave an overview of the city’s outstanding preservation record. This has involved the comprehensive protection of streetscapes and individual buildings as well as the rehabilitation of the traditional canal eco-system. Traditional local culture has been widely integrated into existing conservation efforts.

The Mayor of Zhang Jiagang explained how the city developed from an isolated village into a prosperous harbour through a people-oriented process building on social and economic development of the region’s urban and rural areas. An integrated rural-urban development plan has eased the rural-urban divide, while the infrastructure provision has enabled high speed inter-city connections. Long-term environmental visioning has improved the provision of clean water and increased the number of green neighbourhoods. Social and low-rental housing has been made available and urban unemployment is below 2 percent. Furthermore, Zhang Jiagang has now the lowest urban crime rate in China.

The Mayor of Kunshan, the town renown as the “Father of Chinese Operas”, stated that despite 30 years of rapid development, the town’s architectural heritage has been preserved. The city has won many prizes for combining rapid growth with sound social and economic development. Inclusive planning, functional design and regional cooperation were at the basis of its 2002 -2020 Master Plan, which has significant ecological and environmental components. Seamless connections with Shanghai and Suzhou are the result of infrastructure development and the balanced development of rural and urban areas. A 3-tier service network makes urban services accessible to more people while ICT applications monitor and urban service delivery. These developments have been premised on public participation in decision-making and democratic urban governance.

The Minister of Housing Urban-Rural Development of the People’s Republic of China stated that despite Nanjing being a metropolitan city, it has managed to maintain with the region’s nature and rich culture. Nanjing is a showcase for other Chinese cities. Worldwide, approaches to achieving harmonious urbanization differ but all city managers want their own city to be a place of attraction and healthy living. China follows the government-led urbanization model, which demands partnerships among all levels of government to realize local level implementation. Jiangsu province is ahead of China in terms of urbanization and although there are still many urban challenges, urban managers from around the world are invited to learn from Nanjing’s rapid urbanization lessons and experiences. Particularly the use of ICT in urban management as in Shanghai and Beijing is one of the insights that may help other developing nations to address urban management challenges.

Summary and Conclusions

The special session made clear that inclusive and participatory decision making, together with long-term spatial visioning, infrastructure development and the integration of tangible and intangible cultural assets have been highly conducive to setting Chinese cities on the path of harmonious urbanization. Nations have different approaches to achieving harmonious urbanization and harmonious cities. Because it is difficult to comprehend local circumstances

fully from the national level, and vice-versa, decision-making has to be located at the appropriate level, regardless of the national approach to urbanization.

4. The Role of Government in Housing Finance Systems

4 November 2008

Moderator:

Ms. Barbara (Bonnie) C. Hewson, Managing Director and Principal, Newline Capital Partners New York, USA

Panelists:

Mr. Dan Ericsson, Swedish State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Sweden

Mr. Robert Van Order, Professor, former Chief Economist, Freddie Mac, USA

Mr. Ballobh Kritayanavaj, Senior Vice President, Government Housing Bank of Thailand

Mr. Ahmed Vawda, Technical Advisor in Office of Director General, Ministry of Housing, South Africa

Mr. Mike Lindfield, Principal Urban Specialist, Special Initiatives Group, Asian Development Bank

Mr. Michael Oxley, Professor of Housing, Demontfort University UK, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Ms. Anne Ruden, Director, State Bank of Norway

Major Issues and Concerns

This session discussed the housing finance crisis prevailing on world markets and its impacts on the global housing sector and affordable housing and the economy. It examined the underlying factors and evolution of the financial crisis and the major players – particularly government, government-sponsored enterprises and specialized housing finance institutions and funding instruments. It also examined bailout plans for big banks and lenders, as well as the implications of extended government intervention in the housing finance market.

Opening Remarks

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director, UN-Habitat, thanked the moderator for taking time out of her busy schedule on Wall Street to help guide the discussion on the global financial crisis and its effect on housing finance. The Executive Director went on to outline the origins of the UN-Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. She said it was a remarkable housing and urban development finance mechanism that had come out of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Environment, but which had not been capitalized, nor yet put into effect but will become key to UN-Habitat's future. The Foundation was conceived as a fund which can lend and borrow at own risk, unlike the Bretton Woods institutions without sovereign guarantee, as mandated by UN General Assembly. She asked that we now consider how to mobilize sufficient finance for affordable housing utilizing the experience of the equity markets and securitization processes, but with the necessary safeguards to avoid the characteristics of the current global crisis.

Debate

Mr. Ericsson explained how Sweden had learned from the housing credit crisis that affected its housing market in the 1990s. At the time, the economy had both inflation and taxes at extreme levels with speculators operating in the housing market. As in the United States now, people could not service their loans. For the banking industry, it was a costly experience. Now Sweden is being asked to give advice to Washington. In conclusion, he advocated reforms in the area of financial risk management to enhance housing affordability.

Mr. Robert Van Order said that in the current sub-prime crisis there were two problems – firstly, there was a huge increase in mortgage defaults as a result of poor quality underwriting so people were misguided into unaffordable loans and secondly, this was coupled with the sudden rise and then fall in house prices (the classic housing value bubble), resulting in negative equity. Although each of these problems have occurred previously, and have been contained, never have they happened together. Added to this is the fact that the loss of confidence in the interbank liquidity system is staggering. Although the losses from defaults might reach between \$200-300 billion, the liquidity problem will be counted in trillions. Nevertheless, a recovery will come, albeit slowly and for many, painfully.

Mr. Kritavanavaj talked about the Thai experience and the earlier Asian financial crisis. He highlighted the importance of keeping everyone well informed with timely public information, analysis and statements on policy and interventions by Government.

Mr. Vawda outlined the South African experience whereby strong governmental policy had paved the way for housing to be viewed as an asset. This then complements State and municipal investments in spatial planning and infrastructure. Mr. Lindfield highlighted good governance and accounting for the global public good. This he felt, should deal with the weak regulatory environment which leads to the hazard of lending above affordability.

Mr. Oxley outlined the European case for the commercial funding of social housing stock. Most western European countries, he said, finance this through the private sector.

Finally, Ms. Ruden advocated learning from the past with better coordination of supplementary mechanisms working alongside private regulators.

Summary and Conclusions

For developing countries the global financial crisis will mean that capital will be scarce, while aid will be even more necessary for those countries that are exposed, in order to alleviate poverty and address the continued lack of adequate housing. Access to financial systems for the bottom billion people will be more needed than ever in order for them to achieve decent housing. Financial mechanisms to provide such access should be part of the restructured global financial system.

The experience in South Africa had shown for example that a progressive housing policy can work for the public good even in times of global financial crisis. The case of Shack Dwellers International underscored in their use of highly targeted microfinance system in close collaboration with local banks. The Thai experience in dealing with the earlier Asian financial crises is relevant to the current situation. Such lessons from earlier crises need to be taken into account and be transparently accessible to all. Speakers addressed the need for

improved regulation of the Global Financial System; some even suggested creation of a new global banking authority. Since the outcome of global financial systems affects everyone, every country needs to be part of the process of understanding and acting on financial information.

5. The role of civil society in building harmonious cities

5 November 2008

Chair

Mr. Davinder Lamba, President of Habitat International Coalition, (Kenya), Executive Director of Mazingira Institute;

Co-Chair

Mr. Xu Liugen, Vice President, China Association of Social Workers, China
Organizer: Guenter Karl, Chief, Civil Society Unit, Partners and Youth Section, UN-HABITAT.

Panelists

Ms. Emmy Galama: Permanent Representative, International Council of Women for Habitat, Member of the Huairou Commission

Mr. Robert Tonks: Administrative Managing Director, Networking on Urban Research in the Eupropean Union (Germany)

Mr. Paul Wambua, Programme Officer, Partners and Youth Section, UN-Habitat

Ms. Rasna Warah, Editor, State of the World's Cities 2008/9, UN-Habitat

Major Issues and Concerns

Participants examined the theme, “Civil Society: Partner and Catalyst for Sustainable Urbanization and Harmonious Cities.” The meeting discussed and made inputs into the draft Civil Society Organizations Strategy Paper presented by UN-Habitat. The meeting also enabled civil society organizations to discuss their role in sustainable urbanization and the goal of harmonious cities. They also discussed the highlights and emerging issues of UN-Habitat's flagship report, the *State of the World's Cities 2008/9*.

Debate

Mr. Paul Wambua presented UN-Habitat's draft Civil Society Organizations Strategy Paper. He said that the Habitat Agenda recognized the significant contribution that partnerships with civil society could make to UN-Habitat's work. Since its transformation to a full programme of the United Nations, UN-Habitat's rules of procedure allowed civil society organizations to make submissions at formal meetings of the United Nations. The draft civil society organizations strategy paper recommended engaging with civil society through the World

Urban Forum, the UN-Habitat’s Governing Council, regional summits and national and local level events, including networks of civil society organizations, training programmes, sharing and learning from best practices and online communities.

Ms. Emmy Galama explained that many grassroots women are not able to come to international meetings due to lack of funding. She commended UN-Habitat’s efforts at publishing and producing reports but suggested that it should also look at enabling more grassroots women to attend its meetings.

Mr. Tonks praised the participation of civil society in the fourth session of the World Urban Forum and acknowledged the gap between the capacities of civil society organizations in the North and those in South. He mentioned that in Europe and other developed countries, civil society formed very close relations with local authorities and advised all other regions to do the same as it was difficult to access national governments. He advised UN-Habitat to consider regional and sub-regional consultations rather than waiting for biennial meetings. He stressed that civil society organizations could put pressure on their governments to provide more resources to UN-Habitat for activities related to sustainable urbanization. He further advised UN-Habitat to introduce a “travelling” UN-Habitat that can elaborate its role more clearly at the country level.

Ms. Rasna Warah said that UN-Habitat’s State of the World’s Cities 2008/9 report presented new data on inequalities at the city level, and showed that urban inequalities were highest in Latin America and Africa, while Asia, despite high poverty levels, had relatively low levels of urban inequality. On climate change, she highlighted the finding that showed that consumption patterns, rather than urbanization levels per se, were responsible for a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions. The report also revealed that the degree of shelter deprivation varied within regions, with countries in sub-Saharan Africa suffering from some of the worst combinations of shelter deprivation. She emphasized that the information contained in the report could be utilized by governments and civil society organizations to guide policymaking and to make more informed, effective and targeted interventions at the city level. Ms Warah also stressed the pivotal role of governments in slum reduction and prevention.

The partners requested UN-Habitat to consider the following: supporting regional and sub-regional consultations of partners; providing resources for activities rather than focusing on capacity building only; preparing a strategy paper that clearly spells out UN-Habitat’s unique role and relationship with partners, which should include a component on establishing partnerships in post-conflict countries; considering to accept and handle small private donations for use in projects; and making its large stock of publications more accessible to the public.

Summary and Conclusions

The fourth session of the World Urban Forum provided UN-Habitat with an opportunity to seriously engage with civil society on sustainable urbanization issues, in line with the focus area 1 of the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan, Advocacy, monitoring and partnerships. Partners provided significant inputs to UN-Habitat’s draft civil society strategy paper. In this respect, they stressed the need for the organization to support partner consultations at the regional and sub-regional levels, as well as facilitating cooperation between North-based and South-based civil society organizations.

6. Challenges faced by indigenous peoples in urban areas

5 November 2008

Chair

Mr. Fred Caron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Government of Canada

Moderator

Mr. Christophe Lalande, Shelter Branch, UN-HABITAT

Panelists

Mr. Mohamed El Sioufi, Head, Shelter Branch, UN-HABITAT

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Ms. Sonia Smallacombe, Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Rapporteur)

Major Issues and Concerns

Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and often prevented from participating fully in the social, political and economic life of the city. In addition, environmental challenges, notably the effect of climate change on traditional territories, can have a particularly negative impact on livelihoods, contributing to increased migration to urban areas. This event gathered indigenous peoples' representatives, governments, UN agencies, academics and NGOs to discuss the role of local authorities in addressing their concerns.

Debate

Mr. El Sioufi opened the discussion with an outline of the Policy Guide to Housing for Indigenous Peoples. He said that the new guide, which covers the impact of climate change on indigenous peoples among other matters, was intended to act as a guide to policy makers, national governments and cities on how best to incorporate indigenous culture and heritage in urban housing policies. He hoped that the guide would encourage other UN agencies to produce similar guides and eventually a joint policy series addressing the special challenges and needs of indigenous peoples living in urban areas.

The Chair, Mr. Caron, cited the need for disaggregated data, and the need to look beyond the negative, and to take in positive impacts of cities on indigenous peoples. Mr. Caron added that it is important for various levels of government to work together with indigenous peoples to ensure that effective public policies and measures are adopted. He said that more countries in the world should be engaged in this work, and that the Forum had helped create the momentum.

Ms. Rolnik outlined her mandate as Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing. She said there had to be more of what she termed group- specific recommendations on matters such as

building materials and designs for indigenous peoples. She cited the example of policies in her country, Brazil. She said such publications also needed to advise governments on matters beyond the urban, especially when it came to development - based evictions that affect traditional lands.

Mr. Lalonde gave a presentation of the structure and key messages of the draft Policy Guide to Housing for Indigenous Peoples, for discussion. Speakers cited a range of issues. These included the need for the document to incorporate best practices by governments. Here the example of Chile in relation to housing and indigenous peoples was raised; the negative impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples; or the need for formalized recommendations on how governments can work on these problems together. One participant suggested that the document also carry concrete examples of participation of indigenous communities in housing.

Summary and Conclusions

The participants represented a wide spectrum of bodies dealing with the rights of indigenous peoples. All welcomed the new policy guide produced by UN-Habitat in collaboration with OHCHR under the UN Housing Rights Programme. Some concerns were raised about how to include in the document issues related to the negative impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples, which is one of the factors leading to their migration into urban areas. A major concern that came out at the outset was whether the document is specific to urban areas or indigenous peoples in general. Some participants also felt that housing had to be seen as a continuum, i.e. need to recognize those individuals that move from the streets into formalized systems of housing.

The issue of building practices was also raised, with a recommendation to promote indigenous building technologies currently under threat. UN-Habitat informed participants that it was also doing a global study on low- cost building materials and technologies around the world that could help answer some of these questions.

In his closing remarks, the Chair, Mr. Caron expressed his satisfaction with the draft version of the Policy Guide which can now be further enhanced through incorporation of comments made by participants. He emphasised that more countries needed to be involved in order to translate these policy guidelines into concrete action.

7. Gender Equality Action Plan 2008-2013

5 November 2008

Co – Chairs

Ms. Inga Klevby, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Ms. Inger Lindgren, Director General, The Housing and Building Department, KR D, Norway

Panel

Mr. Raf Tuts, Chief, Environmental Planning Branch, UN-Habitat

Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi, Chief, Shelter Branch, UN-Habitat

Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka, Director, Monitoring and Research Division, UN-Habitat

Mr. Graham Alabaster, Chief, Water and Sanitation Programme, Unit I, UN-Habitat

Mr. Michael Mutter, Chief, Slum Upgrading Facility, UN-Habitat

Ms. Raquel Rolnick, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Adequate Housing

Ms. Janice Peterson, President, Huairou Commission

Ms. Joke Muylwijk, Executive Director, Gender and Water Alliance

Ms. Klevby outlined three key objectives of UN-Habitat's Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) focusing on institutional effectiveness utilising the bottom-up approach, working in partnerships, as part of UN reform and with a focus on country level activities. She stated the six focus areas of the MTSIP and emphasised the need for partners to contribute to the development of the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP).

Ms. Grindersen stressed the importance that the Government of Norway attached to gender equality and women's empowerment programmes in development cooperation.

Mr. Raf Tuts introduced the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization, which is an important tool for the implementation of the MTSIP, and to raise the profile of urban issues, mobilize partners and provide the glue that keeps everyone working together. He called upon partners to contribute towards the process by indicating priority areas for awareness and advocacy actions.

Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi spoke about MTSIP Focus Area 3 – pro-poor land and housing – and the strategies of advocacy, knowledge management and capacity building that should guide implementation of activities in this area.

Mr. Graham Alabaster discussed UN-Habitat's water and sanitation programme and highlighted the importance of addressing gender issues in sanitation. Mr. Michael Mutter focused on financing human settlements development, acknowledging the role played by women in mobilizing community savings. Partnerships between slums dwellers, local and national authorities were necessary, he said, as slum dwellers alone could not solve all issues related to housing development. Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka spoke about the linkage between the MTSIP and the GEAP. He stressed the need for producing long-term gender and youth indicators to facilitate the monitoring of the impact of programmes on men and women.

Ms. Raquel Rolnick emphasized the need for networking in order to undertake meaningful actions and to achieve results. She said that she was working with the Special Rapporteur on Poverty to develop a joint programme on assessing the incorporation of gender concerns into poverty alleviation and housing policies and programmes at the country level. This research could lead to the development of guidelines on how to integrate gender into poverty and housing policies and programmes.

Ms. Jan Peterson emphasized the need to give a voice to grassroots women's organizations so that they could share their experiences and participate in national and international forums as equals. She pointed out the need to consider women's contribution to disaster management and resilience in communities. She also stressed the need for partnerships and networking at all levels.

Ms. Joke Muylwijk stated that the implementation of most programmes should be aimed at making a difference in the lives of people at the community level. The end users were diverse and should be involved in decision-making on matters that affect their communities. She stressed the need to come up with realistic objectives and actions when developing the gender equality action plan. All gender equality activities undertaken by the various UN-Habitat programmes should be properly budgeted for by the respective branches and units.

Recommendations

- Introduce a “City Weekend on Gender Relationships” under the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization that would allow discussions on gender issues with different target groups.
- Collect qualitative and quantitative data at the national, local, city, and sub-city levels and prepare case studies to document experiences that would not normally be captured in census data.
- Provide separate toilets for women and men in slum upgrading programmes.
- Develop monitoring systems that respond to the needs and priorities of the poor and that demonstrate impact at the grassroots level.
- Develop guidelines on incorporating gender and housing policies and programmes.
- Listen to voices of grassroots women and involve them in all stages of programmes as equals.
- Focus on grassroots women, disaster management and resilience.
- Expand partnerships and enhance collaboration on gender and human settlements development.
- Document relevant case studies highlighting the good and bad elements of programmes to facilitate learning.
- Capacity building for gender mainstreaming should be inclusive and participatory.
- Gender mainstreaming should be part of all UN-Habitat programmes and budgets should be allocated accordingly.

8. Decent Work in the urbanizing world: Building sustainable cities – The decent work agenda in the construction sector

5 November 2008

Moderator

Gunde Odgaard, Head of Secretariat, Federation of Building, Construction and Wood Workers' Unions, Denmark

Panelists

Mrs. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Mr. Tayo Fashoyin, Director, Tayo Fashoyin, Director, Social Dialogue, Labour Law, Labour Administration and Sectoral Activities Department, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva

Ms. Anita Normark, General Secretary, Building and Woodworkers International, Switzerland

Ms. Marie Kruse, Principal Assistant to Mayor of Copenhagen, Denmark

Mr. Peter Woods, General Secretary, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Asia

Major Issues and Concerns

Participants discussed the construction sector's huge contribution to employment in cities. The meeting sought to facilitate dialogue between building workers, employers and local authorities to promote their respective roles and improve their working conditions. It highlighted the role of building workers in the creation of sustainable cities. It brought to sharp focus the working conditions of construction and migrant workers and stimulated debate on how to improve these conditions to meet national and international norms and standards. The role of local authorities and others in promoting sustainable building and the decent work agenda within the construction sector through appropriate instruments such as labour standards and procurement policies was also discussed.

Debate

Mrs. Tibaijuka opened the session by emphasizing the contribution of the construction sector to the urban economy and employment. This industry draws on many other sectors, such as mining and forestry, and therefore, if the construction sector goes well, the overall economy is likely to follow suit. The sustainability of the construction sector does, however, depend on the working conditions of building workers, which will in turn impact on urban sustainability.

Mr. Fashoyin emphasized the importance of decent and productive working conditions that encompass freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The ILO's Decent Work Agenda offers a real opportunity for governments, business and labour, as well as other stakeholders, to develop and implement concrete and achievable goals of poverty alleviation through employment creation. It is based on four pillars: the need for rights at work; the inclusion within national policies of improved opportunities to secure decent employment and income; social protection for all; and strengthened participation and social dialogue.

Ms. Normark addressed the relationship between procurement policies and employment. In particular, she defined the concrete measures that need to be adopted so that proper procurement and labour standards can be used globally. The construction sector can only be sustainable if it is economically viable, environmentally friendly, and also socially responsible. For better cities to be built workers must be treated decently. For that to happen, national and local governments need to act as agents of change.

Ms. Kruse presented the case of the Copenhagen Municipality where a strong procurement policy is implemented, with stringent clauses that deal with health and safety issues, and clauses against child labour and discrimination. This policy is embedded in an overall social policy framework that encourages the inclusion of workers and provides a space for the

unemployed and new migrants in search of jobs. The need to eliminate potential risks of inadequate labour conditions at source was highlighted.

Mr. Woods emphasized the need to ensure decent working conditions for citizens, which will ultimately improve living conditions in cities. For that, it is necessary to recognize the need for workers to have a voice, and to exert their rights as citizens. Local governments have a strong role to play in that endeavour if they want to ensure harmonious communities and cities.

Mr. Werna highlighted the need for increased decentralization, and in particular the role of local authorities in addressing labour issues. He presented selected good practices from Asia, Africa and Latin America, which are based on capacity building and social dialogue. He stressed the need to explore new ways to engage workers to improve their working conditions, including joint safety inspections, construction certification, dialogue, and labour-oriented networks and cooperation between unions, local authorities and the private sector.

Summary and Conclusions

Construction is vital to human settlements and one of the major providers of work in urban areas, especially for the poor. The quality and quantity of employment are key to achieving harmonious cities. In particular, decent work should be a central concern of national and local governments, communities and the private sector. Local authorities can play a notable role in creating a framework for decent work to become a more concrete reality in many cities around the world. They should promote dialogue and cooperation with labour-oriented networks. Procurement policies were also recognized as essential to improving working conditions in the construction industry. These should follow international and social wellbeing of workers while also including migrants and the unemployed.

Several speakers discussed the current global financial crisis that is costing economies around the world billions of dollars. It is thought that more than 20 million people will be made unemployed as a result of the current crisis. Youth are likely to bear the brunt of the crisis, and it is therefore critically important to focus on improving the employment prospects of young people through training and entrepreneurship programmes.

Annex VIII. SUMMARY OF THE HABITAT SEMINARS

Habitat seminars on urban innovations allowed UN-HABITAT partners from around the world to showcase innovative and unique responses to the challenges posed by a new urban area in which half of humanity already lives in cities. They focused on following-up the theme of the Third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada of *turning ideas into action*. Seventy (70) Habitat Seminars were held at WUF4, below are some of the recommendations that emerged from some of these sessions:

Water and sanitation for developing clean healthy cities

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

Actionable ideas: Water and sanitation service provision and investments generate huge gains for cities. Failing coverage is costly, often resulting from outdated urban planning principles that neglect peri-urban and poorer areas or centralized sewerage systems applied in areas

where the technology can not always be properly utilized or maintained. Effective communication, reform, monitoring, accountability, finance and implementation are needed to expand services.

Discovering a hidden cooperative advantage in social housing

Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC)

Actionable ideas: An alternative model to housing is required. A “pro-poor mortgage” system where the cooperative is the legal owner of housing and thus negotiates on behalf of the entire membership, serves to achieve better conditions for individual members. Avoiding the need for any direct subsidies and enhancing self-management and self-esteem are key conditions for enabling housing for all.

Green jobs, urban sustainability and construction

French Agency for Environment & Energy Management and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Actionable ideas: The construction sector is becoming more aware of the opportunities for and benefits of green employment. For the moment, trade unions are not sufficiently mobilised to lobby for more environmental measures in the sector. However, research undertaken in South Africa and in Europe has proven that such mobilisation is possible and improves the potential for cooperation among different urban actors.

Addressing urban risk in Africa: Local perspectives

African Urban Risk Analysis Network and ProVention Consortium

Actionable ideas: The rapidly growing urban population in Africa has already begun to reshape the geography of disaster risk and scope for reducing that risk. Risk mapping and analysis to identify vulnerable people and places but also partnerships between those at risk, academics and researchers and policy makers is needed if knowledge is to turn into action. At heart, risk management in cities is about reforming awareness and governance, lessons that go beyond urban Africa.

Global City Indicators Facility: Measuring and monitoring

Global City Indicators Facility and the World Bank

Actionable ideas: There is a need to develop a coordinated outreach program to work with financial institutions, national agencies and urban researchers to encourage cities from around the world to participate in the Global City Indicators Program. It is also important to partner with key international agencies in the development and operation of the GCIP and encourage interactions among cities to identify and share international best practices.

Housing for inclusive cities

All India Housing Development Association (AIHDA)

Actionable ideas: Suitable policies should be devised to strengthen fiscal, financial, institutional and regulatory systems to promote inclusive housing. Land Tenure should be taken up as a pre-requisite of inclusive housing. States should develop a systematic Land

policy to increase supply of land to a cross section of households including those residing on illegal land holdings.

Linking urban research and policy towards sustainability

Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-AERUS)

Actionable ideas: There is a need for independent research networks to serve as important partners of innovation and critique for large international organisations in developing state-of-the-art urban policies.

Slum mapping with space imagery

International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) and the Ministry of Housing, Planning and Environment, The Netherlands

Actionable ideas: Satellite imagery is a relevant tool for mapping, identifying and monitoring slums. Information on slum mapping within land registration and upgrading programmes as well as slum identification and monitoring from satellite images should be disseminated among stakeholders working towards sustainable urban development.

Unlocking urban land values for infrastructure finance

Public-Private Infrastructure Facility and the World Bank

Actionable ideas: In developing country cities, land may be the most valuable asset, and can, if managed well, be used to mobilize substantial revenue to finance service provision and improvements. Particularly, trading public land for financing infrastructure can be beneficial. However, the yields of such transactions often amount to large multiples of normal municipal investment budgets and therefore entail greater risks. Countries should thus consider whether they can manage such risks as part of a strategy to finance much-needed infrastructure improvements in rapidly growing cities.

Decentralized solid waste management for small towns

Waste Concern

Actionable ideas: Replicating the community-based Solid Waste Management approach in towns across Asia and Africa.

Builders of cities, building networks

Building & Wood Workers International (BWI) and International Labour Organization (ILO)

Actionable ideas: Promoting innovative ways to build energy efficient building while at the same time ensuring stable secure employment is important for sustainable urbanization. Skill training can contribute to better employment and quality building in urban areas. Cooperation with various members/sectors of the community further promotes solidarity towards decent work.

Universal sanitation: New resources from Asia

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Actionable ideas: There is a continuous need for collection of sanitation data at the local level to keep the Sanitation Databook updated and to support national organizations engaged in local capacity building on issues of water and sanitation in Asia.

The cross-cultural peacebuilding approach

YOUCAN and Rock.Paper.Scissors Inc

Actionable ideas: Approaches to peacebuilding and working across cultures must be relevant to local cultures and therefore approaches will vary from country to country, city to city and community to community. At the centre of harmonious urbanization must be careful consideration of culture – in all its depth, breadth and variety and including ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, class etc.. Skill development is also necessary in areas such as culture, history with conflict, breaking assumptions, increasing creativity and innovation and working in a non-linear manner.

Donor assistance for housing and urban development

Westat and International Housing Coalition

Actionable ideas: Slum housing and urbanization are increasing dramatically, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, bilateral donor countries have dramatically reduced both their funding and staffing for dealing with the increasing housing problem. Under these circumstances, sub-Saharan country leaders need to become knowledgeable advocates for increased funding for slum upgrading and housing in their countries and across the region.

Transforming urban markets for the poor through entrepreneurship

Ashoka Innovators for the Public and Global Urban Development

Actionable ideas: Business/social partnerships among large corporations and NGOs are essential to building packages of products and services -- i.e. "value chains" -- to upgrade slums and develop a wide variety of new housing solutions at a scale commensurate to the enormous demand from the many submarkets for the low/moderate income majority.

Youth and shelter: What are the win-win strategies?

UN-HABITAT

Actionable ideas: The bottom line in the design and implementation of any win-win strategies to promote sustainable urbanization is a proactive approach by both public and private sectors towards social, economic and political inclusion of young urban residents.

Global City Indicators Facility: Information session

Global City Indicators Facility and the World Bank

Actionable ideas: GCIF will roll out the program to more cities and sign up at least 100 new participating cities in the coming year. Furthermore, the www.cityindicators.org website will be expanded to facilitate easy data entry by participating cities and GCIF will develop a statistical mechanism to accommodate and measure metropolitan areas or urban

agglomerations. The sharing technical information among cities worldwide will also be facilitated through web-based, “MetroMatch Directory”.

Decentralized finance for secondary cities: Learning from experience

The World Bank

Actionable ideas: Demographic projections indicate that secondary cities will have to accommodate the bulk of the urban population growth in the next 15 years. It is a high priority to develop institutions to ensure that infrastructure finance is channelled to these places, especially to ensure that basic urban services are delivered country-wide, following the prescriptions of the World Development Report 2009.

Turning commitments to participation into reality

Practical Action

Actionable ideas: New principles to 're-invent' planning should be adopted so as to make it more integrated, pro-poor and inclusive especially for women and other vulnerable groups. Existing legislation and regulations should be used to this end. Public opinion needs to be taken into account such that people's inputs are valued and their ideas are actually implemented on the ground. It is equally important that decision makers engage in participatory processes. Government procedures must be made more accessible and simpler for everyone to understand. Using exposure visits and peer-exchanges and new technologies;

Cities, climate change, and spatial planning

The World Bank Urban Development Unit, Sustainable Development Department, East Asia and the Pacific Region

Actionable ideas: Expanding the network for the development of Eco2 initiative and developing a website where the team can share the ideas of Eco2 and receive inputs from interested parties is recommended.

Climate prosperity: Sustainable economic and community development

Global Urban Development, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Actionable ideas: Climate Prosperity generates substantial economic and employment growth and sustainable business and community development by demonstrating that innovation, efficiency, and conservation in the use and reuse of all resources is the best way to increase jobs, incomes, productivity, and competitiveness. In addition, Climate Prosperity is the most cost-effective method of promoting renewable energy and clean technologies, protecting the environment, and preventing harmful impacts from global warming

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Cities Development

UN-HABITAT and Ministry for regional Development, Russian Federation

Actionable ideas: The housing sector is inseparably linked with construction and other sectors of urban economy and life and is one of the sustainable urban development corner stones. It

has to be duly and properly addressed. The problem of affordable housing exists in all countries of the world including developed countries. There is no solution without implementing a comprehensive integrated approach which includes Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The participants emphasized the importance of a more flexible approach that meets the needs of low income citizens. There is an urgent need to have a platform to exchange experiences and lessons learnt, both positive and negative.

Annex IX. SUMMARY OF NETWORKING EVENTS

Networking events gave Habitat Agenda Partners a unique opportunity to strengthen networks and build new partnerships in an effort to advance the sustainable urban development agenda. Seventy-two (72) Habitat Seminars were held at WUF4. Below are some of the recommendations that emerged from some of these sessions:

Innovative approaches to financing slum upgrading

State Ministry of Housing, Government of Indonesia

Actionable ideas: Donors should support housing finance programmes and housing/urban institutions in developing countries to learn about financing slum upgrading.

Sustainable development in degenerated urban areas

Municipal Government of the City of Rio de Janeiro (Department of Urbanism) Municipal Government of the City of Belo Horizonte (Department of Public Policy)

Actionable ideas: Planners and decision-makers have to be committed to the principles of sustainable urbanisation. This process must reinforce the convergence of efforts from all urban actors, incorporate creativity, and, due to the difficulty of forecasting urban futures, be flexible to address all sorts of situations. Planners and decision-makers must exercise resilience to overcome any new challenges rather than giving up when facing the first one.

Pro-poor PPP for municipal services provision

United Nations Development Programme

Actionable ideas: In order to improve the delivery of basic services to the poor, there is an urgent need to provide more support for local governments partnerships with non-state actors as service providers. Specifically, there is a need to step up Capacity Development of Local Governments to (a) develop enabling and conducive environment for multi-stakeholder partnerships in the provision of local basic services (policy, regulation, oversight); (b) analyse the basic services sector for NSAs' involvement in basic services delivery to the poor; (c) engage in a transparent manner with NSAs into mutually beneficial partnerships; (d) Monitor performance of service providers as well as access and affordability of services for the poor.

Urbanization and growth

Commission on Growth and Development

Actionable ideas: To re-establish urbanization as a theme for national strategies; Strategies that also recognize the benefits to urbanization.

Reinventing planning in a new urban Pacific

Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific Project

Actionable ideas: Outcomes of this even included an increased recognition by participants of the unique urbanisation issues and challenges faced by the Pacific region; appreciation of the innovative approaches currently being applied by countries, local governments and their partners; and a commitment to the Pacific Urban Agenda as a collaborative regional approach that focuses on sustainable urbanisation and development at all levels - local, national and regional.

Financing urban infrastructure

German Development Cooperation (BMZ, GTZ, KfW, InWent, DED)

Actionable ideas: Sustainable financing of urban infrastructure calls for concerted action by all stakeholders and instruments from the local to the supranational level. Methods, tools, and values have to be linked and embedded into tailor made approaches that include well proven measures, such as introducing transparency in intergovernmental financial systems, increasing municipal revenues and supporting urban development funds, as well as innovative instruments.

CLIFF – The great debate III

Homeless International

Actionable ideas: Sustainable and scalable slum upgrading and re-development requires effective collaboration between government (national and local) and organised communities/ community organisations (embedded within civil society). This should form the basis for considering private (finance and construction) sector engagement to stimulate scaling up; That community development institutions are a critical component of any institutional framework established at city level to facilitate slum upgrading, redevelopment or relocation; That as key players and partners, community development institutions need to have adequate resources and capacity to perform effectively as intermediaries or implementers.

Participatory budgeting: Balancing resources for balanced development

International Center of Urban Management and
Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa

Actionable ideas: By scaling-up the number of experiences and its quality, thanks to wider and strengthened platforms of support, participatory budgeting could become a tool for the political and social changes needed globally.

Back to the Future: Deconstructing Urban Change

CHF International

Actionable ideas: Investments that pay off in the long run are those that incorporate social infrastructure, human services and job creation rather than those which focus exclusively on the physical infrastructure. The private sector in all its aspects, including entrepreneurial activity already taking place in slums, has a positive role to play in pro-poor urban development. The challenge is how to both unleash and to channel its energy. Effective community engagement in the urban development and local planning processes is critical to success.

Learning Cities – Interactive Research and Capacity Building Platforms

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and
The Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra)

Actionable ideas: The benefits of Local Urban Knowledge Arenas as local platforms for continuous and interactive research, innovation and capacity building among local decision-makers and local communities are an important resource for urban action is evident.

Linking gender, local governance and violence prevention

Women in Cities International

Actionable ideas: Gender mainstreaming of urban safety initiatives requires the support of all urban actors. Exchanges of good practice and development of tools that encourage prevention of violence and insecurity in both the public and private spheres is needed.

Bahrain and urban poverty alleviation

Government of Bahrain

Actionable ideas: Commitment to the concept of universal social justice where the development of a harmonious urban society is accompanied by support for the disadvantaged, empowerment of specific sectors of society and a commitment to democratic processes based on traditions and culture form the basis of sustainability in cities.

Innovative approaches for improving shelter in Asia

UNESCAP

Actionable ideas: Translation of the jointly developed UN-HABITAT/ESCAP Quick Guides on Housing the Urban Poor in Asian Cities into local languages in view of their usefulness as means for policy change at national and local levels is necessary. The guides should be made more widely accessible in the region.

Local participation: Keystone in Central American risk management

Mancomunidad de Matiklan

Actionable ideas: Triangulated effort between national institutions, local government and local communities, is a very useful approach to local risk management. It is a strategic instrument to improve capacities for risk management at the local level, promoting and integrating all local actors towards influence municipal management with prevention risk focus. This means, Round Tables for Local Risk Management, is a simple and non cost tool which strengths capacities of local actor, but also strengths governance.

Young municipal councillors supporting the MDG's

International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International)

Actionable ideas: The young councillors committed themselves to exchanging information needed to reach the MDGs through the local level. Furthermore they agreed to cooperate in lobbying international organisations and national governments for increased attention for local authorities when drafting and implementing development strategies.

Grassroots women: At the heart of harmonious cities

The Huairou Commission

Actionable ideas: Governments should support grassroots organizations working to protect women's access to land and housing, such as the Community Watchdog groups and community paralegal initiatives to combat property grabbing; provide economic empowerment for grassroots women for collective land purchase and income generation; and ensure grassroots women's engagement in decision making.

Housing, HIV/ AIDS: Learning from Africa and Asia

Rooftops Canada-Abri International, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, National Co-operative Housing Union, Positive Art Workshop

Actionable ideas: Importance for human settlements actors to acknowledge the direct link between HIV/AIDS and housing and to find suitable and effective responses. It is important to continue building knowledge, experience and networks on the theme - HIV, AIDS, housing and human settlements.

Comprehensive planning in China and Canada

International Mayors Communication Centre

Actionable ideas: Disseminate new and innovative research with regards to a variety of economic and social categories to an international audience.

Annex X. SUMMARY OF CLOSING PLENARY

6 November 2008

Speakers:

Mr. Morten Wasstol, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation and the Environment, Norway and co-chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum and co-Chair of the Advisory Group

Ms. Khady Diagne, ENDA-Tiers Monde, Senegal, representing Civil Society Organizations

Mr. Cedric Baecher, Senior Executive for Partnerships, Veolia Environment, France, representing the Private Sector

Ms. Wang Yang, Nanjing Youth Federation

Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, People's Republic of China

Mr. He Quan, Deputy Governor of Jiangsu Province, China

Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Mr. Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, Consul General of Brazil in Shanghai, representing Brazil, the host of the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum

Summary of Statements

Mr. Morten Wasstol opened his statement by stating that the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum had renewed the impetus to achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda and to the attainment of the human settlements-related Millennium Development Goals. He cited the participation of a wide range of stakeholders in the Forum and underscored the importance and value of city life. He further recounted the contribution that the Forum had made to the implementation of UN-Habitat's Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. He said that the Forum had provided fresh and new ideas on issues such as tackling climate change. He further cited the contribution that youth had made in the Forum and underscored the importance of the Opportunities Fund for Youth-led Development. He cited the example of China and how in just over one generation the country had almost achieved cities without slums, a process that took Europe nearly a century to achieve. He stressed the role of governments in slum reduction and prevention and harmonious development. In conclusion, he reaffirmed Norway's support to UN-Habitat and its activities.

Ms. Khady Diagne, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, thanked UN-Habitat and all its partners for making the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum a success and said that civil society organizations appreciated the opportunity the Forum offered to make their voices heard by governments, municipalities, the private sector and policymakers and hoped that the Forum would continue remaining inclusive in the future.

Speaking as a representative of the private sector, Mr. Cedric Baecher thanked the Chinese authorities and UN-Habitat for inviting the private sector to participate in the World Urban Forum. He noted the importance of corporate social responsibility and said that businesses needed to align their activities with social and environmental concerns. He further recounted the significant role that the private sector must play in sustainable urbanization and improving the quality of life and access to basic services for all. He said that affordable technologies and innovative business models could lead to new economic development for the urban poor. On the issue of climate change, Mr. Baecher highlighted the new business opportunities and the need for: a new approach combining social and economic value; sound business practices; and increased partnerships, especially in research and innovation. In terms of charting the way forward, he highlighted two focus areas: the need to develop sound business practices for the low-income groups; and good governance models for the private sector to work with all actors in urban development. In conclusion, Mr. Baecher cited the Habitat Business Forum in 2009 to be held in New Delhi as an excellent opportunity to showcase successful solutions. He proposed five key challenge areas to be considered: affordable housing; water sanitation and waste management infrastructure; urban energy and climate change; innovative ICT and disaster mitigation and post-disaster reconstruction.

Ms. Wang thanked UN-Habitat, the Government of China and the City of Nanjing for organizing and hosting the World Urban Forum and the World Urban Youth Forum, and recognized the contribution they had made to the goal of harmonious and sustainable cities. She thanked the more than 500 youth who had participated at the events. She further

recounted the immense capacity and responsibility that youth held in policy development for harmonious urbanization, poverty reduction and other developmental challenges. She also acknowledged the need to incorporate youth as key actors in this respect. She cited the memoranda of understanding that youth had entered into with UN-Habitat as a key contribution to their participation. Ms. Wang then summarized the outcome of the Youth Forum which focused on: formation of local youth organizations, youth municipal councils and messengers of truth initiatives; local youth-led peace initiatives; youth involvement in climate change; youth-led peer-to-peer HIV/AIDS initiatives; development of ICT applications; provision of youth skills training centres; and projects and programmes to support youth migrants and initiatives to improve safety in urban areas. In conclusion, she requested all governments and Habitat Agenda Partners to support the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development and to make the provision for representatives of youth to participate in urban development.

In the second segment of the closing ceremony, Mr. Qi Ji, Mr. He Quan and Mr. Jiang Hongkun extended their heartfelt gratitude to UN-Habitat and their partner organizations for participating in the Forum. Mr. Ji stressed that the world today needed understanding, participation, accommodation and harmonious urbanization, which reflected humanity's common values. Mr. Hongkun said that it was important to explore new frontiers and topics to promote harmonious urbanization, which, he noted, was a common pursuit around the world.

Mr. Caramuru de Paiva underscored that cities were humanity's greatest achievement and supported social and economic development. He noted that Brazil's urbanization has been rapid, but had only brought benefits to a few urban citizens, leaving a significant part of its population in a precarious situation with regard to living conditions and access to basic services. He recounted the changes the Government in Brazil was implementing, including the creation of a Ministry of Cities and pro-urban poor programmes. He further elaborated on how Brazil has tackled urbanization and highlighted the need for a broader social agreement between the State, the private sector and citizens and the challenge of learning from other parts of the world. He cited Brazil's "Growth Acceleration Programme" as a programme that supported slum improvement and participatory approaches needed at the municipal level. In conclusion, he welcomed all participants to the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in 2010.

Mrs. Anna Tibajuka thanked the host government and the City of Nanjing for organizing the Forum and hailed the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum as a resounding success. She said she was especially grateful to the young Chinese volunteers who had been especially helpful in assisting participants at the Forum. She reported that some 7,900 people, half of them from China and the other half from over 80 countries, had participated in the event. She praised all participants for their new ideas and concepts to support the development of harmonious cities and cited the example of the host city, Nanjing, which embodies the Chinese philosophy of harmony, which was achieved by a combination of enabling policies, empowered local authorities and good planning. She recounted some of the key topics discussed at the Forum, including: territorial balance and promoting social equity; making cities more productive; harmonizing the built and natural environment; preserving cultural heritage; and addressing the needs of all generations. In terms of new ideas and approaches, she cited the following: responsibility for shelter and services against a background of a global financial crisis; inclusion of the urban poor; the contribution that good planning governance and gender make to a better urban future; and the need for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In conclusion, the Executive Director promised that the new ideas

presented at the Forum would be integrated in UN-Habitat's strategies and programmes and that the issues would be presented to UN-Habitat's governing body in April 2009. In closing, she said that participants would be leaving the Forum with wonderful memories of Nanjing.

Annex XI. Nanjing Call for Harmonious Urbanization

1. The City of Nanjing calls upon the participants of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, held from 3-6 November 2008, to forge a positive vision of urbanization.
2. A positive outlook is important to realize the full potential of cities in improving the living conditions of all women, men, youth, children and the elderly in overcoming the challenges of climate change, the inequities between and within cities, countries and regions, and the destruction of historical and cultural heritage.
3. Harmonious urbanization is the common aspiration of humankind. It encompasses the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development with an added emphasis on the harmonious relationship between peoples, between people and nature, and between the past and the future. It requires that we exploit to the full all that science and technology has to offer. It also emphasizes respect for each other across gender and age groups, respect for the natural environment, and respect of historical heritage.
4. The City of Nanjing hereby calls upon the participants of the Forum to acknowledge:
5. That, in the pursuit of harmonious urbanization, we should all respect nature by ensuring a balanced and a holistic approach to planning the built environment and to protecting the natural environment through the careful use of natural resources such as land, water and energy, and the respect of bio-diversity.
6. That particular attention be paid to regional balance, social justice and to empowering the poor. In this respect, developed countries and cities should do their utmost to help their developing country counterparts access the transfer of technology, the sharing of knowledge and the exchange of expertise and experience. In addition, particular attention should be paid to improving the living conditions of low-income households.
7. That special attention be paid to preserving historical and cultural heritage. Such heritage encapsulates the collective wisdom and common wealth of humanity. Protecting historical and cultural heritage is an important means of promoting peace and solidarity as it creates unity within diversity and strengthens the ties between peoples, ethnic groups and nations.
8. Harmonious urbanization calls for extensive cooperation across all local jurisdictions (provincial, municipal, county) and among all actors from the public, private and non-governmental sectors. It requires that we engage in a concerted effort to promote efficient and equitable use of land, water and energy, to engage in poverty reduction, and to improve governance. To this effect, city-to-city cooperation, including south-south city-to-city cooperation, should be promoted actively.

9. We are encouraged by the hosting of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum to further build upon our efforts to make Nanjing even more harmonious, and call upon all other cities and communities to join us.