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UN-HABITAT



**REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
WORLD URBAN FORUM**

**BARCELONA, SPAIN
13 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2004**

CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	5
II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS	5
A. Attendance	5
B. Opening of the Session	6
C. First Plenary	7
D. Establishment of Advisory Group	7
E. Organization of work	8
F. Keynote Speakers	8
G. Second Plenary Meeting	9
H. Third Plenary Meeting	9
I. Partners Dialogues	9
J. Thematic Dialogues	9
III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM	10
IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION	10
Annexes	
I. REPORTS ON PARTNER DIALOGUES	12
(1) Urban Cultures	
(2) Urban Realities	
(3) Urban Governance	
(4) Urban Renaissance	
II. REPORTS ON THEMATIC DIALOGUES	27
a. Urban Poor	
b. Urban Resources	
c. Urban Sustainability	
d. Urban Services	
e. Urban Disasters and Reconstruction	

III. SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE OPENING SESSION

44

1. Opening remarks by the Chair of the First Session, Hon. Ms. Sankie D. Mthembu-Mahanyele, former Minister of Housing of South Africa
2. Statement by Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities
3. Statement by Mr. Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands
4. Statement by Hon. Ms. Kumari Selja, Union Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India
5. Statement by the Co-chair, Hon. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities of Brazil
6. Statement by Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals.
7. Statement by Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
8. Message from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
9. Statement by Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland
10. Statement by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
11. Statement by Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
12. Statement by H. E. Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon
13. Statement by the Chair of the Second Session, Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain
14. Statement by Hon. Mr. Pasqual Maragall, President of the Generalitat Catalonia, who also inaugurated the Second Session of the World Urban Forum

IV.	SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING	53
	a. Mr. Syed Zahid Hussain, Chairman of the Group of 77 and China (Nairobi Chapter)	
	b. Hon. Ms. Erna Solberg, Minister for Local Government and Regional Development of Norway	
	c. Hon. Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America	
	d. Mr. Sören Häggroth, Co-chair of the First Session of the World Urban Forum	
	e. Mr. Koos Richele, Director-General of EuropeAid, European Union (Statement read by Mr. Franco Nicora, Head of Unit, Relations with Donors and International Organizations)	
	f. Mr. Donald L. Plusquellic, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Mayor of Akron, Ohio.	
	g. Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments	
	h. Mr. Arputham Jockin, President of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India	
V.	SUMMARY OF SECOND PLENARY MEETING	57
VI.	SUMMARY OF THIRD PLENARY MEETING	60
VII.	SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CLOSING SESSION	64
VIII.	LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE SECOND SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM	69
IX.	LIST OF NETWORKING EVENTS	70

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.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Attendance

2. The Second Session of the World Urban Forum was attended by 4,389 participants. The table below outlines the type of participants based on the 2,522 who indicated their affiliation.

Participants at the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, Barcelona, 13-17 September 2004			
	Type of partner	Percentage	Number
I	Government	17.7%	446
II	Local Authority	16.4%	414
III	Non-governmental Organization	21.2%	535
IV	United Nations (excluding UN-HABITAT)	4.1%	104
V	Parliamentarian	1.1%	27
VI	Professional and Research Institution	8.0%	201
VII	Private Sector	8.0%	203
VIII	Foundation	1.3%	33
IX	Media	2%	51
X	UN-HABITAT	3.6%	92
XI	Other	16.5%	416
	Number of participants who did not indicate affiliation		1,867
	Total Number of Participants		4,389

3. The list of participants is contained in document HSP/WUF/2/INF/7.

B. Opening of the Session

4. The Second Session of the World Urban Forum was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004. The session was opened on 13 September 2004 at 10.00 a.m. by the outgoing Chair, Hon. Ms. Sankie D.Mthembu-Mahanyele, the former Minister of Housing of South Africa, who welcomed participants to the Session. A summary of her opening remarks is provided in Annex III below.

5. Statements were delivered by the following dignitaries:

- a. Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities
- b. Mr. Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands
- c. Hon. Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India
- d. Hon. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities of Brazil and Co-chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum
- e. Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals
- f. Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- g. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, was read, on his behalf, by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- h. Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland
- i. Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- j. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, delivered a statement. She then presented the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour to H.E. Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, for his exemplary work in the reconstruction of Lebanon. This was followed by a short documentary film on the reconstruction of Lebanon
- k. H.E. Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon

- l. Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain and Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum
- m. Hon. Mr. Pasqual Maragall, President Generalitat Catalonia, who also inaugurated the Second Session of the World Urban Forum.

Summaries of the above-mentioned speeches are provided in **Annex III**.

C. First Plenary Meeting

6. At its first plenary meeting, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for its second session:
 - a. Adoption of the agenda
 - b. Establishment of an Advisory Group for the Second Session of the World Urban Forum
 - c. Organization of work
 - d. Partners' dialogues:
 - (i) Urban cultures;
 - (ii) Urban realities;
 - (iii) Urban governance;
 - (iv) Urban renaissance.
 - e. Thematic dialogues:
 - (i) Urban poor;
 - (ii) Urban resources;
 - (iii) Urban sustainability;
 - (iv) Urban services;
 - (v) Urban disasters and reconstruction.
 - f. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.
 - g. Adoption of the report of the Session

D. Establishment of an Advisory Group

7. The Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, at the request of the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, announced the names of the members of the Advisory Group for the Second 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 Second Session of the Forum. The members of the Advisory Group are as follows:

- (a) Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain, who will serve as the Chair of both the Second Session of the World Urban Forum and of the Advisory Group
- (b) Hon. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities of Brazil, who will serve as the Co-chair of both the Second Session of the Forum and of the Advisory Group
- (c) Hon. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada, and host for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum
- (d) Hon. Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America
- (e) Mr. Allan Lloyd, Founding President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- (f) Mr. Clarence Anthony, Treasurer of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Mayor of South Bay, Florida
- (g) Mr. A.M. Farvorski, Principal Architector of the Moscow Region Institute.
- (h) Mr. Alejandro Florian Borbon, representative of Habitat International Coalition (HIC)
- (i) Ms. Irene von Ofen, Chairperson of the Habitat Professionals Forum and President of the International Federation for Planning and Housing (IFHP)
- (j) Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru, National Co-ordinator, Groots International, Kenya Chapter
- (k) Ms. Bridget Majola, Youthlink Organization

E. Organization of Work

8. The Forum adopted its organization of work as proposed by the Executive Director in document HSP/WUF/2/1/Add.1 entitled “Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work” which contained logistical arrangements for the nine dialogues, and documents HSP/WUF/2/INF/1 and HSP/WUF/2/INF/2, which contained, respectively, the programme for the Networking Events and other Special Events and information on the exhibition.

F. Keynote speakers

9. The following keynote speakers delivered their statements at the first plenary meeting:

- a) Mr. Syed Zahid Hussain, Chairman of the Group of 77 and China (Nairobi Chapter) and member of the Board of the Huairou Commission
- b) Hon. Ms. Erna Solberg, Minister for Local Government and Regional Development of Norway
- c) Hon. Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America

- d) Mr. Sören Häggroth, Co-chair of the First Session of the World Urban Forum
- e) Mr. Koos Richele, Director-General of Europe Aid, European Union (Statement read by Mr. Franco Nicora, Head of Unit, Relations with Donors and International Organizations)
- f) Mr. Donald L. Plusquellic, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Mayor of Akron, Ohio
- g) Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments
- h) Mr. Arputham Jockin, President of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India

Summaries of the above-mentioned speeches are provided in **Annex IV**

G. Second Plenary Meeting

10. The Report on the presentation which was made to the Second Session of the World Urban Forum on the results and conclusions of the dialogues that were organized at the Universal Forum of Cultures and which were relevant to the Second Session of the World Urban Forum Dialogues is contained in **Annex V**.

H. Third Plenary Meeting

11. The Report on the third plenary meeting organized in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is contained in **Annex VI**.

I. Partner Dialogues

12. The summaries by the chairs of the Partners Dialogues are provided in **Annex I**.

J. Thematic Dialogues

13. The summaries by the chairs of the Thematic Dialogues are provided in **Annex II**.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

14. According to paragraph 11 of the “Objectives of and Working Arrangements for the World Urban Forum”, which were adopted by the First Session of the World Urban Forum, the provisional agenda for each session of the Forum is to be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with national governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, at least six months in advance of the Session. Accordingly, and in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, the Secretariat will consult, prepare and circulate the provisional agenda for the Third Session at least six months in advance of the Session.

15. At the invitation of the Government of Canada, the Third Session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006. These dates will be confirmed after consultations with the United Nations Committee on Conferences to avoid conflicts or overlap with other United Nations meetings and events.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

16. A painting done by Chinese children at the World Urban Forum Youth Camp in Barcelona was presented to the Forum. The Chair, Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, received the painting on behalf of the Forum.

17. At the closure of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, statements were made by the following speakers:

- a. H.E. Mr. Nicephore Soglo, former President of Benin and current Mayor of Cotonou, Benin
- b. Mr. John W. Ashe, Chair-designate of the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
- c. Mr. Clarence Anthony, representative of local authorities
- d. Ms. Narelle Townsend, representative of civil society organizations
- e. Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru, representative of women’s groups
- f. Mr. Andreas Bluthner, representative of the private Sector and professionals
- g. Mr. Shamiel Adams, representative of youth

- h. Hon. Mr. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada
- i. H. E. Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Vice Minister of Construction of China, read by Ms. Zaho Wen Hua, representative of delegation from China
- j. Mrs. Anna K. Tibajuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
- k. Mr. Joan Clos, President of the Forum Barcelona 2004 and Mayor of Barcelona
- l. Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum and Minister of Housing of Spain

Annex I

REPORTS ON PARTNER DIALOGUES

The summaries of the Chairs, which appear in Annex I and Annex II, intend to summarize the main issues and objectives raised during the presentations and discussions. These summaries have been endorsed by the respective Chairs as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the dialogues. The Chairs have clarified that these reports are not expected to reflect a consensus but the views of a number of speakers and partners, which are not necessarily shared by all participants.

1. DIALOGUE ON URBAN CULTURES

Tuesday, 14 September

Panelists:

1. Prof. Michael Cohen, New School University, New York, U.S.A. (Chair)
2. Prof. Jordi Borja, University of Barcelona, Spain
3. Mr. Yves Dauge, Senator of Indre-et-Loire and Mayor of Chinon, France
4. Ms. Sheela Patel, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), Mumbai, India
5. Prof. Kermer Norkin, Adviser to the Mayor of Moscow

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/2 Urban cultures: globalization and culture in an urbanizing World

1. ISSUES

Culture has many meanings. It is related to a society's past and future achievements. Culture suggests a society's capacity to survive and to adapt to change. It can also be defined as the culmination of a society's collective human intellectual achievement at a given time. Within cities, culture represents the ideas, practices, sites and symbols of what has been called the "symbolic economy". Culture is increasingly being used to shape urban development strategies in the face of global competition, on the one hand, and local tensions on the other.

Within the crucible of cities, globalization has led to diversification and enrichment of cultures. Yet, the appearance of the "strange" cultures of international immigrants has at times resulted in fear, racial tension and polarization. Although most cities have become multicultural and multiethnic, most people do not yet fully comprehend how to integrate ethnic minorities without fear of losing their historic cultural identity.

The purpose of the dialogue was to discuss how cities are responding to the globalization of cultures and how culture can be used in the planning, design and management of cities.

The core message of the dialogue was the importance of urban cultural integration and inclusion.

2. DEBATE

The ways in which culture, in the context of globalization, is influencing social and economic patterns and processes within cities all over the world were highlighted, as were the overall effects of globalization on urban culture, including the role of new information and communication technology in facilitating global access to common cultural images, the standardization of some aspects of urban culture, as well as the tensions arising from local resistance to the globalization of culture.

It was pointed out that international migration, an important dimension of contemporary globalization, is giving rise to culturally cosmopolitan cities in which urban ethnic spaces are emerging, often in the form of ethnic ghettos.

It was also indicated that cities all over the world are using culture as a central component of urban development strategies that are designed to capitalize on the economic benefits of globalization, including the redevelopment and global branding of cities as centres of culture, cultural heritage preservation and cultural heritage tourism, as well as support to creative urban cultural industries.

The ways in which globalization is likely to shape urban culture in the future were highlighted, as were some of the key issues with which planners and managers of “globalizing cities” have to contend, including planning and managing “cities of difference” that can peacefully and productively integrate diverse cultures.

A major observation made during the dialogue was the importance of making connections between culture and the various urban sectors, including housing, infrastructure and governance. It was further pointed out that cultural diversity was increasing in cities all over the world and that inclusion and integration had become important issues at the policy, project and community levels.

Another observation made was that cultural identity and cohesion at the city-region level makes it easier to define specific interests and projects. To this extent, identity is intertwined with land and territory.

Yet another key observation made was that urban policies and programmes should be designed in such a way that they preserve urban cultural heritage while closely involving local communities. In this context, a detailed example of an urban project in Laos was described.

The importance of having policies that are compatible with changing urban cultures was underscored and, in this context, it was emphasized that the legal framework of local government authorities should be based on local needs and changing urban characteristics.

The importance of promoting urban culture that embraces new technology was stressed. In this context, it was further pointed out that the governance structure of cities should

undergo necessary adjustments in light of cultural change and diversity. Also highlighted was the importance of preserving cultural heritage in the planning, design and management of cities.

It was noted that culture is a natural ally of development and poverty alleviation. Increased rural-to-urban migration and the increase in the number of different ethnic groups that occupy the same urban space often result in social tension and conflicts. Within this context, the issues that need to be addressed include: how to introduce new patterns of learning from grassroots processes; what development assistance is needed for the urban poor within changing cultural landscapes; and how the urban poor can be helped to manage the risks that they face.

Also highlighted was the importance of investing in businesses that help cities, ensuring security and safety of cities and protecting cities' cultural heritage. It was further noted that globalization should not be accepted at the expense of national identity and several examples of cities that have prospered while preserving their cultural identities were given.

There was general agreement that culture has different meanings for different places and that it is more useful to define it locally. An example of a city where local cultural development officers had been appointed was cited.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The following issues were emphasized at the conclusion of the dialogue.

- While the subject of culture has in the past not featured in discussions on urban development, it is clear that this is no longer the case and UN-HABITAT's focus on this subject at the Second World Urban Forum is a welcome development.
- Values and ethics are fundamental determinants of culture and should be included in any debate on globalization and urban culture. While recent information and communication technology advances are very seductive, the "virtual cities" of today should take a journey back to the "city of virtue" in order to understand their cultural roots.
- Culture should be seen as a field of action and as a pro-active activity in which values and ethics are transformed into action within the city.
- While highlighting what unites urban residents culturally, urban governance should recognize diversity to the fullest extent possible as a way of enhancing participation, which is required for sustainable and inclusive urbanization.
- While there is a danger that culture within cities may become too much of a commodity, it should be recognized that culture has economic value and that this value is important in building cities.
- Because culture involves deeply felt emotions of belonging and history, it should be recognized that culture's importance for urban governance partly derives from its political force.
- If urban planning is to be able to address diversity within cities, the profession should intensify its efforts to become more inclusive and multi-disciplinary.

- Frameworks at local, national and international levels – for example, legal and trade frameworks – matter a great deal to the extent to which the diverse cultural voices of cities will be able to be expressed and empowered. Current frameworks will need to be re-examined in this light.

2. URBAN REALITIES: OUTSTANDING POLICIES AND LEGISLATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE HABITAT AGENDA AND ATTAINING THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Tuesday, 14 September and Wednesday, 15 September

Panelists:

1. Hon. Ms. Buyelwa Patience Sonjica, Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa (Chair and Presenter)
2. Mr. Gianfranco D'Alessandro, Deputy Mayor of Rome, Italy (Chair)
3. Mr. Daniel Biau, UN-HABITAT (Facilitator)
4. Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Deputy Minister of Construction, China
5. Ms. Agnes Devanadera, Interior and Local Government Under-Secretary, Philippines
6. Mr. Xosé Antonio Sánchez Bugallo, Mayor of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
7. Mr. Mohamed Ameer, Secretary General, Ministry of Regional Planning, Morocco
8. Ms. Silvia Andere, Public Administrator, Municipal Urbanization Corporation of Belo Horizonte, Brazil

1. ISSUES

This dialogue was organized to share the experience of implementing six outstanding policies and legislation. The cases were selected to reflect geographic and thematic diversity but were also included because of their outstanding commitment to social justice and /or improved governance.

The cases presented

Morocco: In Tetuan, Morocco, as in many developing countries, metropolitan authorities lack appropriate instruments to link administrative decisions with physical planning and the planning of infrastructure, services and socio-economic development. Each municipality operates according to its own perceived priorities and needs. This often results in inequitable access to or provision of basic services, and generalized inefficiencies and lack of productivity. Metropolitan City Development Strategy (CDS) is an innovative citywide demand-driven and participatory planning process. Tetuan Metropolitan CDS is a good example of how the use of instruments that link physical, social, economic and environmental planning and management within a participatory process of all stakeholders can be particularly effective in reducing urban poverty and stimulating local economic development.

Brazil: Profavela, the national pro-poor land law that was first adopted in Belo Horizonte, addresses slum regularization and upgrading. Based on enabling legislation at the federal level, this law stipulates that the local authority suspend and relax, on a temporary basis, relevant laws, by-laws and standards to facilitate improvements and land tenure regularization. This enables negotiations to take place between public authorities, service providers and slum dwellers to establish a plan for the improvement and regularization of their settlements. Once the plan is approved, it becomes a legal instrument that enables public intervention, empowers slum dwellers to invest in improvements and to comply with agreed to codes and standards, and ultimately, to gain legal recognition and title deeds.

China: The Government of China invests US\$100 billion annually that translates into 10 million housing units. Through a pro-active enabling national housing policy, Chinese cities have been stimulating housing supply and demand through the combined use of equity grants for people living in sub-standard housing to facilitate home ownership, and fiscal incentives for real estate developers to provide housing within a negotiated price range. By providing an enabling environment that includes supporting the housing market, providing a legal framework, supporting services for housing, influencing the mortgage market and reducing housing-related taxes, among others, cities cater for all categories of demand ranging from low-income renters to home owners from higher income groups.

South Africa: Since 1994, a series of laws backed by a comprehensive implementation strategy has increased access to clean water in South Africa from 60 per cent to 83 per cent of the population, and sanitation services from 49 per cent to 60 per cent of the population. The “water for all” policy is based on the constitutional provision that recognizes the right of all citizens to clean water and adequate sanitation. The main objective of the recent Strategy Framework for Water Services is that all people have access to a functioning basic water supply facility by 2008 and a basic sanitation facility by 2010. It aims at providing water and sanitation in a manner that is equitable, affordable, effective, efficient, sustainable and gender-sensitive. Key principles of the strategy are a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of different spheres of government and other institutions and the separation of regulatory and operational responsibilities. The role of the private sector in assisting local governments and other water services institutions is also articulated.

Philippines: The 1991 Local Government Code has revolutionized governance in the Philippines. The Code defines the mandate, role and responsibilities of local government. It includes the formal recognition and designation of four tiers of governance: provincial; city; municipal; and *barangays* (the smallest political unit). The Code devolves to local government units the responsibility of delivering basic services, including health, social welfare services, environmental protection, agricultural extension, locally-funded public works, education, tourism, telecommunications services and housing, as well as investment support and promotion. The Code also devolves to local governments the responsibility for the enforcement of certain regulatory powers, such as enforcement of

environmental laws, enforcement of national building codes, and approval of sub-division plans, among others.

The Code has increased the financial resources of local government units by increasing their share of national wealth from 11 per cent to as much as 40 per cent. The Code envisions a participatory planning process involving representation from civil society, non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, and the private sector in local development councils.

Spain: In the late 1980s, Santiago de Compostela experienced a mass exodus caused by the decay and deterioration of the medieval city's historic city centre. Abandoned buildings became a security risk, which further accelerated the exodus from the city. Today, social funds, usually reserved for subsidising access by low-income families to public housing, have been allocated to the restoration and rehabilitation of old housing stock in the historic centre of the city. Combined with jobs and skills training, incentives for contractors and builders, and technical assistance provided by the municipal authority to low-income families, this approach has stimulated private investment in converting and restoring old housing stock. It has also prevented the further decay of cultural heritage, revived old city centres and promoted social integration. However, an unintended outcome of the restoration exercise has been the gentrification of the historic city centre, resulting in social exclusion of lower-income groups. Another consequence of the revitalization of the city has been the increasing numbers of tourists to the city, who tax local resources and compromise local culture.

2. DEBATE

Questions and discussion on all the presentations included a range of issues. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen exchanges and dissemination of good practices and instruments through city networks as most cities do not have enough capacity to develop such innovative tools. On slum upgrading, the challenge of preventing new squatter settlements was raised. Suggested solutions included ensuring that affordable planned and serviced plots are accessible to residents of all income levels. This will reduce the likelihood of middle and upper classes buying plots from the poor in the upgraded areas. It is also important to provide economic programmes, even though it is difficult to have sustainable economic programmes that can compete with the land markets of a particular area, given the fact that once upgraded, the market value of land and property tends to rise. The challenge of maintaining historic areas as socially inclusive living spaces was recognized as an issue that needs to be handled sensitively.

The need to build the capacity of local governments to deal with an expanded mandate in many thematic areas was emphasized. It was pointed out that there is often a mismatch between mandate and resources/capacity at the local level. Sometimes competition between national and local governments, and between large and small towns, affects local governments' ability to retain qualified personnel. Due to historical or other factors, there is also an unequal distribution of resources among cities. The challenge of implementing socially responsible public-private partnerships was also highlighted. Other

challenges facing implementation of good policies include: lack of political will; inadequate resources (human, financial, technological; and lack of awareness among intended beneficiaries of the value of certain laws and policies, and the responsibilities of citizens.

3. LESSONS AND CONCLUSIONS

There is no single law or policy that can address poverty, inclusiveness and sustainability issues. The key is to have comprehensive and holistic approaches. This often requires the breaking down of administrative barriers between and within spheres of government and in the allocation of resources. It requires commitment at the national level to empowering the local level. Individual policies and laws must have a strong social content and recognize individual as well as collective rights and needs. Public-private partnerships must be well-formulated, managed and monitored to ensure social accountability.

Development of updated and innovative planning instruments and methodologies based on broad-based participation of stakeholders would help address the growing urban challenges. Good policies and enabling legislation start with political will and vision. This has to be backed by participatory formulation and implementation as well as continuous monitoring and review. Institutional responsibilities and linkages must be well defined. Finally, proper tools for implementation must be developed and continuously reviewed to match changing realities. Panelists lauded UN-HABITAT's efforts to document and disseminate good urban policies.

3. URBAN GOVERNANCE

PART I: INCLUSIVENESS – TOO LITTLE OR TOO MUCH?

Thursday, 16 September

Panelists

1. Professor Dana Cuff, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), U.S.A. (Chair)
2. Hon. Mr. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities, Brazil
3. Mr. Ilmaar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden
4. Hon. Mr. Charles Keenja, Former Chairperson of Dar-es-Salaam City Commission, now Minister of Agriculture, Tanzania
5. Hon. Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, India
6. Mr. Clarence Anthony, Mayor of South Bay, Florida, U.S.A. and Treasurer, UCLG
7. Professor Jude Howell, Director, Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics, U.K.

1. ISSUES

Inclusiveness can too easily become “politically correct” and not subject to critical scrutiny. It is important to explore the pros and cons of inclusiveness, its scope and boundaries, and to debate how inclusiveness can actually work in local governance. Civil society perspectives on stakeholder participation often contrast with – even contradict – governmental viewpoints on how to balance this with the representative role of elected members. Issues of inclusion are also quite pronounced in cities that contain diverse communities and migrants. All these issues, the wider context they relate to, and their various ramifications, were explored during the dialogue on urban governance.

2. DEBATE

The discussion began with a number of speakers underlining the importance of viewing inclusion in the broader institutional context of cities. Formal mechanisms of participation, including innovations, such as Participatory Budgeting, were examined in detail. Presentations also generated a discussion on non-formal mechanisms of fostering inclusiveness, especially the strengthening of non-governmental and community-based organizations. Panelists provided illustrations of initiatives to foster inclusiveness, particularly from Brazil, Tanzania and India. The case of Tanzania is especially unusual, as it highlights efforts of a non-elected local authority (the Dar-es-Salaam City Commission) to build public participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of development projects. This shows that to be effective, formal institutions need the support of community-based organizations. In this case, inclusiveness was also seen as a mechanism for re-engaging apathetic urban communities. Issues of building inclusiveness in societies with large migrant populations in an otherwise homogeneous community, such as Sweden, were also discussed.

A number of key interventions from the floor pertained to the “opportunity cost” of public participation, especially for the poor, and particularly in situations where the process of participation is lengthy and time-consuming. The issue of cost to cities, especially those in developing countries, was also discussed. The speakers agreed that it can never be “too costly” to engage citizens in a process that will affect their lives, and that it is important to educate both leaders as well as citizens about the importance and mechanisms of civic participation. It was accepted that this may well lead to the empowerment of communities, and that this might alter the balance of power in regard to local leaders and politicians, but this was a desirable outcome of the effort. In addition it was noted that inclusive and participatory decision-making serves as a seed-bed for participatory activists who often produce new generation of government and elected officials.

A few speakers also raised concerns about the influence of donor agencies on the structuring and activities of civil society organizations, which increasingly focus their

efforts on ever-increasing challenges of health, education, HIV/AIDS etc., rather than the wider issue of human settlements. Another challenge highlighted was that of involving the “not-so-poor” urban communities, the middle-classes and the rich, who are increasingly apathetic to public participation efforts.

The relationship between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and processes of fostering inclusion was strongly emphasized by many speakers, both from the panel and the audience. Fostering inclusiveness was viewed as a key strategy to achieving the MDGs, especially Goal 7, Target 11, that commits to improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Some panelists said that Goal 7, Target 11 cannot be realized without the restructuring of current financing arrangements for housing and sanitation at a macroeconomic level. They advocated a review of the conditionality for debt finance and the establishment of a technically sound financial arrangement to bridge the gap between macroeconomic policy targets and MDG targets and commitments. This view was endorsed by a number of participants.

The last major set of issues raised in the debate pertained to the conditions for inclusiveness. It was emphasized that the process should be, and should be seen to be, legitimate, transparent and open. The mismatch between political equality and socio-economic inequality must be addressed. Innovations and best practices must be replicated and scaled up through the establishment of appropriate policy frameworks.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- The question is not whether inclusiveness is required, or the extent to which it is important; it is accepted that there is “too little” inclusiveness, rather than “too much.” The real issue is how to achieve inclusiveness in the urban context.
- Inclusion does not imply abdication of responsibility by formal structures of government. There is a strong connection between inclusiveness and structural conditions within which communities and their organizations operate, and governments must work to develop appropriate conditions for inclusiveness to occur.
- The linkage between inclusion, peace and the achievement of the MDGs needs to be recognized. The achievement of the MDGs depends in part on the local political environment – one whether there are avenues for citizens to participate in decision-making through formal structures of democratic participation, or through direct collective mobilization and action.
- Transparent and open decision-making processes are key to fostering inclusiveness. Building trust is equally important.
- Engaging the poorest and most marginalized communities in decision-making is the most critical issue related to inclusiveness, and should be accorded top priority

by national and local governments, civil society organizations, as well as the donor community.

- Cities are in need of new experiences to facilitate the implementation of decentralization principles. Therefore, local governments should be the ones to develop new forms of incentives for collection of best examples, extending awareness and application of the practices.

URBAN GOVERNANCE
PART II: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: IS THERE A RIGHT WAY?
Thursday, 16 September

Panelists

9. Mr. Davinder Lamba, Director, Mazingira Institute, Kenya (Chair)
10. Professor Akin Mabogunje, Chairman, Presidential Technical Committee on Housing and Urban Development, The Presidency, Nigeria
11. Mr. Pierre Sane, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
12. Ms. Vicenta Bosch I Palanca, Mayor of Bon Repos I Mirambell, Spain
13. Ms. Arlette Lopez Trujillo, Secretary, State of Mexico, Mexico
14. Mr. Andrew Boraine, South African Cities Network, South Africa
15. Ms. Sandy Schillen, Huairou Commission
16. Ms. Dania Rifai, International Development Research Centre, Lebanon
17. Father Gerry Whelan, St. Joseph The Worker Catholic Church, Kangemi, Nairobi, Kenya

1. ISSUES

Assuming inclusiveness is a good thing and that empowered communities are necessary to achieve it, how are communities nurtured to become involved? Do communities everywhere want to be involved? How do cities with large groups of migrants address the issue of citizenship and community empowerment? Are all forms of community empowerment equal? Are there particular forms of local government that are successful in empowering communities? Should civil society always be confrontational? Are there cultural and regional dimensions to inclusiveness? Panelists discussed these and many other issues, as well as the current regional and global trends, related to community empowerment.

2. DEBATE

The discussion began with a quote from G. B. Shaw, “We don’t mind being governed as long as we are allowed to control our governors”. This set the tone of the debate, with a number of speakers underlining the importance of a vibrant civil society in holding local governments accountable. Speakers subsequently identified ways to nurture community

empowerment. Structural issues include the role of the neighbourhood, the presence of clientelist relationships, the vibrancy of the informal sector, and the presence of organized women, youth and religious groups, which all influence the potential of community empowerment. The role of civil society in this regard includes mobilization, enlightenment, service delivery and advocacy. Leaders have a key responsibility in ensuring a climate where civil society can be empowered.

From the global perspective, empowerment is an essential prerequisite for urban policy-making through public participation. However, for this to succeed, communities need skills and confidence. The enhancement of multi-cultural consciousness is considered to be an essential element of promoting inclusiveness and empowerment. Social groups, such as migrant communities, need to be provided with a space to make their views heard and their contribution must be incorporated into the social fabric. It was observed that there are some promising experiences in this regard, but there is need for scaling them up.

National perspectives emphasized subsidiarity, that is, bringing power and resources to the lowest possible level, as close as possible to those who are affected. Democracy needs equality and in this respect it is essential that excluded social groups, particularly women, be empowered.

The process of empowerment in the area of environment was addressed, where both individual and group benefits of empowerment were explored. In order to overcome the crisis of governance, which often arises from excluded communities, it was considered essential to bring in new actors into the process of local governance. There is a need to consolidate organizational structure, to identify critical issues, and equally important, to install systems of self-regulation.

Empowerment depends on local conditions, opportunities and the local political context. The role of local government was underscored as being necessary for inclusive governance. Structures and processes of local government have to be conducive to inclusiveness. Inept local governments tend to be defensive and thus undermine and impair the involvement of communities. However, it was also recognized that it is essential to empower sub-municipal spheres of local government for them to be amenable to citizen participation. In this regard, the challenge of fostering inclusiveness tends to become complicated in a context where it is the majority, not the minority, that has to be included. Such situations generate an atmosphere of xenophobia and tension towards the minority.

Active involvement of women is regarded as an important resource in contributing to the improved efficiency of urban governance. Experience from grassroots women's organizations has demonstrated their abilities to work in partnership with local authorities in finding solutions to address problems in cities around the world. The process of "local-to-local dialogues", particularly if resourced, can create institutional mechanisms for collaboration between local authorities and women's groups, leading to effective solutions for shelter, basic services, livelihoods and food security. Similarly, there was a recognition that neighbourhood sector groups, organized women and youth groups are

best positioned to establish mutual standards of accountability in increasing access of the poor to public goods and services.

It was recognized that empowerment entails not only redistribution of power but also of resources. Examples of the positive and negative impact of empowerment through different institutional arrangements were presented. An important dimension that was brought out is the possibility of a prevalence of a certain degree of distrust amongst various levels of governance institutions, such as between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local authorities, and between NGOs and community-based organizations. Indeed, the tension between NGOs and local authorities is an issue that was repeatedly raised in the debate, particularly in determining whether the two spheres are competitive or complementary.

The debate also addressed the significance of empowering communities through processes that change values and norms relating to everyday living. Examples were given of fundamental transformations of communities with regard to leadership, gender, ethnic relations, and the building of social capital by interventions in the domain of values and normative systems.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Empowerment is not only an end in itself, but also a means towards access – particularly for disadvantaged citizens and groups – to public goods such as transportation, land and basic services. It is, therefore, a means towards achieving inclusion.
- Inclusiveness and empowerment require strategy formation. Some dimensions of the strategy include the 5 Ps: multiple Perspectives; proper Positioning; dynamic Planning; Practices that work; and awareness of Ploys.
- The active involvement of women in the process of modernization of local government bodies and decision-making is regarded as an important resource contributing to the improved efficiency of city governance.
- Any process of empowerment has to recognize that the city is not just a configuration of physical, economic, social, cultural and environmental units; it is significantly a political space.
- Democracy needs equality. Increasing political participation of women, particularly at the local level, can contribute to building democratic and inclusive societies.
- In the final analysis, inclusion is guaranteed when every urban citizen has a “Right to the City”. This claim compels the State to ensure that citizens do not suffer exclusion with respect to accessing public goods and services and exercising fundamental freedoms. It implies that inclusion, particularly of

disadvantaged citizens and groups, is inextricably linked to redistribution of resources, and cannot be relegated to market forces.

4. URBAN RENAISSANCE - DIALOGUE ON THE EVOLVING CITY

Thursday, 16 September

Panelists

1. Mr. Yves Ducharme, Mayor of Gatineau, Canada, and Member, United Cities and Local Governments (Chair)
2. Mr. Jeremy Smith- Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG- European Section)
3. Dr. Patrick Lumumba, Secretary, Kenya Constitutional Review Commission
4. Ms. Christina Corrales, President of La Paz, Bolivia
5. Mr. Mikhail V. Stolyarov, Expert Council Member in the Federal Assembly of Russia
6. Ms. Asma Chaabi, Mayor of Essaouira, Morocco
7. Mr. Prasanna Gunawardana, Mayor of Colombo, Sri Lanka
8. H.E. Nicephore Soglo, Former President of Benin, and current Mayor of Cotonou, Benin
9. Mr. Teodor Antic, Lawyer, Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies, Croatia

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/5 on “Urban Renaissance: towards new powers for local governments in an urbanizing world”

1. ISSUES

Urbanization and globalization have become very relevant in the work of local authorities since the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. It has been noted that there is a direct link between urban renaissance – as a process of improving the quality of life in towns and cities – and the promotion of decentralization as a means for achieving these goals. The dialogue session examined this crucial issue within the context of globalization, and UN-HABITAT's mandate on empowering local authorities inter alia through the implementation of the Governing Council's resolution 19/12 on “Decentralization and Strengthening of Local Authorities”. The four themes that provided the basis for the dialogue were: (i) power and responsibilities of local authorities; (ii) administrative relations – local autonomy; (iii) financial resources and capacity of local authorities; and (iv) local governance and democracy. This dialogue was prepared in direct follow-up to the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED), which was established by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT in March 2004. In their presentations, experts stressed that decentralization is not an end in itself. With reference to the work on the draft “Charter of Local Self-Government” prepared by UN-HABITAT between 1998 and 2000, some experts were of

the view that the new proposed “Guidelines on Decentralization” were practical and easy to use. Others stressed that the decentralization process can’t be successfully completed if there are no efficient implementation mechanisms to deepen the dialogue between central and local governments. Good laws without the means and rules to implement them will only breed discontent and despair. The principle of subsidiarity was seen as one of the underlying principles of empowering local governments.

2. DEBATE

Participants highlighted the linkages between decentralization, democracy and participation. Citizen participation was highlighted as an integral part of decentralization. Centralized and inefficient urban governance was criticized and the definition of subsidiarity within the local context was questioned. Further, questions were raised related to the specific experience of African municipalities in waste management and garbage collection, disaster control and participatory approaches to urban planning. It was emphasized that decentralization can only be effective in a sound and functional legal regime.

The discussion expressed the hope that the efforts currently undertaken by various countries to promote decentralization will eventually bear fruit. Some participants pointed out that municipal leaders themselves slowed down the decentralization process, leading to inefficiency in service delivery. Most presentations indicated that enshrining devolution in the constitution is in most cases viewed as a reduction in the powers of central government, whereas in essence, decentralization and centralization should not be seen as opposites but rather as complementary components. It was further noted that local authorities need to be sufficiently empowered to ensure an increase in service delivery efficiency. For decentralization to improve living conditions of local citizens, local authorities require proper and adequate financial support, ensuring that power transfer is commensurate with the transfer of funds.

In conclusion, it was stressed that the partnership between local government, the private sector and civil society was essential to the urbanization process. Several participants noted that efforts undertaken by UN-HABITAT in the promotion of effective decentralization has helped both central and local governments to find a common ground for constructive dialogue.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Effective decentralization has the potential of helping countries to achieve sustainable development and a more just society that includes local communities, including the urban poor.
- The development of a local economic and financial resource base, as well as local authority capacity, are crucial components to successful decentralization.
- A true devolution of power, responsibilities and resources will have major implications for all local stakeholders. Decentralization will entail working in

partnership with other spheres of governments and being responsive and catering to citizens' needs. The involvement of citizens in community affairs needs to be seen as an integral part of the decentralization process.

- Countries need to examine the possibility of providing support to cities using funds from international donors, in addition to national budgetary support.
- More emphasis needs to be put on addressing the needs and priorities of local citizens in addition to re-empowering and re-energizing cities and local authorities. The process of strengthening local authorities should also take into consideration the need for adequate resources necessary for securing sustainable livelihoods of normal citizens.
- Mechanisms for building the capacity of local authorities need to be developed and implemented.
- The concept of subsidiarity needs to be popularized and adapted to different languages and cultures.
- Systems for monitoring the implementation of legal provisions for decentralization are to be put in place, based on the experiences of different cities.
- There is need to finalize the AGREED guidelines on decentralization for submission to the next Governing Council of UN-HABITAT.
- A database of good practices and examples of decentralization would be useful. UN-HABITAT and UCLG may work together to produce such a database.

Annex II

REPORTS ON THEMATIC DIALOGUES

1. URBAN POOR: IMPROVING THE LIVES OF SLUM DWELLERS

Tuesday, 14 September

Panelists:

Morning session:

1. Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals (Opening remarks)
2. Mr. Mark Hildebrand, Programme Manager, Cities Alliance (Chair)
3. Mr. Robert Johnston, United Nations Statistical Division
4. Ms. Christine Kessides, Senior Urban Adviser, The World Bank
5. Mr. Jesus Tamayo, Secretary-General for Urban Development and Ordinance, Ministry for Social Development, Mexico
6. Mayor Mr. Mann Chibli, Aleppo, Syria
7. Ms. Nefise Bazoglu, Chief, Monitoring Systems Branch, UN-HABITAT

Afternoon session:

1. Mr. Pietro Garau, Coordinator of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers (Chair)
2. Mr. Jockin Arputham, Slum Dwellers International and National Federation of Slum Dwellers of India
3. Hon. Mrs. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, South Africa
4. Ms. Marisol Dalmazzo, Coordinator, Habitat International Coalition
5. Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Ministry for Cities, Brazil
6. Mr. Alfredo Stein, Swedish Agency for International Development (SIDA), Sweden
7. Dr. Nie Meisheng, President of the China Housing Industry Association

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/6 Urban poor: improving the lives of slum-dwellers; UN-HABITAT Strategy for the Implementation of Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11

1. ISSUES

The dialogue was organized as a panel discussion around keynote presentations and open discussions with questions and answers. It provided opportunities for all stakeholders to discuss the internationally-agreed target on improving the lives of slum dwellers by 2020, through its policy, operational, and monitoring dimensions.

The main objective of the dialogue was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in an open dialogue on this target and assess the progress made, identify shortcomings, and explore further perspectives. It was the first time since the Millennium Summit in September 2000 that a global discussion on this target was taking place. The

afternoon session attempted to address the question: “Improving the lives of slum dwellers: Are we on the right track?”. This session discussed the challenges of the internationally-agreed target on slums at the global, regional and local levels, as perceived by different actors, and assessment of the ongoing policies and programmes.

2. DEBATE

Morning session:

In his opening remarks, Professor Jeffrey Sachs highlighted the urgent need to identify practical, innovative solutions that worked *at scale* to stem the growth of slums. He stated that while there are several examples of pilot projects worldwide demonstrating the impact of local policies and programmes on reducing urban poverty, the challenge facing the development community was to find solutions that worked at national and citywide scales.

Panelists noted that several countries have almost achieved the “Cities without Slums” target based on scaling-up of pilot initiatives, while other countries are making progress following the launch of major interventions. For example, in Mexico, the Ministry for Social Development is implementing a major initiative, “Programa Habitat”, targeting deprived areas in 364 cities and towns across the country. A good example of scaling-up at city-wide level is the City of Aleppo in Syria where the city government is developing a slum upgrading programme targeting one million residents.

Indicators play an important role in the design and monitoring of urban poverty reduction strategies. In both Mexico and Aleppo, Local Urban Observatories have been set up, helping cities to target resources and to monitor progress of their policies. In Thailand, indicators were used to identify the urban poor who faced tenure problems and this information was collected by the slum dwellers themselves.

Discussions at the dialogue highlighted the need to go beyond the “Cities without Slums” target and to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets in cities. UN-HABITAT and the World Bank described their respective strategies for monitoring MDG Target 11 and progress to date. The World Bank reported its plan to compile statistics from national censuses and incorporate them in the next round of World Development Indicators. It also reported on strengthening city-level monitoring through a new research project aimed at gathering key data in 120 cities worldwide. UN-HABITAT’s latest results demonstrated how countries have made progress on Target 11 over the last decade. It was evident that countries such as Mexico, Brazil and Thailand, which have committed to scaling-up upgrading projects and have adopted pro-poor policies, have made good progress in achieving Target 11 and improving the lives of slum dwellers.

Afternoon session:

The President of Slum Dwellers International stressed that governments cannot deliver Target 11 and that the process has to be driven by the people. In the course of the discussion, some participants expressed the need to insert the Millennium Development

Goals on slums as a requirement to plan for the future of cities to prevent new slum formation. It was clarified that the draft final recommendation of the Millennium Project's Task Force 8 for the "slum target" would reflect strategies related to the goal of improving the lives of present slum dwellers as well as provide adequate recommendations to prevent new slum formation. In this connection, some participants stressed the requirement for affordable and appropriately located land for new settlements.

Statements from panelists also highlighted the importance of appropriate government policies to implement slum upgrading and housing programmes suited to the social and economic circumstances of the urban poor. Emphasis was placed on in-situ upgrading while limiting relocation of slum dwellers to exceptional circumstances linked primarily to hazardous locations.

Some participants stressed the importance of gender equality. It was pointed out that even in cities and countries where enabling legislation for gender equality existed, social and cultural circumstances prevented women from full and equal access to land, housing and property. It was also observed that women systematically suffer more severely from poverty and violence and their rights are more often ignored.

Discussions highlighted that there was ample evidence to demonstrate the value of the innovative approaches in mobilizing the potential of local and international organizations of the urban poor and slum dwellers. The central importance of local government cooperation with other stakeholders was also stressed. In particular, the United Cities and Local Governments has adopted a commitment to launch an action oriented campaign for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the local level and was looking forward to a "Millennium Cities Initiative" in cooperation with international and civil society partners.

It was pointed out by several participants that many middle-income developing countries were faced with restrictions placed by international financial institutions against the utilization of available resources earmarked for large-scale social programmes and, in particular, the upgrading of infrastructure and services in existing urban informal settlements. With respect to cost recovery, it was noted that there were limits to cost recovery policies as the poor cannot always repay the full cost of the basic infrastructure required for achieving decent living conditions.

In relation to the role of the State, it was observed that the weakening of the functions of the State was irreconcilable with the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. This doesn't mean the size of government must grow; in fact, in some cases, it requires trimming government payrolls. What is needed is more effective governance in which policies are legitimized by the people based on participatory mechanisms at all levels of government. It was further stressed that participation applied to all spheres of government action, including urban planning, which remained a crucial task. The concept of solidarity was also underlined, not only as a general principle, but also in connection with individual cities.

Several participants expressed concern about the persistently low level of funding by multilateral and bilateral aid agencies to the urban sector. This was compounded by the tendency in some cases to achieve quick results, without adequate reforms to improve governance. The dialogue concluded that one of the greatest and most exciting challenges was that of scaling up of successful experiences based on the involvement and participation of the urban poor themselves.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- The collection and dissemination of reliable data about slum dwellers (their numbers, geographical distribution, living conditions) is an important way of “putting the urban poor on the map” in international and national development dialogues.
- There was general consensus that though considerable progress has been made in improving the lives of slum dwellers, much more remains to be done.
- Efforts should be focused on looking for local solutions.
- The focus should be on policy reforms, rather than on more pilot projects and best practices.
- Legislation and affirmative actions need to be implemented to ensure that women benefit from recognized rights and that the disparity between men and women are effectively addressed.
- The urban poor should be recognized as active agents and not as passive beneficiaries.
- In-situ upgrading should be the norm and relocation is to be used only in exceptional circumstances, such as when settlements are located in hazardous areas.
- The international community should consider whether investments targeted at intervention on reaching the MDGs should be excluded from the debt of developing countries.
- The active involvement of cities and local authorities, e.g. through Millennium City campaigns and strategies, is paramount to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

2. URBAN RESOURCES

Wednesday, 15 September

Panelists:

1. Hon. Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary, Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S.A. (Chair)
2. Mr. Michael Cohen, Director, Graduate Programme in International Affairs, New School University, New York (Facilitator)
3. Hon. Mr. Amos Kimunya, Minister for Land and Housing, Kenya
4. Mr. Nestor Eugenio Ramirez, President, Colombian Municipalities Federation
5. Mr. Amos Masondo, Executive Mayor, Johannesburg, South Africa

6. Ms. Sheela Patel, SPARC, India, and Slum Dwellers International
7. Ms. Pamela Lamoreaux, Housing Finance Group, IFC
8. Ms. Rebecca Gaskin, Standard Bank, South Africa
9. Ms. Karen Kinsley, President, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
10. Ms. Jayshree Vyas, SEWA Bank, India

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/7 Financing and mobilizing domestic capital for slum upgrading.

1. ISSUES

The background paper highlighted that the cost of meeting the internationally-agreed target on improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 is estimated to be in the region of US\$70 billion to US\$100 billion. The background paper suggested that while there is an urgent need for more international aid targeted at slum upgrading, it is also important to design innovative strategies to mobilize domestic capital, including strengthening housing and micro-finance institutions. The issues identified in the background paper were affordability, risk mitigation, mortgage finance systems for the urban poor and how strategic partnership between the public and private sectors can be built to leverage private domestic capital for slum upgrading.

Eight prominent professionals from a range of disciplines discussed the challenges of mobilizing resources in developing countries to meet the shelter needs of a rapidly urbanizing world. Session chair, Hon. Mr. Dennis Shea, and session moderator, Professor Michael Cohen, effectively created an environment that stimulated a genuine dialogue with an engaged audience. The audience included several ministers and youth representatives who elaborated on and challenged the ideas and policies of institutions represented on the panel. Presentations covering experiences from slum dwellers, governments in the developing and developed world, the private sector, and international institutions shared some conclusions, and attempted to answer some similar questions.

2. DEBATE

Moderator Michael Cohen effectively summarized the discussion as a simple question:

How do we set interest rates in new markets?

The answer to this question, he said, requires us to define the market, identify and calculate risks, assign those risks and identify and value collateral. Collateral includes not only physical assets but also social assets such as “peer pressure” and organizational and technical resources not captured in current models, as well as contributions of governments in legitimizing land ownership or providing infrastructure. When some of these questions are answered, a better understanding will emerge of how and when to bring the private sector into the market at the earliest possible point.

The discussion at the dialogue is summarized below:

- The establishment of property rights, transparency and public accountability are essential to urban development and revitalization.
- These conditions are essential to creating an environment where information can be reliably exchanged between lenders and creditors, confidence can be developed, and agreements (contracts) made and kept.
- Slum dwellers are a resource whose organizational and technical capabilities are usually not captured in existing lending frameworks (are not monetized).
- Community-based organizations can provide the resources (financial and other), energy, and organizational coherence needed for urban revitalization. Women's micro-credit groups, in particular, have demonstrated excellent credit histories with financial institutions, and proved that the urban poor are bankable. Development agencies and financial institutions need to support their continued capacity building.
- Fostering community-based organizations can be considered not only as an exercise in democracy-building, but as a long-term investment designed to expand markets and formalize economic activity among slum dwellers.
- Technical assistance (like that provided by the International Finance Corporation) is needed to bridge the gap between communities and municipalities wishing to invest in urban infrastructure and housing, and between the private sector and international lenders.
- Drawing citizens into the formal economy, particularly through home ownership, contributes to both economic productivity and responsible citizenship.
- Effective shelter solutions are developed locally through a process that develops trust between partners over a substantial period of time.
- Donors, international institutions, the private sector, NGOs, national and local governments, community organizations, and slum dwellers misunderstand one another, often because they interact very infrequently.
- Drawing these partners and conditions together in a comprehensive way, while not duplicating efforts, is a daunting challenge at the heart of the financing conundrum.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Activities in the area of innovative finance should focus on mobilizing domestic private capital and having a clear goal of minimizing or eliminating the financial role of international and/or governmental support.
- UN-HABITAT's Good Governance and Secure Tenure Campaigns should continue to be supported as they address key pre-requisites to the effective mobilization of capital.
- Governments should engage in a continuing effort to set conditions that stimulate the private sector to operate in a way that benefits the maximum number of citizens, and leverage private sector resources and skills to the maximum in meeting the needs of needy citizens. This would allow governments to focus the most costly direct assistance on the neediest.
- All development partners should consider endorsing the recommendations contained in the report to the UN Secretary-General by the Commission on the Private Sector and Development which outline a positive series of actions that governments, international institutions and the private sector can take to foster sustainable growth that benefits the poor.
- UN-HABITAT and the World Urban Forum advance efforts to improve understanding between financiers and slum dwellers. They offer mechanisms which challenge partners to innovate and provide specific examples of best practices that show how lenders can go down market and slum dwellers can access new resources. Their efforts should be continued since they offer an opportunity for learning, informal discussion and the generation of new concepts.
- More systematic documentation of innovative experiences and cases of mobilizing private capital for slum upgrading is needed, and should be incorporated in existing databases of best practices. A greater effort should be made to identify and stimulate communication among institutions involved in these innovations.

3. URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Wednesday 15, September

Panelists:

1. Mr. Steve Bradshaw, Director, BBC Panorama, U.K. (Chair/Moderator)
2. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor of Lagos, Nigeria
3. Mr. Han Verschure, Professor, Katolieke University of Leuven, Belgium
4. Mr. Tariq Kabbage, Mayor of Agadir, Morocco
5. Mr. Kees van der Ree, Ag. Director, ILO

6. Ms. Stela Goldenstein, Advisory Committee, SEMA/IDRC, Latin America
7. Mr. Rolf Lindell, Director, Ministry of Environment, Sweden
8. Ms. Inthan Azoor, National Training Coordinator, Colombo Municipality, Sri Lanka
9. Ms. Liliana Miranda, Executive Secretary, Foro Ciudades para la Vida, Peru
10. Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, DPDL, UNEP
11. Mr. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI
12. Mr. Luc-Marie Constant Gnacadja, Minister of Environment, Housing and Urbanism, Benin

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/8 Urban sustainability – Environment, economy, society: commitment to a culture of partnerships for sustainable urbanization.

1. ISSUES

The session jointly organized by UN-HABITAT and UNEP built on the concept developed by UN-HABITAT and its partners for achieving sustainable urbanization. It focused on increased commitment of all partners to support a coalition of joint efforts, particularly in the area of the urban environment, including support from United Nations agencies. The session was organized in three segments discussing the issue at the local, national and global levels with a group of panelists representing a wide range of key actors from Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The floor participated actively in the discussion with over thirty contributions. The main issue debated was how a culture of partnership can help make sustainable urban development meaningful and how it can contribute to making a vision attainable through more resources and action, better implementation and impact. The session discussed sustainable urbanization as a process of challenges and responses, including the relationship between strategic sustainable development and master planning, which can be considered under the broader goal of improving urban governance.

2. DEBATE

In his opening statement Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor of Lagos, Nigeria, stressed that in megacities like Lagos, environmental degradation is a major constraint inhibiting urban development and economic growth. Natural disasters and conflict also impact cities negatively. He called for programmes of action instead of mere declarations.

In the discussion about partnerships on environmental planning and management at the local level, there was a strong exchange of views over a suggestion that there has been an undue focus on environmental sustainability. In reply, speakers pointed out that without drinking water and air to breathe there could be no economic development, and that local environmental issues were the key to social and economic progress. In achieving this, civil society can play an important role, but one must ensure that such issues do not become the monopoly of politically-motivated “green” activists. Participants also

observed that there is a close relationship between the strategic plan for sustainable development and the master plan of city development.

It was also pointed out by a number of speakers that political sustainability and good governance are essential to implementing appropriate urban environmental policies. One speaker suggested that civil society groups can give a voice to local environmental issues in such a way that they address food security and better livelihoods and ensure successful partnerships and local action results. There was agreement that successful partnerships should lead to awareness, decision-making and action. There was significant support for the idea that better services require “decent” jobs, ensuring basic dignity to what is sometimes seen as menial labour.

The discussion highlighted the need for partnership on up-scaling Local Agenda 21 demonstrations at the national level. Many participants agreed on the importance of a mechanism for national governments to sensitize city authorities on the implementation of the Agenda 21 – and in supporting them in developing local Agenda 21 initiatives. In return many local experiences can be up-scaled from city level to enrich the national policy agenda. Even some grassroots activities can offer concrete solutions to complex national challenges. Attention was drawn to some of the obstacles currently impeding such partnerships. These included a lack of a culture of co-operation among different actors and levels, which can be addressed by building greater mutual trust. In addition, it was felt that there was a need for more capacity-building using demonstration projects to show the value of such trust. There was an emphasis on the need for decentralization and involvement of city mayors in national budgeting processes.

At the global level, the session discussed partnership built on local capacities to support the global agenda. There was general recognition that cities should be part of the solution to dealing with global environmental problems such as global warming, air and water pollution, and the degradation of coastal eco-systems. Such solutions need to link global agreements with local initiatives – including sustainable transportation, use of renewable energies, and recycling. Cities networking together in joint efforts – like Cities for Climate Protection with over 500 city members worldwide – have proved that they can make a difference. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the Sustainable Cities Programme are other initiatives that demonstrate the potential of such partnerships. While there is concern about the growth of megacities, there is recognition that people will continue to move to such large conurbations. The imperative is to find ways to provide and manage basic services for all those who have chosen to live there.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- The problem is not too much focus on environmental sustainability, but not enough focus on political and social issues.
- At the city level, eco-budgeting can be a vital instrument for local authorities to manage the environment as a resource for sustainable development in a transparent way.
- Local Agenda 21 initiatives can be a mechanism for enhancing partnerships at all levels.

- Making partnerships work requires skills, understanding and a co-operative attitude at all levels – which together should be the focus of capacity-building.
- Mayors should be involved in national budgetary processes.
- Attempts to limit the growth of megacities are less likely to succeed. The challenge instead is to plan, develop and manage cities in the interest of those who live there. This will also help improve the environmental sustainability of the planet.

4. URBAN SERVICES: WATER AND SANITATION GETTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO WORK FOR THE URBAN POOR

Wednesday, 15 September

Chair:

1. H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, Chair, 13TH session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Panelists

Opening Segment

2. Hon. Mrs. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water, Uganda
3. Mr. Loic Fauchon, President Director General, Eau de Marseille, Vice President, World Water Council
4. Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Executive Director, WaterAid,
5. Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

Segment One: Pro-Poor Urban Water Governance: Myth or Reality?

6. Hon. Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry South Africa
7. Dr D.S. Mathur, Principal Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India
8. Ms Penelope Urquhart, Project Coordinator: Preparation Phase, Global Review of PSP
9. Mr. William Miller, President, Global Creativity Centre
10. Mr. Claude Martinand, President, Institut de la Gestion Déléguée (IGD)

Segment Two: getting domestic private sector to serve the poor: Is it do-able?

11. Mr. Gordon McGranahan, Director, Human Settlements Programme, IIED
12. Dr William Muhairwe, National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Uganda
13. Mr. Assane Guene, General Manager, Grands Travaux d'Hydraulique et d'Equipement, Senegal
14. Mr. Dominique Héron, Special Adviser to the Senior Executive, Veolia Environment

Segment three: Informal Water Markets: How can we make it work?

15. Mrs. Mukami Kariuki, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank
16. Mr. Antonio de Costa Miranda Neto, Head of Municipal Water and Sanitation City of Recife, Brazil
17. Mr. Malick Gaye, Programme Officer, ENDA Tiers Monde, Senegal
18. Ms. Prema Gopalan, Director, Swaym Shikshan Prayog and Coordinating Council Member, Huairou Commission

Brief on status of World Water Development Report

19. Mr. Gordon Young, Coordinator, World Water Assessment Programme,

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/9 Urban services: Making the private sector work for the urban poor; Water and Sanitation in Cities report (UN-HABITAT 2003), Getting the Private Sector to work for the urban poor (Draft, UN-HABITAT 2004)

1. ISSUES

The purpose of the dialogue was to address the issue of private sector participation and its role in providing water and sanitation to the urban poor. In particular, the focus of the dialogue was to explore whether and how the private sector could be made to be more responsive to the needs of the poor. In the dialogue, three critical thematic areas were addressed:

1. Pro-poor urban water and sanitation governance;
2. Domestic private sector participation in serving the poor;
3. The role of informal sector water supply and sanitation service delivery.

The dialogue moved the debate away from whether the role of the private sector should be expanded – or suppressed – to focus on what changing the share of the urban water and sanitation market supplied by private operators means in practice. Participants noted that if private enterprises active in the sector can be made to become more responsive to the needs of households, progress in achieving the internationally-agreed on targets on water and sanitation, could be furthered.

2. DEBATE

The discussion in the dialogue revolved around six broad themes:

1. Investment in the water and sanitation sector;
2. Pro-poor policies;
3. Regulations and tariff structure;
4. Bottom-up approach to include communities in the decision making process;
5. Information;
6. Human values in improving urban water governance

In the case of investment, several participants argued that while commitments made by the international community need to be fulfilled, efforts should also be focused on tapping non- traditional sources of funding, such as non-water related multinational companies, domestic financing sources, and the local private sector (including user associations). Participants noted recent trends that point to a rise in the level of local private sector participation, including investments in water supply and sanitation services.

Because of the diversity of public and private actors involved in water provision – from the small water vendor to the large multinational company – and because of the diverse

needs of users, policies need to be based on a real understanding of the local context so that they truly contribute to meeting the basic needs of the poor. This may require more in depth assessments of the needs of poor communities, and recognition and involvement of a wider range of actors and service delivery arrangements. The overall context of pro-poor policies needs to be addressed under a pro-poor governance framework. Panelists also cited certain principles of good governance and tools, such as appropriate regulatory and tariff structures, which can extend water and sanitation services to poor communities by either a public or private sector provider.

The role of women in managing and monitoring water and sanitation development at the community level was addressed. It was emphasized that women's community groups and organizations should be supported to participate in providing water and sanitation services because often they subsidize and manage services and play an important role in bridging the supply gap of water and sanitation services. Moreover, women's groups, committees and women's organizations are crucial to holding local governments and the private sector accountable. It was noted that their participation reduced corruption, lowered costs, and improved access among low-income communities. Supporting participation of community women's groups could lead to reduction in households not reached by existing supply systems, help achieve the internationally-agreed water and sanitation targets and address gender concerns around health.

Partnerships with the private sector should not follow the traditional "one size fits all approach" but be developed to suit local conditions. In the past, many models have been tried out, but what has worked are models that are flexible and locally accepted. Several participants recognized the need to build partnerships from the bottom up, by involving both users and their service providers (including the informal sector) and where the ultimate stakeholders are included in the decision-making process, (negotiation contracting stage to service provision). In this way transparency and accountability are built in at all levels of the decision-making process.

Information on the conditions and requirements for effective private sector participation plays an important role if water and sanitation provision is to be extended to the urban poor. An inaccurate information base on the target group, coverage levels, livelihood patterns, existing infrastructure facilities, investment requirements, and willingness to pay, will lead to policies and programmes that do not improve services for the poor. From all angles of the discussion, the importance of a platform of information to share experiences and best practices was emphasized. Information is also a tool for awareness creation. Panelists cited many examples of how lack of information affected the sustainability of water and sanitation provision.

Finally, participants noted the importance of corporate social responsibility in ensuring that value systems are brought to bear on promoting pro-poor policies within the private sector. Several participants noted that while this role has not yet fully been developed, without these core values, the private sector may not act in the interest of the poor. Ultimately a compromise needs to be made between creating an environment attractive to investment and one that has people at its core.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Private sector involvement in the water and sanitation sector has changed radically in the past five years: moving from a focus on large-scale contracts (concessions and leases) to a variety of approaches ranging from full privatization to public-private partnerships. It has also been recognized that the private sector in water provision does not only refer to multinational companies but also encompasses local domestic companies, small scale vendors, user associations and community-based organizations. Effective private sector participation can only succeed in serving the poor if the necessary regulatory capacity and a pro-poor governance framework is in place. Experiences from the dialogue indicated that clarification of roles, access to information, transparency and accountability, stakeholder consultation, freedom of choice and reversibility, emulation through comparison, confidence and strong partnership, evaluation and local democracy, are key elements of a pro-poor water and sanitation governance framework.

Several participating delegations showed interest in taking the key issues emerging from this dialogue to the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development which will focus on water, sanitation and human settlements.

5. URBAN DISASTERS AND RECONSTRUCTION

Thursday, 16 September

Panelists:

1. Mr. Robert Sullivan, Journalist (Moderator)
2. Ms. Nesreen M. Siddeek Berwari, Minister for Municipalities and Public Works, Iraq (represented by Hussein Sinjari)
3. Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, UN-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UN-ISDR
4. Mr. Brock Carlton, Director, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, International Centre for Municipal Development
5. Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director, Disaster Mitigation Institute
6. Mr. Dennis McNamara, Director, Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division, UN-OCHA
7. Ms. Grace Okonji, UNIFEM

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/10 Urban disasters and reconstruction: Sustainable relief in post-crisis situations; transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable development in human settlements

1. ISSUES

The remarks of President Martti Ahtisaari made during the opening session of the Forum emphasized the precariousness of global security. He said that the world today faces unprecedented challenges in securing the safety and lives of its citizens. Conflicts and catastrophes in places such as Darfur, Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that the impact of disasters is no longer confined to local communities but spreads out to neighbouring towns, regions, states, and in some cases, the rest of the planet.

As discussed during the preceding networking events on the subject, the changing nature of these conflicts and natural disasters is leading to a re-visioning of traditional approaches to relief assistance. In the face of cycles of dependency and shortage of resources, all point to the need to develop innovative approaches and re-examine traditional policies on relief assistance. It was further noted that the challenge of all partners concerned with this matter is to explore the dimensions of threats to human settlements as well as address the manner in which we respond to crises in human settlements. President Ahtisaari asked the crucial question: “Can one really be strategic when there are lives needing saving? How about when the emergency needs of starving children can be partially met by airdropping food supplies into a war zone?” underscoring the need for strategic planning before the onset of the crisis.

Attention is drawn to the key questions asked by UN-HABITAT in the background documents. There is need for a set of guiding principles that begin to frame how we might build a new approach to humanitarianism and development. Is this the right starting place? What comes after principles? Who becomes their custodian, and how does one apply them? In the end however, it IS a start, and it is often easier to build mutual confidence through consensus on principles rather than debate methodology or politics. UN-HABITAT’s concept of sustainable relief has been developed out of the recognized need to address relief efforts within the framework of longer-term development strategies. Sustainable relief implies assistance that is focused on the longer-term requirements of an entire population, while equally addressing the emergency needs of the few. Equally, it also entails developing a culture of prevention, in which all actors can play an active role in mitigating the effects of disasters and conflicts.

The debated concept of sustainable relief addresses emergency situations stemming from both natural cataclysmic events and conflict. To be achieved, a series of guiding principles was introduced for critical review and debate during the discussions. The purpose of these guiding principles is to articulate the basic practice philosophy that actors must adopt to ensure that assistance has a positive effect on the sustainable and equal development of human settlements in post-conflict and post-disaster environments – disaster risk reduction being a particularly important aspect of sustainable relief.

2. DEBATE

The Urban Disasters and Reconstruction dialogue debated the establishment of a permanent link between emergency relief and the transitional phase of development, including disaster risk reduction, and followed a series of three networking events, examining the roles and responsibilities of three main stakeholders, namely the international community, civil society and national/local authorities.

The discussion underscored the importance of disaster risk reduction as a foundation for sustainable development of urban settlements. It was emphasized that disaster risk reduction policies should be integrated into all poverty reduction and development policies, be cross-sectoral, thus complementing the overall concept of sustainable relief. In particular, disaster risk reduction needs to be included in the local government agenda, using participatory processes as a key vehicle for implementation. Disaster risk reduction is a joint responsibility, which should be facilitated by solid political commitment and sound institutional support.

There was further debate on disaster risk reduction in an urban context. Urban settlements represent concentrations of production, economies and social development, at the same time generating risks and encompassing vulnerabilities not only for its residents, settlements and assets but often also for regional, if not global, economies. With the ever shrinking global village, contingent risk from crisis in human settlements affects neighbouring towns, regions, states, and, in some cases, the rest of the planet. The discussions focused on the importance of multi-sectoral and multi-level capacity-building for reducing risk, including that of decision-makers.

Understanding the way gender can be incorporated into different aspects of disaster management and risk reduction was a critical point in the discussions. The coping strategies and priorities of men and women are different, and a gendered approach is critical to ensure that all needs are met in this regard. Women are not only effective managers of resources, mobilizing communities and keeping peace, but are often the first to respond to disaster and should also be included in the policy-making processes at higher levels.

Other points of emphasis included the importance of understanding the root causes of disasters, identifying the gaps in strategy implementation, respect for accumulated cultural wisdom and community intelligence, and consideration of environmental aspects as key elements in implementing disaster risk reduction as part of sustainable relief.

Active participation of civil society was highlighted as crucial to sustainable disaster mitigation, as well as recovery from a crisis. When disaster strikes, the most vulnerable segments of society are the ones most affected. Unless the poor are involved in efforts to reduce their own vulnerability, unless governments at all levels stand behind their commitments to minimize risks, and until the international aid community engages with their development counterparts to ensure sustainability, disasters will continue to negatively impact the world's most vulnerable citizens. Joint efforts of the communities,

private sector, financial institutions and academia would strengthen the voices of the civil society towards more inclusive and comprehensive disaster management strategies.

It was agreed that more discussion on funding disaster risk reduction should be encouraged. Funding resources tend to categorize emergency, reconstruction and development as separate entities. Donors often associate disaster risk reduction as an aspect of emergency funding, whereas it should be categorized as a development issue that needs to generate funding and resources on a multi-year basis.

The debate clearly highlighted that in addition to community-based approaches, community-rooted institutional development and protection of employment and livelihoods are equally important during the recovery phase. There was a general agreement that recognizing diversity of experiences and promoting horizontal city-to-city, community-to-community networks would foster the creation of viable and less vulnerable communities.

Decentralization and the empowerment of local authorities was a topic of extensive discussions. When human settlements fall into crisis, through conflict, or because of disasters, institutions across the board suffer. Peace-building and recovery in post-crisis environs is a process in which the roles and responsibilities of various actors at all levels need to be clearly defined. Social inclusion, transparency and accountability formulate the basis for building trust and a sense of ownership in society as a whole. The starting point is the legal and policy framework, followed by strategic leadership and planning, operational management, and service delivery within local authorities, and “governance links” to the community. But as stated by one of the speakers, decentralization is not just about shifting power and resources from the centre to the governorate and municipal levels; it is about the public interest, which is particularly important in the peace-building and post-crisis reconstruction process.

A critical observation made during the open discussion was not to create artificial barriers between natural and human-made disasters, because the one often influences the other. Disaster risk reduction, peace-building, and conflict prevention are, therefore, as important before, during and after a disaster.

The dialogue was the culminating point of a series of dialogues on the subject, on which UN-HABITAT has demonstrated vast experience in the field. As stated by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT in her concluding remarks to this dialogue, “the discussions and debate on urban disasters and reconstruction encompasses huge dimensions; from exploring the roles of various institutions at civic, municipal, national and international levels to assisting in the sustainable reconstruction of settlements following disaster”.

These dimensions were explored during the discussions and the inputs made at the dialogue will inform UN-HABITAT’s understanding and provide a basis for further enriching the organization’s work in the field of disaster mitigation and reconstruction. The set of principles integrated in the concept of “sustainable relief”, which was the subject of scrutiny at the debates, shall form the basis for UN-HABITAT’s approach to humanitarianism, and will be the foundation of its chapeau for programme formulation.

The debate concluded that the concept of “sustainable relief” challenges the manner in which we currently respond to disasters as it is both holistic and long-term.

3. EMERGING ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Utilizing a set of twelve guiding principles underpinning the concept document entitled, “Sustainable Relief: Transforming Disasters into Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Human Settlements”, participants in three networking sessions shared personal and institutional experience as a basis for illustrating or suggesting modifications to the concept of sustainable relief, which were presented and further debated in the dialogue entitled Urban Disasters and Reconstruction. Lessons learned include the following:

- Decentralization of responsibility for prevention of, and recovery from, crisis in human settlements is essential to ensure appropriate, balanced and sustainable vulnerability and risk reduction.
- Building a culture of prevention entails a cross sectoral, multi-dimensional approach integrating participatory analysis of risk, implementation of programmes, and development of policy and legal frameworks with all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, and local, national and international governments, in an engendered and comprehensive process.
- Enhancing the guiding principles through action aimed at accumulating city safety data; making the pro-poor disaster reduction debate within networks of local authorities operational; coordinating a city recovery fund run jointly with local government and civil society, is essential to sustainable city safety.
- Effective peace-building requires clear legal and regulatory frameworks and effective and impartial land and property administration. Mechanisms must also be put in place to build trust between citizens and local governments. Capacity-building is essential, as are a common vision and harmonious coordination of international actors.
- Understanding that crisis, conflict, in particular, virtually always creates displacement, sustainable strategies integrating rights-based approaches to shelter, tenure, and protection of the most vulnerable, need to be implemented at the earliest stages of the crisis.
- These elements need to be reflected in UN-HABITAT’s programmes, which are to be guided by the principle of sustainable relief.

Annex III

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE OPENING SESSION

a. Opening remarks by outgoing Chair, Hon. Ms. Sankie D. Mthembu-Mahanyele, former Minister of Housing of South Africa.

1. The Chair of the First Session of the World Urban Forum, Hon. Ms. Sankie D. Mthembu-Mahanyele, former Minister of Housing of South Africa, said the presence of over 4,000 delegates was a clear indication of the importance they accorded to the Second World Urban Forum, and to the developing countries, as well as the critical nature and importance of growing urbanization.

2. Noting that two-thirds of humanity will live in cities in the next 50 years, she said the First Session of the World Urban Forum had provided an opportunity for a free and friendly debate with all sectors of society, governments and local authorities. Its recommendations on water and sanitation and human settlements were submitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002), and to the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT. These recommendations were also subsequently reported to the United Nations General Assembly. These recommendations are now being implemented by the international community, the UN system and local authorities around the world.

3. She then introduced the new Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, Hon. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain.

b. Statement by His Worship Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities

4. Welcoming delegates to Barcelona, Mr. Joan Clos said that eight years after local authorities met in Istanbul in 1996 at the Habitat II conference, their wish had largely been fulfilled. The meeting had given rise to a new international movement of mayors from around the world. Their aim was to be united and to make their voices heard at all levels, especially within the United Nations system. This was now a reality.

5. With the formation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in May 2004, mayors now have their own worldwide body with a secretariat based in Barcelona. He thanked mayors and former mayors for all the work they had done to make this happen. He particularly extended a word of appreciation to the mayors and former mayors of Lisbon, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Paris and London.

6. He noted that in many countries, local governments are not elected, lack financial independence, are unable to raise their own taxes and thus unable to make full use of their authority. The new UCLG will develop local administrative autonomy around the

world. Citing a European Charter providing local authorities with necessary independence, and also adopted in Canada, he said UCLG now sought a respective international treaty recognized by the United Nations.

c. Mr. Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands

7. With more and more people living in cities, noted Mr. Geel, the global village was turning into an urban globe. Urban migration was often the only chance of a better life, but growing urban poverty was a cause for concern.

8. Urban poverty, he added, was, however, not affecting cities alone. Rapid urban expansion was putting more pressure on the countryside and on ecosystems – causing deforestation, flooding, and other problems.

9. Cities are engines of growth and responsible for a major proportion of national Gross Domestic Product. To ensure that resources were not exhausted, he said efforts to encourage decentralization in conjunction with civil society and the private sector have to be stepped up.

10. He further added that the problems of water and sanitation provision and the way they interconnect are of prime importance. UN-HABITAT was one of the few organizations, which had taken on the challenge of human settlements within the World Summit on Sustainable Development framework. It was clear the world needed solutions at the local level and that national governments and international organizations had to back local authorities with funding and promote good governance to ensure local action was successful.

11. With about two billion people in the developing world having no access to energy, it was the ideal time to discuss Millennium Development Goal 7 and its targets on environmental sustainability. In its role at the helm of the European Union, he said the Netherlands would take the outcomes of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum to the forefront of the international debate.

d. Statement by Hon. Ms. Kumari Selja, Union Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India

12. Hon. Ms. Selja said that humanity now faced an entirely new set of challenges with predictions that over two-thirds of the global population would be living in cities in the next 50 years. One-sixth of the world's urban population or one billion people are slum dwellers who lack secure tenure, shelter, water, education, and health.

13. The biggest challenge was to provide services to slum dwellers on a sustainable basis. She also stressed the importance of good urban governance and decentralization. India had instituted the 74th constitutional amendment to assist local governments and was one of the first countries to launch UN-HABITAT's Global Campaign on Urban

Governance. On 26 June 2004, the Prime Minister of India highlighted the importance of good urban governance and inclusiveness and stressed that economic growth and development must be equitable and environmentally sustainable, and should empower women and the poor.

e. Statement by Hon. Olivio Dutra, Co-chair and Minister for Cities of the Government of Brazil

14. Hon. Olivio Dutra stated that he felt honoured to co-chair the Second Session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona. He said that the central issues for the Forum were urbanization of poverty and social exclusion. Eighty per cent of the world's urban population live in developing countries, of which one billion are poor and live in informal settlements. This shows that urbanization of poverty was now a key issue.

15. President Lula's government has created the Ministry for Cities in order to produce an integrated national policy based on guidelines from the National Conference of Cities, civil society, the private sector and municipal governments, and to address housing, water and sanitation, urban mobility and planning. To achieve universal access to water and sanitation and to housing, US\$6.6 billion would be needed over the next 20 years, which the country could not afford. Brazil is, however, redoubling efforts because 83 million people cannot be left without water and sanitation nor can 15 million people live without adequate housing.

16. This challenge, he said, requires a new inclusive and democratic paradigm. The concept of cost recovery should be thought of in terms of economic return and social responsibility. New international pacts and alliances were necessary so that costs of housing and sanitation would not be included in foreign debt. Markets will not avail the resources needed and therefore state subsidies must be availed, controlled by democratic systems that promote participation of poor segments of society.

18. Rather than competing among them, he said, cities and municipalities will have to strengthen their own cooperation and their links with governments. New concepts of urban planning should centre on poor people's access to urban land. Finally, creativity and new strategies are necessary to meet the Millennium Development Goals. He called on the World Urban Forum to embrace this challenge.

f. Statement by Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals.

19. Prof. Jeffrey Sachs stressed that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) stand at the centre of the question of how to make globalization work for all. The failures of globalization spill over into violence and threats. In order to bring about a peaceful and stable world, there is a need to address the underlying causes. He praised Mikhail Gorbachev as a representative of peace, citing his presence as an honour for all participants.

20. Prof. Sachs stated that the world is not on track in achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and in large parts of Asia and Latin America. 174 world leaders and 191 governments had made pledges towards these Goals, which are all achievable. According to the Monterrey Consensus in March 2002, the rich countries had promised 0.7 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as development assistance in order to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals but have stopped at 0.23 percent with the United States of America only committing 0.14 per cent of its GDP. He said that this amounts to US\$60 billion and equals what the country is spending in Iraq.

21. 2005 will be a crucial year, he said, to review the MDGs, being five years after the declaration of the Millennium Development Goals and ten years before their target year of 2015. This world can only hold together if all countries, especially the largest and richest, follow on the commitments they have made. The 2005 Summit in New York will be the last chance to put the MDGs on track. In this context Prof. Sachs noted that the United Kingdom and France have promised to double their Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

22. In conclusion, Prof. Sachs also expressed appreciation of the United Cities and Local Governments that the Mayor of Barcelona, Mr. Joan Clos, had mentioned and noted that for MDGs to be achieved, more action will be required at the local level, in cities and towns. He appealed to mayors and local authorities to commit to the Millennium Development Goals.

g. Statement by Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

23. Mr. Toepfer pointed out that UNEP and UN-HABITAT are located in Africa, in the middle of the development challenge and that they share a vision for sustainable development. Not by chance, just a few months ago, the World Environment Day was celebrated in Barcelona, a city which stands out as a unique example of sustainable urban development.

24. He said that cities are the places where sustainable development is concentrated and where economic and social development, culture, regional integration and environment are at the centre of attention. Integration is a pre-condition for sustainable development, which has to incorporate requests of the citizens. This is the essence of the joint work of UNEP and UN-HABITAT.

25. Another key issue he highlighted was the social dimension of development. Cities are places of initiative and growth, but they need to be places of cultural identity and social inclusion, which are preconditions to development.

26. The last crucial issue, he said, was the environment within cities and the fight against air pollution. To overcome this problem, there must be recycling as well as

changes in consumption and production patterns. Cities will be part of the solutions to all these development challenges, and in this context Mr. Toepfer welcomed the initiative of the United Cities and Local Governments.

h. Message from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

27. Rapid urbanization is fast becoming one of the major challenges facing the international community, and the World Urban Forum offers an opportunity to discuss both the problems and the possible solutions of the phenomenon. In a world beset by conflict and intolerance, the theme of this Second Session of the World Urban Forum could not be more relevant.

28. Today, our cities are facing the challenges of a highly mobile world. Globalization is bringing us closer together in many ways. Nowhere is this more apparent than in our cities where we now cross paths and rub elbows with people from many other cultural backgrounds.

29. Cities are recognized as engines of national economic growth. But they are much more. Cities are also the crucible for cultural fusion. Standing astride every intersection on the global network of trade and migration, the world's cities must become shining examples of inclusiveness and equity as called for in the Millennium Declaration. Otherwise, they will remain potential flashpoints of conflict and reservoirs of poverty – barriers to humanity's further development.

30. He said that through global conferences such as the World Urban Forum, much is being done by cities to share experience and expertise. Within the international context, cities, individually and collectively, have long contributed directly to global peace and welfare. Indeed, international development cooperation has been enhanced through city-to-city collaboration and consultation among associations of cities.

31. Mr. Annan noted that internal diplomacy had become indispensable to sustainable development. A world of change brings with it fear and conflict, which governments and their local authorities must allay and resolve with sensitivity, skill and tact. Only by inviting all citizens and stakeholders, new and old, into the full process of urban governance can we create and realize a common vision for the future of the city. This, he said, was the core message he wished to convey to the Forum. It is a message best articulated in the Habitat Agenda and demonstrated by the World Urban Forum itself.

32. The Secretary-General praised the contribution and leadership of Rafic Hariri of Lebanon, recipient of this year's Special Citation for the 2004 UN-HABITAT Scroll of

Honour. He congratulated Mr. Hariri for his outstanding and visionary leadership in the post-conflict reconstruction of Lebanon. Through successful internal diplomacy, Mr. Hariri has helped his people regenerate and revive the city of Beirut and heal its social and economic wounds.

i. Statement by Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland

33. Mr. Ahtisaari elaborated the concept of crisis management and pointed out that the high cost normally associated with crisis management may easily deplete the resources of the host country. External resources to address crises are best mobilized early, and there must be the capacity to act swiftly and in a pre-planned manner.

34. He further stressed that crises call first and foremost for political solutions that need to be combined with practical action. The international community can assist with proper training and interventions that increase capacities. In many operations, the people coming to the rescue of crisis victims become victims of the crisis themselves. The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), chaired by Mr. Ahtisaari, is to help develop communication systems that can prevent such pitfalls. He concluded his remarks by wishing success to the Second Session of the World Urban Forum.

j. Statement by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

35. Mr. Gorbachev mentioned that this was the third time he had participated in the activities of the Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona. He said that all of us should thank the organizers and the people of Barcelona for this initiative in the interest of the international community. This Forum is an important contribution to strengthening peace, tolerance and sustainable development.

36. President Gorbachev noted that UN-HABITAT studies had shown that the world's urban population will soon exceed the rural population. He said that we will not be able to solve problems of urbanization based on old approaches. Cities indeed need joint efforts of international organizations, mayors and local governments, and mayors are thinking in the right direction by uniting. Mr. Gorbachev expressed his appreciation that more than 600 mayors have come to attend the World Urban Forum.

37. Problems confronting the 21st century, he said, can only be overcome if we join forces. On behalf of Green Cross International, an NGO Mr. Gorbachev chairs, he spoke of three interconnected challenges: security; poverty; and the environment.

38. Four years ago when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted, the world recognized the urgency of these problems unanimously. Now, all are concerned that there is not enough political will to address these Goals and achieve their targets and that leaders do not take on the obligations they had assumed.

40. We have to be frank, he said, to state that we disagree with broken commitments and lame excuses. We cannot allow the MDGs to suffer the same fate as the

commitments made in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. Therefore, Mr. Kofi Annan's decision to review the MDGs next year is very welcome and needs the support of governments and civil society. Otherwise, we can get bogged down in a routine and the MDGs will not be achieved.

41. We need a new global glasnost (awareness) as an important lever to realize the MDGs. Green Cross International is launching an initiative for access to clean water, advocating for the adoption of a legally-binding international treaty for the right to water. Green Cross International, he said, is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-HABITAT calling for specific joint actions.

42. We are living in a world in which problems do not have simple solutions. Mr. Gorbachev agreed with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs that the roots of terrorism are complex and cannot be solved by the use of force. The way forward lies in uniting the efforts of political leaders, civil society and the United Nations, based on principles such as peace, democracy, tolerance and transparency. We cannot afford panic or confusion, and if we act together and remain optimistic, we will be able to cope with the challenges of the 21st century.

k. Statement by Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

43. Mrs. Tibaijuka stated that the theme of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum renders the city as the crossroads of cultures. She noted that despite some outstanding examples of cultural pluralism in cities, we still do not have agreement on how to approach the fundamental issues of multiethnic and multicultural societies in an increasingly globalizing and urbanizing world. This is because so many of us are complacent in the political use of cultural difference to maintain our economic and social advantage. This leads to our failure to even recognize many of the problems, thereby making them intractable.

44. Mrs. Tibaijuka congratulated H.E. Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and the President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, for his outstanding and visionary leadership in the post-conflict reconstruction of his country. She also congratulated the Lebanese people without whom success could not have been achieved. Lebanon, she said, is an example to be emulated. In presenting the Habitat Scroll of Honour award, she said she hoped that other countries currently in conflict would learn from this best practice.

45. She also said that the World Urban Forum was greatly honoured by the presence of two truly distinguished world leaders and former presidents – Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev of the former Soviet Union and Mr. Martti Ahtisaari of Finland. She said that the contribution of President Gorbachev in promoting a culture of democracy and individual freedom is familiar to all. We as the world community all owe him our gratitude for the historical contributions he made in bringing the world's peoples and cultures together.

46. Mrs. Tibaijuka then presented the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Special Citation to H.E. Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon.

1. Statement by H.E. Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon

47. Mr. Hariri said that UN-HABITAT's Scroll of Honour Special Citation belonged to the people of Lebanon and most of its officials. Barcelona is the symbol of partnership in the Mediterranean, and he was also grateful to Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and France for their assistance to Lebanon. Lebanon's message is protection of democracy and free expression.

48. Lebanon took the choice of rebuilding the entire country at the same time, starting with the first stage of political reconciliation, followed by the second stage of comprehensive reconstruction. Balanced development, he said, is crucial, as is winning the confidence of the private sector, international partners and citizens.

49. Currently, he said that the Middle East causes much concern in terms of stability. Freedom and stability are needed for reconstruction and democracy, especially peace for Palestine and Iraq, so that confidence instead of suspicion dominates international relations.

m. Statement by the incoming Chair, Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain

50. Ms. Trujillo conveyed Spain's congratulations to Lebanon and expressed her appreciation for being appointed Co-chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum together with Hon. Olivio Dutra from Brazil.

51. She stated that cities as crossroads is the leitmotif for the diversity of cultures and inclusion. Cities are the centre of attention for all policies. Sustainable development in cities is the basic challenge of the Millennium Development Goals.

52. She added that city management, more specifically, accountable management is crucial to the eradication of poverty and to sustainable development. The World Urban Forum is important because it throws light on these key issues.

53. She noted that the Government of Spain has created a new ministry for housing alongside new legislation on land and land use, which are all in line with the Habitat Agenda. Town planning, housing and land are the key reform areas.

54. Spain's cooperation with UN-HABITAT has always been active since the Istanbul conference in 1996. Spain was now giving greater importance to best practices and a new commitment to UN-HABITAT through its collaboration in the World Urban

Forum. She concluded with an appeal to the World Urban Forum, which she hoped would aim at providing policy guidelines to all countries.

n. Statement by Mr. Pasqual Maragall, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia

55. Mr. Maragall narrated the meeting of the mayor of Athens when visiting the mayor of Baghdad in which he stated that the citizens of their two cities were not at war with each other, underscoring the importance of unity among people. He stressed that cities have to respect cultural diversity as well as the homogeneity of the country they belong to.

56. He proceeded with officially inaugurating the Second Session of the World Urban Forum.

Annex IV

SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION

a. Statement by Mr. Syed Zahid Hussain, Chairman of G77 & China (Nairobi Chapter)

57. Mr. Hussain said that the G77 and China, representing the largest grouping of countries in the United Nations and articulating the interests of four-fifths of the world population residing in developing countries, recognize the challenges posed to the World Urban Forum. He also stressed that the G77 and China supported the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and continue to play a vital role in strengthening UN-HABITAT as a fully-fledged United Nations programme.

58. The Second Session of the World Urban Forum, he said, is a good opportunity to discuss social and economic development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable human settlement development.

59. He noted that rapid urbanization coupled with population growth is one of the most serious challenges for the developing world, exacerbated by the trends towards globalization.

60. Poverty and the failure of the international community to check its unabated spread are the main causes for the multiplicity of problems faced by cities, whose most vivid manifestation is urban poverty and sprawling slum areas. The MDGs and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Habitat Agenda all reflect the concern of the international community to eradicate poverty and it is only through coordinated and action oriented strategies that we can hope for tangible results.

b. Statement by Hon. Ms. Erna Solberg, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development of Norway

61. Ms. Solberg said cities have at all times been multiethnic and multicultural meeting places, engines of growth, the origins of scientific achievements, cultural advancements and social progress. But in an urbanizing world, where poverty is also urbanising, most of slum dwellers are excluded from “the good city life”.

62. The human rights aspect – equal rights to an adequate standard of living – is the basis of our work. The participation of all is needed, particularly the untapped resources and experiences of women, youth, the poor and the marginalised.

63. Good governance and decentralization of authority and resources is a prerequisite for sustainable urban development, and Norway is honouring the efforts of UN-HABITAT on this issue.

64. She added that the complexity of human settlements development could well be one of the reasons why it has been difficult to recognize sustainable urbanization as a critical factor for sustainable development in general, and noted that the most important outcome of the last session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York – CSD 12 - was the recognition that the MDG goal 7, target 11 on improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers is patently inadequate. The CSD highlighted, inter alia, security of tenure, legal recognition of women's rights, empowerment of the poor, support to local economic activities and new sources of finance were essential in the way forward.

65. She concluded that the World Urban Forum can be seen as a first step towards the Millennium Summit + 5 and onwards to achieve a sustainable and multicultural urbanization and reduction of urban poverty.

c. Statement by Hon. Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America

66. Mr. Shea extended the best wishes of Secretary Alphonso Jackson of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and thanked the City of Barcelona, UN-HABITAT, and the Government of Spain for making the Second Session of the World Urban Forum possible.

67. The United States believes, he said, that an enduring commitment to the creation of an enabling environment is key to sustainable growth and eradication of slums. This means continually striving to improve governance, establish the rule of law, maintain transparency, secure property rights, combat corruption, and open markets.

67. In order to best achieve these conditions, he added, democratic institutions and processes must be supported, the private sector needs to be more effectively engaged in development, capacity-building must be pursued, and creative partnerships must be formed to utilize the talents and resources of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, and local government leaders.

d. Statement by Mr. Sören Häggroth, Co-chair of the First Session of the World Urban Forum

68. Mr. Häggroth said that the World Urban Forum provides a more informal way to focus on urban challenges, where the key word was dialogue. Some 1200 people met in Nairobi at the First Session of the World Urban Forum, and now nearly 5000 people have registered for the Second Session of the Forum, which shows that the problems and possibilities of urbanization are gaining an ever-increasing attention on the global agenda.

69. He added that he had summarized the discussion at the First Session of the World Urban Forum by focusing on three fundamental issues relating to sustainable urbanization, namely poverty alleviation, gender balance, and good governance. The Second Session of the World Urban Forum is focused on issues related to inclusiveness and integration, which are equally important.

70. There is no more important task facing a globalizing world than to prepare for living in a multicultural society. Finding ways to live together is what cities are all about. Unfortunately, unemployment and poverty, intolerance and violence are all too often the signature of big cities.

e. Statement by Mr. Koos Richele, Director-General of EuropeAid, European Union, read by Mr. Franco Nicora, Head of Unit, Relations to Donors and International Organizations

71. Mr. Richele said that on behalf of the European Commission, he wanted to reaffirm his concern about the challenges of rapid urbanization, particularly of the urbanization of poverty. The debate is now focusing on how to manage urbanization instead of reversing it.

72. Cities around the world are characterized by increased poverty and exclusion. They are all about finding ways of living together. This is why Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11, is so important.

73. The European Commission will soon join the Cities Alliance and increase its financial commitments particularly to ACP countries. He added that UN-HABITAT was a natural partner in efforts to achieve sustainable human settlements and that slum upgrading initiatives are to be discussed between the European Commission and UN-HABITAT. An agreement between UN-HABITAT and the African Caribbean and Pacific States Secretariat will be signed in Brussels. The European Commission supported the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly the water initiative. A joint European Union/UN-HABITAT research initiative on human environment will be launched during the Second Session of the World Urban Forum.

f. Statement by Mr. Donald L. Plusquellic, President of the US Conference of Mayors and Mayor of Akron, Ohio

74. Mr. Plusquellic said that his organization works on policies and strategies for cities, focusing on advocacy for urban areas with national governments. The organization has also taken positions that have international importance and achieve outreach to other cities and mayors. In 2000, a meeting with African mayors was organized. Another activity is systematic research on urban areas, which can be used by other actors around the world.

75. The 318 metropolitan areas of the United States contribute 85 per cent of national employment, income, production and services. In other words, urban areas are the

engines of economic growth. It is, therefore, important to find ways to manage conflicts between cities and suburbs, and there are now new arrangements in place for joint economic development in larger zones, where services and taxes are shared. The call of the day is regional cooperation.

g. Statement by Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments

76. Speaking on behalf of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Ms. Gateau stressed the key messages on behalf of six hundred mayors who were in Istanbul in 1996. The key messages that are important for sustainable urbanization are to unite cities, support decentralization, attack social exclusion and lack of human rights, and fight for the right to shelter. UCLG, she said, will be the first defender of local democracy.

77. Cities are the centres of development and lead the world, and local governments find themselves with more and more responsibilities, as cities can no longer sit on the sidelines.

78. A policy will simply not work at the local level, she said, without the backing of national governments and international bodies like UN-HABITAT. Mayors of the world have to be involved throughout this process.

h. Statement by Mr. Arputham Jockin, President of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India

78. Mr. Jockin stated that there was lots of discussion on the Millennium Development Goal on slums, yet there was no report on results, and no improvement in slum conditions. He said that despite commitments, Member States of the United Nations were still demolishing slums, so that the phrase “Cities without Slums” was becoming synonymous with bulldozing.

79. He urged all actors to produce concrete results in water and sanitation, housing, and capacity-building and to focus on people-centred processes that must become the target of all related efforts towards sustainable urban development.

Annex V

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Submission of the Report of the Universal Forum of Cultures

Monday 13 September

Speakers:

1. Ms. Mireia Belil, Forum Universal de las Culturas 2004
2. Mr. Jordi Borja, Urban Technology Consulting
3. Ms. Margarita Gutman, Universidad de Buenos Aires y New School University, New York
4. Mr. Gianni Longo, ACP-Visioning and Planning
5. Mr. Bernardo Dujovne, Universidad de Buenos Aires
6. Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Secretaria de Programmas Urbanos – Ministerio das Cidades, Brasil

Documentation: None

Slide Presentations were made on the Barcelona 2050, Buenos Aires 2050 and New York 2050 Projects.

Overview

The session was organized to receive the report on aspects of the Universal Forum on Urban Cultures, which was relevant to the theme of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum.

The main issue discussed in the session is the urban challenge and the need to look at the future of an urban world. The just concluded Universal Forum on Urban Cultures brought together people from diverse backgrounds. The main thrust of the dialogue supported by side cultural events was the urban future of the world: the implications of rapid urbanization, conurbation, and regionalization of urbanization to service delivery, quality of human life and peaceful coexistence in diversity by the world's peoples. Discussions at the Forum centered on the sustainable use of critical resources like water, land, air and energy. Participants were generally pessimistic about the urban future, noting that there was no single model city as each city had its own peculiarities. However, the real challenge is to have proper institutions to promote democratic governance, drawing on available human and technological resources within the locality. The discussions at the Forum were centered on two main themes: a) Overcoming Urban Poverty; and b) Ensuring a Sustainable Urban Future. Three slide presentations were made on the Barcelona 2050, Buenos Aires 2050 and New York 2050 Projects to demonstrate how each of the cities are imagining the future, and making it happen.

Overcoming Urban Poverty

The main conclusions were that urban poverty must be overcome through more effective service delivery if an urban future is to be sustainable. Cultural diversity is considered important in upgrading neighbourhoods. Since tourism promotes the role of the city as a mirror of diversity, by bringing several people together who would not have known each other, it is a key to overcoming poverty. Tourism is also identified as a key tool for conserving cultural and historical heritage. In this regard, fair tourism is to be promoted as a tool for development.

Cities need to be compact and not dispersed to facilitate more efficient service delivery, but this should be based on a well-defined public policy. What are the expectations? What does the society need? How do we arrive at an acceptable answer for all? There is a high level of bystander apathy fuelled by citizens' ignorance of their neighbours. Their perceptions, which are driven by fear, frequently blur the reality. We need to build cities that promote citizenship by building community spaces, simple but workable community information systems and community recreation and public spaces.

To achieve effective urban service delivery for poverty reduction, the activities of three high impact groups – scientists, politicians and media – need to be well-coordinated and already, a number of models and policies are being put forward. One of the main outcomes of the discussions on water supply is the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UN-HABITAT and the Green Cross International.

There is no consensus on what resources to use for urban planning. Some argue that the new should be built on the old like Manhattan, Buenos Aires, and Barcelona. There is broad-based agreement that there has to be minimum transport, service delivery, etc. While this argument may be acceptable for the compact city, there is no clear approach to the fringes and more far-flung areas that spread into the region.

To realize the Barcelona, Buenos Aires and New York 2050 projects, intensive interactive forums, visioning processes, dissemination of information, and mobilization of political resources followed public debates. All three cities have realized the potentials of the 2050 projects as opportunities to understand what citizens want, what they desire and demand for the future, identify critical issues and matters, share and inspire leaders to think big to change the way decisions are made, and expand the horizons of planning.

Ensuring a Sustainable Urban Future

A sound public policy to sustain an urban future must be centered on the principle that the people's right to the city are inalienable. At the core of this are the critical resources of land, water, air, and energy. These elements must jointly belong to the people and should be removed from private control. To prepare for lack of natural resources for the future, the resources have to be made an integral part of social policy and legislation.

The Buenos Aires 2050 and New York 2050 projects started as responses to deep trauma and crisis, which impacted on the people. New York faced the crisis of a shrinking vision and small plans with a US\$120 billion investment without a blueprint, all following the 11 September 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre. Buenos Aires faced an economic and political crisis. Barcelona on the other hand is facing a crisis of success. These projects, which started off in 2001, 2003 and 2004 respectively use peoples' imagination and expert knowledge to promote and influence the future and growth of their city. While emphasizing the importance of thinking in the long-term, even if it is in small steps, citizens are encouraged to imagine their future and make it happen by articulating images and draw pictures of what they want. The projects are aimed at changing the way the city does business by expanding the horizon and scope of civic participation.

Cities must not be allowed to drift rudderless. The 21st century must be devoted to metropolitan areas, local participatory spaces and global development strategies. The concept of a super municipality, which has set in with decentralization, has given identity and individuality to cities as bastions of autonomy. So the challenge for professionals is to understand what people want at that level and translate this vision to sustainable plans. To achieve this, there will need to be a desirable mix of experts, knowledge, and citizens. Information to the people is where the power lies. If they are well-informed, they can stop almost any project that does not fit into their vision for their city.

The session concluded by posing questions on some unresolved issues. Given that the vision of the urban future is independent of political office, how do we ensure that elected officials with limited terms understand and accept this long-term approach? Where urban geography does not agree with political geography of councils and states, we need to study processes by which we may not have to "produce more of the same". This can be through the education and socialization process by which we transmit values to the next generation even in meeting simple and daily needs such as health, education, and shelter.

Annex VI

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Local Governments, Partners for Development

Programme organized in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments
Friday, 17 September 2004

Speakers:

Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, Founding President of UCLG
Mr. Clarence Anthony, Treasurer of United Cities and Local Governments
Mr. Daniel Biau, Deputy Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
Mr. Yves Ducharme, Mayor of Gatineau, Canada
Mr. Pierre Schapira, Deputy Mayor of Paris, France
Mr. Ji Bin, Director of International Affairs, CPAFFC, China
Hon. Mr. Musikari Kombo, Minister of Local Government of Kenya.
Mr. Jesse Robredo, Mayor of Naga City, The Philippines
Mr. Pierre Amondji Djedji, Governor of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Mr. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey
Hon. Mr. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities, Brazil
Mr. Ramirez Cardona, Mayor of Manizales, Colombia, and Vice President of FLACMA
Mr. Pierre Mauroy, Former Prime Minister, France
Hon. Naokazu Takemoto, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
Mr. Aly Lo, President, Union des Associations d'Elus Locaux du Sénégal, on behalf of
Hon. Aminata Tall, State Minister, Senegal.

Documentation: Agreement of Cooperation between UN-HABITAT and United Cities and Local Governments

The meeting was co-organized by UN-HABITAT and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as a final plenary session of the World Urban Forum. Considering the diversity of activities of this crucial partnership, through which the United Nations and Local Governments have engaged since the adoption of the Habitat Agenda in 1996, and the Millennium Development Goals, in 2000, the plenary session was organized in three segments as follows: (i) improving urban governance through municipal international cooperation; (ii) decentralizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to cities; and (iii) promoting local democracy and decentralization. The event was concluded with the signing of an Agreement of Cooperation between UN-HABITAT and UCLG.

Mayor Juan Clos, the Mayor of Barcelona, opened the session in his capacity as President of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and founding President of UCLG. Mayor Clarence Anthony, the treasurer of UCLG, also made a presentation in which he emphasized the objectives of the organization as promoting friendship, bringing governance to humanity and governance to the world.

The Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mr. Daniel Biau gave an overview of the development of the partnership between UN-HABITAT and local authorities since the 1996 Habitat II culminating in the signing of the Agreement of Cooperation between UN-HABITAT as the focal point for local authorities within the UN System and the UCLG as its main partner. He said that the objectives of the partnership were to set up a global observatory of local democracy, to localize the implementation of MDGs, to promote international dialogue on decentralization, and to expand the work of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities.

Segment 1- Improving Governance Through Municipal International Cooperation

The first segment was devoted to the involvement of cities in international policy, city-to-city cooperation and exchange between cities and local governments on the achievements of sustainable urban development through municipal cooperation. The segment addressed the needs and priorities of local authorities, the roles and experiences of national and international associations of local authorities, and the complementarities and synergies among the activities of support programmes and organizations.

Most major donors and the World Bank now recognize the importance of municipalities in local governance and twinning as a mechanism for development assistance. The capacity of UN-HABITAT should thus be supported to deepen the partnership with UCLG and to support cities in grassroots development. Local governments are untapped engines for the next phase of international relations. They provide a hands-on mechanism for development assistance, international trade, and diplomacy.

The role of cities in dealing with immediate post-disaster and post-conflict trauma was emphasized and central governments were called upon to recognize the successes recorded by the various cities that had to deal with shock at different times. Several cities represented by their mayors presented the multiple problems facing their cities ranging from environmental decay to pressure of unemployment on migrant workers from the countryside. In Asia, these challenges are dealt with through systematic modernization and international cooperation, including regional twinning of cities.

Speakers recognized urban governance as a local issue, which also has national and international implications for the well-being of citizens. Local governments are the appropriate vehicles for representing the aspirations of people in the attainment of predictable urban life, and for this, international partnership is important. The Forum was invited to attend the Fourth Africities Summit in Nairobi in 2006.

Segment 2: Localizing the Millennium Development Goals to Cities

The second segment discussed the MDGs, which have become the “organising framework” for national and international development programmes. Questions were raised on whether the current framework of monitoring and implementation of the MDGs takes cognisance of the “urban” and the “local” dimensions, or whether it should focus on global, regional, national and local levels. What are the advantages and dangers of a

target-based approach, taking into account that the urban population in developing countries is predicted to double in the next 30 years. What approaches can be suggested to successfully meet the MDGs and their targets? How do participants consider the proposed “urban millennium partnership”?

Speakers noted that urban poverty is a global phenomenon with variations only in nature and degrees. They advanced pro-poor equity enhancing projects and partnerships, community ownership and inclusiveness to overcome resource constraints. Poverty was defined not only as lack of income, but lack of power. The success of a poverty alleviation plan depends on the adoptability of the programmes drawn up by foreign partners, and for this, the local government should strengthen its partnership with community leaders and other members of the society.

Other means of addressing the MDGs at the local level include micro-credit to women and youth. Local Agenda 21 is the vehicle for achieving the WSSD objectives.

Social inclusion is not going to happen unless governments at all levels intervene. What is required is a multidimensional intervention in cities ensuring that people are involved in the process. Urban planning has to focus on the urban poor because ignoring the increase in poverty amounts to violence against the people. Local governments have the necessary tools for developing proper inclusiveness for their people. However, the limits have to be defined. Macroeconomic policies cannot be contrary to social policies. Urban funding has to focus on satisfying the needs of the poorest of the poor.

Segment 3: Promoting Local Democracy and Decentralization

The issues discussed in the third segment included: advocacy for the importance of local self-government and the development of decentralization and democratic local governance; introduction of the “Global Observatory of Local Democracy (GOLD)” – a partnership mechanism which will act as a “local democracy watchdog” and monitor progress on the development of good governance and democracy at local level; and effective decentralization around the world.

Speakers cautioned local governments to ensure that decentralization is not stifled under the guise of fighting terrorism. Decentralization needs to be accompanied by tax autonomy and the requisite changes in national policy framework. This should be within the context of fighting corruption and promoting cultural dynamism.

Cross border movement of people has increased due to the uneven benefits of globalization. Urban issues will be best addressed if UN-HABITAT is supported to strengthen the roles of local governments. Also, private sector involvement in housing delivery should be encouraged as a tool of poverty reduction. Disaster management is an important activity of local governments, and experience shows that communities with strong local management networks suffered the least loss of human life during disasters.

Gender equality needs to be encouraged and women's role in local development needs to be promoted. There are too few women who are mayors. Their numbers should be increased and participation through digital technology and information management should be strengthened.

The segment concluded with the signing of an Agreement of Cooperation between UN-HABITAT, as the focal point for local Authorities within the United Nations system and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as a main partner of the United Nations in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. The Agreement was signed by Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, and six mayors representing the various regions of UCLG.

Annex VII

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CLOSING SESSION

a. Statement by H.E. Mr. Nicephore Soglo, former president of Benin and current Mayor of Cotonou, Benin

1. His Excellency Nicephore Soglo, Mayor of Cotonou, Benin said the world's urban population is approaching the characteristics of a time bomb, which must be disarmed immediately. The challenges of Africa are even more acute because they are double those of other regions.

2. Africa's difficulties must be addressed. We must never forget Africa has undergone four centuries of deportation, slave trade, followed by colonization, and now we have unviable states and governance problems, conflict and HIV/AIDS.

b. Statement by Mr. John W Ashe, Chair-designate of the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

3. Dr. John W. Ashe, Chair designate of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Developments called for new approaches to development and the planning of cities, particularly in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements.

4. Within rapidly expanding cities in developing countries, the demand for land exceeds supply. Government intervention should encourage the private sector to provide low-cost housing.

5. Stronger political will is needed on the part of national governments to lead to the strengthening of local participation in decision-making and strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders remains a continuing challenge.

c. Statement by Mr. Clarence Anthony, representative of local authorities

6. Speaking on behalf of local authorities, Mr. Clarence Anthony said that the participation of local authorities at the World Urban Forum has been successful because the organizers have brought many of them together to create an opportunity for dialogue and because of the hospitality of the city of Barcelona.

7. He said global challenges in a rapidly changing world are first felt locally, and they need to be dealt with first at the local level. He called for an increase in the monies allocated to local governments by international financial institutions.

8. Local authorities cannot resolve the issues of AIDS, poverty, the environment, and housing by themselves. They should enter into partnerships with national institutions and governments, the international community, and the private sector.

d. Statement by Ms. Narelle Townsend, representative of civil society organizations

9. Mrs. Narelle Townsend representing the NGOs and the CBOs said her group was calling for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on slums by 2015 instead of 2020 and that all stakeholders should work towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

e. Statement by Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru, representative of women's groups

10. Speaking on behalf of women's groups and for the Huairou Commission, Esther Mwaura-Mwiru said there should be a stronger linking of local grassroots women's groups with local authorities. She called on local authorities to strengthen women's networks that are working on issues of governance, peace, water, sanitation, trade, employment security and violence against women. Her group called for the authorities to draw up action plans for housing for all. In this context she recommended strongly that the next session of the World Urban Forum should have one dialogue specifically focusing on women and human settlements issues, building on solutions that grassroots women and NGOs have already developed.

11. Women should also occupy a strategic physical space to caucus during the next session of the Forum.

12. All dialogues should bring out people's voices by including a reasonable number of NGOs and grassroots groups on panels.

f. Statement by Mr. Andreas Bluthner, representative of the private sector and professionals

13. Representing the private sector and professionals, Mr. Andreas Bluthner said after so much time of seeing private sector as part of the problem it is time to turn around and see the private sector as part of the solution.

14. We must find ways to move from dialogue to concrete projects, to work towards common goals, most prominent among them the Millennium Development Goals.

g. Statement by Mr. Shamiel Adams, youth representative

15. Speaking for the youth, Mr. Shamiel Adams asked whether peace was possible without respect. Peace, he said, was not possible in an environment where there were no family ties and where materialism ruled.

16. He thanked participants at the Forum who were working to change these conditions.

h. Statement by the Hon. Mr. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada,

17. The Hon. Mr. Joe Fontana, Head of the Canadian delegation and Canada's Minister for Labour and Housing said that the world has changed significantly since the first Habitat conference held in 1976 in Vancouver. The world has evolved from a global village to an urban world where the actions of one country can affect the lives of people in many other countries. The common thread across all countries is that each of our citizens is working to build a safe and healthy life for themselves, their families and their communities. The World Urban Forum brings us together to exchange information, insights and best practices on the challenges of the new millennium.

18. Canada has a long history of supporting UN-HABITAT in promoting socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, and in helping to pave the way towards providing adequate shelter for all. Canada has contributed to numerous projects that support improved quality of life in cities throughout the developing world.

19. Canada is pleased to host the next World Urban Forum in 2006 in the award-winning city of Vancouver. The Third Session of the World Urban Forum will mark the 30th anniversary of the first Habitat conference, which led to the creation of UN-HABITAT. It will build on the successes of Nairobi and Barcelona and will be inclusive of all countries, cultures and people of the world. Most importantly, the next forum in Vancouver will showcase a range of different challenges and meaningful solutions while recognizing the diversity of our situations.

i. Statement by H. E. Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Vice Minister of Construction of China read by Ms. Zhao Wen Hua, the Representative of the Chinese Delegation

20. In a statement read by Zhao Wen Hua on his behalf, H. E. Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Vice Minister of Construction of China, said while China is happy to share its policies, practices and lessons learned in implementing the Habitat Agenda and in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, it also have much to learn from others. For this reason the Government of China would be honoured to have the opportunity to host the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in the historic city of Nanjing in 2008.

21. The World Urban Forum has demonstrated, inter alia, the inter-connectedness of urban issues facing all stakeholders and we hope our enthusiastic collective efforts in producing inputs will prove useful to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT when she presents the results of the World Urban Forum to the Governing Council.

j. Statement by Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

22. Mrs. Tibaijuka thanked Mayor Joan Clos, the City of Barcelona, the people of Catalonia, and the Government of Spain for hosting the World Urban Forum. She also expressed gratitude to the City of Barcelona, the Governments of Sweden, Norway, Austria, Rwanda, the United Kingdom, Thailand, France, Italy and Canada, who provided the financial support for the Second Session of the World Urban Forum. She finally thanked the panelists and partners, who had committed their time and resources to share their experiences in the networking events in support of the dialogues.

23. She further acknowledged the reliability and high quality of the advice received from the Advisory Group during the course of the Second Session and also thanked her colleagues from the United Nations system, as well as delegates from a range of agencies including UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, DESA, CDF, UNV and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

24. Mrs. Tibaijuka first acknowledged the contribution of UNACLA, under its dynamic chairman, Mayor Joan Clos, and thanked the members for their continuing substantive contribution to UN-HABITAT. She noted that one of the benefits of holding the World Urban Forum in Barcelona was that it is now the home and the headquarters of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She expressed deep appreciation for the close working relationship that has already been established between UN-HABITAT, the United Nations focal point for local authorities, and UCLG.

25. Mrs. Tibaijuka expressed her delight in seeing the World Urban Forum being able to attract 60 exhibitors from all over the world, showcasing a range of initiatives and best practices, including Expo Morinho who built a model of their slum in Brazil. She applauded the Messenger of Truth, the award-winning film director Fernando Trueba, and the Universal Forum of Cultures for hosting the world premiere of Milagro de Candéal (the Miracle of Candéal), as a contribution to the Second Session of the World Urban Forum. She also recognized the contribution of other Messengers of Truth, including the young Hip Hop artists and musicians and who have accepted to help raise public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda.

26. She recognized the many media representatives who have actively followed the Forum and who, she believed, would continue to do their best to convey the issues and mission of the Habitat Agenda around the world. She observed that in two short years, the World Urban Forum has established itself as the world's premier urban development platform.

27. Mrs. Tibaijuka underscored the attention given at the Forum on Millennium Development Goals that will be reviewed by the General Assembly in September 2005. She appreciated that the World Urban Forum had provided a timely and expert platform to discuss progress on achieving Goal 7 of the MDGs, on environmental sustainability, and particularly target 10 on water and sanitation, and target 11 on improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. She made reference to the other issues discussed, including gender equality, urban culture, poverty, safety and disaster preparedness and reconstruction.

28. She emphasized the importance that she attaches to the deliberations of the World Urban Forum, which provides advice to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT who, in turn, may advise the Governing Council. Accordingly, she would report on the proceedings and recommendations of this Second Session of the World Urban Forum to the forthcoming 20th Session of the Governing Council to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, early in 2005. It was appropriate at this point, she said, to acknowledge that a great deal of preparatory work for this Forum was carried out with the active involvement and support of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi.

29. Mrs. Tibaijuka concluded that the focus would now shift to Vancouver and Canada, site of the third World Urban Forum in 2006 and thanked the Government of Canada for inviting everybody to return to Vancouver, where UN-HABITAT was conceived in 1976.

k. Statement by Mr. Joan Clos, President of the Forum Barcelona 2004 and Mayor of Barcelona

30. His Worship Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, said the voice of the cities is finally being heard.

31. Cities are being recognized as instruments for the development of civil society. Previously cities were seen as a problem. Cities, however, are now major players at all levels. But cities such as Madrid, New York and Gaza are also victims of terror and aggression.

32. Mr. Clos was deeply convinced that local, non-corrupt governments are a small but very important part of the puzzle to establish the conditions for peace and development.

l. Statement by Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum and Minister of Housing of Spain

33. The Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister for Housing of Spain, said the World Urban Forum was truly the jewel in the crown of the Universal Forum of Cultures at Barcelona. We are starting to march to the rhythm, which will take us to Canada, where the Third Session of the World Urban Forum will take place.

34. She said she was pleased that there was now a road map to achieve our goals and we must all commit ourselves to achieving these goals.

Annex VIII

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE SECOND SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

- HSP/WUF/2/1 - Provisional agenda for the Second Session of the World Urban Forum
- HSP/WUF/2/1/Add.1 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: note by the secretariat
- HSP/WUF/2/2 - Dialogue on urban cultures: globalization and culture in an urbanizing world
- HSP/WUF/2/3 – Dialogue on urban realities: innovative urban policies and legislation in implementing the Habitat Agenda and attaining the Millennium Development Goals
- HSP/WUF/2/4 - Dialogue on civil society's contribution to local urban governance
- HSP/WUF/2/5 - Dialogue on urban renaissance: towards new powers for local governments in an urbanizing world
- HSP/WUF/2/6 - Dialogue on the urban poor: improving the lives of slum dwellers
- HSP/WUF/2/7 - Dialogue on urban resources: financing and mobilizing domestic capital for slum upgrading
- HSP/WUF/2/8 - Dialogue on urban sustainability. Environment, economy, society: Commitment to a culture of partnerships for sustainable urbanization
- HSP/WUF/2/9 - Dialogue on urban services: making the private sector work for the urban poor
- HSP/WUF/2/10 - Dialogue on urban disasters and reconstruction. Sustainable relief in post-crisis situations; transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable development in human settlements
- HSP/WUF/2/11 - Gender, culture and urbanization
- HSP/WUF/2/INF.1 - Schedule of networking events during the second session of the World Urban Forum
- HSP/WUF/2/INF.2 - List of special events and information on the exhibitions
- HSP/WUF/2/INF/3 - State of the World's Cities, 2004/2005: note by the secretariat
- HSP/WUF/2/INF/4 - Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT relevant to the work of the World Urban Forum: note by the secretariat
- HSP/WUF/2/INF/5 - Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT relevant to the work of the World Urban Forum: note by the secretariat
- HSP/WUF/2/INF/6 - List of documents before the Second Session of the World Urban Forum Background Papers for all Dialogues during WUF/II
- HSP/WUF/2/INF/7 - List of participants of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum

Annex IX

LIST OF NETWORKING EVENTS

City Management

Affordable and Accessible GIS for Local Governance

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Awards Systems Roundtable

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Building Bridges with the Grassroots

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Campaigning to Reform International Institutions

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Development and Management in African Cities

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Global Networks for Local Government Capacity Building

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Iberoamerican and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices (LAC Forum)

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Launch of Urban Millennium Partnership

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Local Economic Development

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Localizing the Habitat Agenda for Urban Poverty Reduction

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Medcities Seminar on Air Quality and Mobility

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Participatory Budgeting, Urban Governance and Democracy

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Spanish Best Practices/ Bilbao facing the new Millennium/ Forum Barcelona

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3. Mr. Jaume Castellví Egea, Managing Director of Infraestructures del Llevant de Barcelona, e-mail: xcasinos@infrasll.com

Urban Inequities and GIS- Putting the Poor on the Map

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Urban Sector Profile Study for Policy Inputs for Urban Poverty Reduction

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Finance

Financing Urban Housing and Infrastructure

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Micro-Credit and Financing of Urban Agriculture

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Public-Private Partnership in Urban Revitalization

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Slum Upgrading: How Public Finances Leverage Household and Commercial Finance

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Mr. Charles J. Billand, TCG International LLN

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The Challenges of City Financing: Habitat's Professionals Forum

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The Community-Led Infrastructure Finance Facility

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Third Public-Private Partnerships Alliance Meeting

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Housing and Infrastructure

Access to Basic Services for All

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Challenges Facing South African Local Government and Policy Responses

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Countrywide Slum Upgrading

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Fighting Forced Evictions

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Housing for All in the New Millennium: Toward Vancouver 2006

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Housing for the Poor in Developing Countries

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Planning Practice in an Urbanizing World

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Rental Housing: An Essential Option for the Poor

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Sanitation: the Most Difficult MDG to Meet

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The Role of Cities in an Information Age

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The Zero Eviction Campaign: Results and Perspectives

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Urban Planning Revisited

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Values-Based Water Education

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Sustainability

Cities as Drivers of Sustainable Development

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Communicating Urban Water: Preconditions for a Sustainable Everyday Life

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Cultural Heritage: A Tool for Urban Development

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Indigenous Foods and Local Food Security

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Property Rights and Sustainable Urban Development

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Sustainable Cities and Villages: International Training for Local Authorities

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The Role of Urban Centres in Regional Development

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Think Global, Act Local- A Challenge to Sustainable Development

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UNESCO: Rivers and Urban Culture

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UNESCO: Roundtable of experts: Social Sustainability of Historic Districts

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Urban Sustainability Through Synergy

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Exploring How Cities Are Governed

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First Global Hip-Hop Summit

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Gendering Governance Through Local-to-Local Dialogues

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Global Youth Congress: Opening Ceremony/Emerging Partnerships in Urban Youth Development

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Good Urban Governance in an Environment of HIV/Aids

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Launching a South-North Forum for Networking, Research, Education and Training

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Responsive Local Governance: Positioning Women to Lead

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Safer Cities through Youth Development and Inclusiveness

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Urban Governance, Diversity and Social Action in Cities of the South

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Urban Policies and Practices Addressing International Migration

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Youth and Employment: Training for Sustainability

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Building Disaster Resilient Cities

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Making Urban Safety Sustainable

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Rebuilding Iraq

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