



UN-HABITAT



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HARMONIOUS URBANIZATION

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

**NANJING, CHINA
NOVEMBER 3-6, 2008**

Report of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum¹

Nanjing, China

3–6 November 2008

¹ Mention of firm names and commercial products in the present report does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

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Overview

The fourth session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, 3–6 November 2008, was attended by approximately 8,000 participants from some 155 countries. The exhibition attracted more than 20,000 visitors in four days.

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

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

There was much debate on the critical challenge of affordable housing finance and ways of tapping into the global financial system to which all cities were linked, to bring improvements to that problem area. There was wide agreement that attaining the Millennium Development Goals was a major contributor in that regard, and that Governments had to provide better support for cities and local authorities in the quest for safer, cleaner, greener and inclusive cities with affordable housing for all. The private sector also needed to be encouraged and supported to do more for the urban communities in which it operated.

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

For the UN-Habitat medium term institutional and strategic plan, the Forum was a watershed that served to reinforce and firmly establish several of its main pillars: the centrality of partnerships, governance, affordable housing and services and strengthening housing finance systems for sustainable urbanization. Accordingly, the recommendations of the Forum are to be used to guide UN-Habitat activities under the plan.

Harmonious urbanization

The theme of the fourth session, harmonious urbanization, encompassed the environmental and economic cornerstones of sustainable development in addition to the critical, but often neglected, human element. The idea as expressed by many representatives from around the world had always been to keep the individual at the centre of all urban policymaking.

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

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

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

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

Partners

UN-Habitat partners used the Forum creatively to deepen and widen networks, and to obtain a clearer idea of where they all stood in promoting sustainable urbanization. The Forum also provided partner networks with an opportunity to work together in ways not possible at previous sessions.

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

Development agencies at the Forum, for the first time at such biennial gatherings, viewed inter-agency cooperation and partnership no longer as an option, but as a necessity. They recognized that the enormity of the challenge of rapid urbanization demanded a higher degree of coordinated action. The seriousness of rising oil and food prices, the global credit crisis and climate change

heightened that need and forced discussion between agencies about new ways of working together. Consultations throughout the four days were held by UN-Habitat, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and regional financial institutions, among others.

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

Representatives of 1,000 cities and 120 local government associations representing half the world's population gathered in Nanjing for the Forum. For mayors, councillors and city administrators, Nanjing provided the opportunity to set their priorities. At previous sessions of the Forum, held in Nairobi, Barcelona, Spain, and Vancouver, Canada, local authorities had participated in great numbers but had pursued a disparate agenda ranging from finance to land regularization, from infrastructure to local economic development. In Nanjing, however, participating local authorities and their associations agreed to focus on decentralization and capacity-building. They agreed that Governments and municipalities had to strengthen their cooperation and translate challenges into opportunities. Thus, high on their agenda were the guidelines for decentralization adopted by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in 2007. Strategies to fill capacity gaps at both the elected and administrative levels to deal with rapid urbanization were also in focus.

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

More than 500 young people from groups from over 50 countries joined members of the Nanjing Youth Federation at the World Urban Youth Forum from 1 to 2 November 2008. Participants at the meeting, the third of its kind held on the eve of the World Urban Forum, discussed the concerns and aspirations of young people growing up in a rapidly urbanizing world. They called upon local authorities to play an active role in the involvement of young people in youth-led development. The need to engage with young people as key stakeholders in policy development for harmonious urbanization was underlined. A statement was released calling upon Governments to back the UN-Habitat Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development launched at the Forum with support from the Government of Norway.

Urban poor organizations participated in the Forum on more levels than previously. In past forums those groups had sought primarily to appeal to Governments to promote a people-centred approach in service delivery and housing programmes. In Nanjing they expanded that strategy by engaging directly with private sector banks, financial institutions and water utilities, in addition to local and central governments. Urban poor organizations included representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Canada and the United States of America.

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

Members of professional associations also engaged more fully with the Forum. That was especially the case for planners, who recognized the significant challenge of helping cities to plan for

and manage rapid urbanization, combat poverty and tackle climate change. They reiterated the call for all spheres of government to fill capacity gaps in planning. Nanjing also afforded associations of quantity surveyors, water operators, architects, housing developers and municipal officers a chance to debate on many fronts. Both the meetings and the exhibition facilitated opportunities for networking and exchange between more than 75 professional associations at the Forum.

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

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

UN-Habitat also launched the *State of the World's Cities* report in various locations worldwide. During the Forum, national media coverage was excellent, whether in the local newspapers, radio or television. The international media coverage of the Forum by almost 200 journalists from around the world was modest, however, because of a number of constraints. Chief among those was that the event fell on the same dates as the United States presidential election. Budgetary constraints related to the global financial crisis also prevented a number of international agencies from sending correspondents to the Forum. That made for modest coverage in the international press, although both the Forum and the *State of the World's Cities* report were extensively covered by the BBC World News, BBC World Service, Al Jazeera, *The Economist* and *The Guardian*. The full media clips can be obtained from the World Urban Forum secretariat.

Affordable housing finance

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

In spite of the economic crisis, capital markets had a significant role to play in facilitating the provision of low-cost housing. The key was to have responsible leaders, responsible counterparts, responsible investors and responsible end-users. There was a case for Governments in less-developed economies to put financial instruments to good use in providing low-cost housing for people in need. Private companies employing large numbers of people should play a more active role in improving living standards in the communities in which they operated.

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

Cities and climate change

The Forum stressed that no successful city in the modern world could afford to ignore the effects of climate change. Among the main hazards that it created, besides the risk of increasingly violent tropical storms, were rising sea levels. Thus, harmonious urban growth had to go hand-in-hand with disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction. There, the installation of improved early warning and surveillance systems was of paramount importance. It was vital to climate change mitigation that cities began by cutting their waste output and emissions and consuming less energy.

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

The nexus between rapid and chaotic urbanization and climate change had multiple impacts on highly vulnerable groups, particularly women, young people and the extremely poor. The need for coordinated and joint action in that regard at the normative and implementation levels was emphasized.

Numerous practices were presented and discussed at the Forum highlighting the actions taken and results achieved to date by cities in reducing their ecological footprints and their carbon emissions. The emerging groundswell of local initiatives underlined the need for international and national decision-making processes to incorporate the cities and climate-change agenda into post-Kyoto mechanisms and programme. By far the best approach to tackle climate-change-related challenges in cities was through rational urban planning using a people-centred approach.

Engagement

In line with the call made at the Forum session held in Vancouver to turn ideas into action, and building on the recommendations of the 2008 *State of the World's Cities* report, Nanjing witnessed the emergence of new concepts and operational methods. One of the key developments was the higher-order engagements of cities with local, regional and international stakeholders. Based on synergies between various stakeholders, those higher-order engagements went beyond the traditional scope of enabling policies and legislation. They were not confined to conventional compacts or agreements between, for example, the local authority and the business community, or the local authority and trade unions. Rather, they consisted of city-wide strategic and forward-looking planning exercises involving stakeholders, actions and resources at various levels. While specific actions might be initiated or led by various combinations of stakeholders, they fitted, much like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, into a larger and more coherent whole. That larger and comprehensive whole contained high-level values and goals, such as a greener or cleaner city, and corresponding strategies and investment programmes focusing on such areas as employment, housing or transport.

Compelling examples of that form of strategic and forward-looking planning were found in other Chinese cities and in Nanjing itself. Local authorities, as described by a Chinese participant, provided the overall framework for urban development by selling development rights to the private sector. The private sector invested in housing while the local authority used part of its proceeds to finance further infrastructure development and investment opportunities. That generated employment and created wealth.

Gender and intergenerational issues

The Forum underscored the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment and their contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. It also noted that tackling gender issues in urban planning and management helped cities to become more socially and culturally inclusive. In particular, a call was made for all States to ensure that the equal rights of women to land, housing, property and secure tenure was respected and promoted. The relevant knowledge and tools were already in existence; the critical need was for local governments to apply those in scale, taking women's concerns fully into account. The Forum also emphasized the importance of building on women's potential to contribute to harmonious urbanization, as illustrated by the significant role that women played in mobilizing community savings to finance the development of human settlements.

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

Global economic crisis

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

The deliberations highlighted the lessons learned from that and similar financial crises in the past, in addition to pointing to possible ways forward. Those included the strengthening of global and national financial regulatory frameworks and improving the flow of financial information on government interventions. They also involved strengthening borrowers' financial literacy, making greater use of microfinance for progressive home construction in cities within developing countries and reviewing the international architecture of finance.

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 coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda”. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, that the Forum would be a “non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council does not meet”. In addition, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, where appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.
2. The theme of the fourth session of the Forum was “harmonious urbanization”. Six dialogues focused on the following aspects of harmonious urbanization: territorial balance in urban development; promoting social equity and inclusiveness; making cities productive and equitable; harmonizing artificial and natural environments; preserving the historical roots and soul of the city and creating a city for all generations. In addition, eight round-table discussions brought Habitat Agenda partners together in peer group sessions to share experiences and views on the theme of the Forum. More than 72 networking events, 69 Habitat seminars and 23 training events were also held.

I. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

3. The fourth session of the Forum was held in Nanjing, China, from 3 to 6 November 2008. A total of 15,730 people registered online for the Forum and 8,000 participants actually attended. The gender ratio of participants was 35.4 per cent female and 64.6 per cent male. Of the participants, 24 per cent were from local authorities, 13.5 per cent from national Governments, 14.3 per cent from non-governmental organizations, 13 per cent from the private sector and 11 per cent from academic institutions. The host city provided 568 volunteers.
4. Table 1 shows the breakdown of the top 10 participating countries and the percentage of registered participants.

Table 1
Top 10 participating countries

<i>Attendance by country</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
China	48.1
Kenya	3.5
Nigeria	3.2
Sweden	3.0
United States of America	2.2
South Africa	2.0
India	1.9
Germany	1.8
Canada	1.7
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1.6
United Republic of Tanzania	1.6
France	1.6

Table 2
Participation by partner categories

<i>Partner category</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
National government	12.7
Parliamentarians	0.9

Local government	23.1
Non-governmental organizations	12.0
Private sector	12.8
Academic institutions	14.6
Foundations	0.8
Media	2.3
Intergovernmental organizations	2.5
United Nations/international organizations	5.8
Others	12.4
Affiliation not indicated	0.1
Total	100

B. Opening ceremony

5. The fourth session of the Forum opened with a welcoming ceremony followed by statements by dignitaries and key partners. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and Chair of the fourth session of the Forum. A message by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, was delivered on his behalf by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China, served as master of ceremonies. Annex I to the present report contains a summary of the statements presented at the opening ceremony by the following dignitaries and partners:

- (a) Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing;
- (b) Mr. Luo Zhijun, Governor of Jiangsu Province;
- (c) Mr. Jiang;
- (d) The Secretary-General;
- (e) Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Deputy Vice-Premier of China;
- (f) Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-Habitat;
- (g) Mr. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya;
- (h) His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain;
- (i) Mr. Noli de Castro, Vice-President of the Philippines.

6. There followed a presentation of a film on Nanjing, the 2008 winner of the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat then presented the award to the Mayor of Nanjing.

7. Subsequently, a film on the Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa UN-Habitat Award was then screened, after which His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa and the Executive Director presented the 2008 award to representatives of the Green Brigade of Ouagadougou.

C. Opening plenary session

8. The session began with a statement by Mr. John Zefania Chiligati, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Chair of the third session of the Forum, Ms. Diane Finley, Minister, Human Resources and Social Development, Canada.

9. The session was chaired by Mr. Qi on behalf of Mr. Jiang. Statements were delivered by the following:

- (a) Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation of India and President of the Governing Council;
- (b) Mr. John Kaputin, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States;
- (c) Mr. Zhang Guangning, Mayor of Guangzhou, China, and Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments;

- (d) Mr. Peter Götz, member of the German parliament and President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat;
- (e) Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World Young Women's Christian Association;
- (f) Mr. Davinder Lamba, President, Habitat International Coalition.

Summaries of the above-mentioned statements are provided in annex II to the present report.

10. At its 1st plenary session, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for its fourth session:

- (a) Adoption of the agenda;
- (b) Establishment of an advisory group for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum;
- (c) Organization of work.

D. Establishment of an advisory group

11. The Chair announced the names of the members of the advisory group for the fourth session of the Forum. The terms of reference of the advisory group were to advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of the meetings and events that took place during the Forum. Its members were:

- (a) Mr. Jiang;
- (b) Mr. Morten Wasstøl, Junior Minister for International Cooperation and the Environment of Norway, Co-Chair of the fourth session of the Forum and Co-Chair of the advisory group;
- (c) Mr. Gerald C. Anderson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, United States of America;
- (d) Mr. Sergey Kruglik, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Russian Federation;²
- (e) Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments, France;
- (f) Mr. Eloy Cantú Segovia, Vice-President, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Mexico;
- (g) Mr. Lamba;
- (h) Ms. Christine Platt, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners, South Africa;
- (i) Mr. Miguel Toro, President, Inspire Leaders Inc., and Executive Coordinator, Caribbean Affordable Solar Houses, Puerto Rico.

E. Organization of work

12. The Forum adopted its organization of work as set out in document HSP/WUF/4/1/Add.1.

F. Plenary session of 4 November 2008

13. The plenary session on equity in cities was moderated by Mr. Robert Hunter, President of the American Planning Association. Participants discussed the collaboration of civil society, governments and the private sector in achieving social equity and inclusiveness in cities. The following spoke:

- (a) Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;
- (b) The Executive Director of UN-Habitat;
- (c) Mr. Odinga;
- (d) Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- (e) Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context;
- (f) Mr. Greg Peng, Head of Merrill Lynch Global Principal Investments and Real Estate group, China.

² Represented by Mr. Valery Yegoshkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat.

14. A summary report of the session is provided in appendix III to the present report.

G. Plenary session on 5 November 2008

15. The plenary session on safe and productive cities was moderated by Mr. Guang Chen, Sector Manager, Urban and Water Unit, Latin America and the Caribbean region, World Bank. Participants discussed issues relating to urban harmony, cities without slums and mitigating the effects of climate change and other disasters. Speakers at the session were:

(a) Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works, Indonesia;

(b) Mr. Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

16. A summary report of the session is provided in annex IV to the present report.

H. Dialogues

17. The report on the results and conclusions of the dialogues which were held on six aspects of harmonious urbanization is contained in annex V to the present report.

I. Round tables

18. The report on the round tables is contained in annex VI to the present report.

J. Special sessions

19. A number of special sessions on specific subjects relevant to the Forum's theme were organized. A report thereon is contained in annex VII to the present report.

K. Networking events

20. A series of over 72 networking events was organized on the theme of the Forum. Those events provided participants with an opportunity to build knowledge, strengthen partnerships and share ideas and best practices. In addition, 69 Habitat seminars were organized to showcase urban innovations. A list of those events is contained in annex VIII to the present report.

L. Exhibition

21. Over 20,000 people visited the exhibition, which featured exhibits from 100 Chinese cities. The exhibition also showcased work and best practices of over 60 organizations from 40 countries. A wide variety of Habitat Agenda partners took part in the international exhibition, including Governments, cities, intergovernmental organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations, financial institutions and the business community.

II. Arrangements for the fifth session of the Forum

22. According to paragraph 11 of the objectives of and working arrangements for the World Urban Forum that were adopted at the first session of the Forum, the provisional agenda for each session of the Forum was 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 that paragraph, the Secretariat would consult, prepare and circulate the provisional agenda for the fifth session at least six months in advance of the session.

23. It was announced that, at the invitation of the Government of Brazil, the fifth session of the Forum would be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2010. The precise dates would be confirmed after consultations with the United Nations Committee on Conferences to avoid conflict or overlap with other United Nations meetings and events.

III. Endorsement of the report on the session

24. The advisory group endorsed the present report on the work of the fourth session of the Forum for submission by the Chair to the Executive Director. The advisory group also noted with appreciation the Nanjing Call for Harmonious Urbanization, set out in annex XI to the present report.

IV. Closing

25. The closing session was opened by the representative of the Chair of the fourth session of the Forum and Chair of the advisory board, Mr. Lu Bing, and, after the presentation of the report of the advisory group, statements were made by the following speakers:

- (a) Mr. Wasstøl;
- (b) Ms. Khady Diagne, Enda-Tiers Monde, Senegal, representing civil society organizations;
- (c) Mr. Cédric Baecher, Senior Executive for Partnerships, Veolia Environnement, France, representing the private sector;
- (d) Ms. Wang Yang, Nanjing Youth Federation, representing young people;
- (e) Mr. Qi;
- (f) Mr. He Quan, Deputy Governor of Jiangsu Province, China;
- (g) Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing;
- (h) The Executive Director;
- (i) Mr. Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, Consul-General of Brazil in Shanghai, representing Brazil, the host country of the fifth session of the Forum.

26. A summary of closing statements is provided in annex IX to the present report.

Summaries of the statements at the opening session

Statement by Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing

Mr. Jiang, welcoming representatives to his city, said that the Forum was a great event for cities the world over. It was also a festive occasion for the people of Nanjing. He congratulated the Nanjing municipal government for providing the venue and decorating the city with banners to welcome representatives.

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

He said that building harmonious cities constituted a new vision. The current session of the Forum would promote new ways of building cities at home and abroad. Nanjing would use the precious opportunity offered by the Forum to borrow new ideas and experiences from Chinese and international cities for its betterment in the most harmonious way possible.

Statement by Mr. Luo Zhijun, Governor of Jiangsu Province

Mr. Luo welcomed representatives on behalf of the provincial government. He said that Jiangsu had a rich culture, a remarkable population, a diverse ecology and a well-developed business environment and that over the 30 years of development under the open reform policy, its rich tradition had forged a new path of rapid economic development and growth. The provincial level of urbanization had risen from 13.7 per cent in 1978 to 53.2 per cent in 2007 but, thanks to good urban planning, a high quality of life had been maintained. That focus on quality had spilled over to neighbouring regions, with three cities – Nanjing, Yangzhou and Zhangjiagang – also being recognized in 2008 by UN-Habitat. Jiangsu would continue devoting itself to building harmonious towns and cities. He praised the Forum for building what he termed an interactive exchange platform for the world’s cities. The Forum theme related not only to social and economic harmony but also to harmony between people and historic and cultural heritage. It was important to promote the exchange of ideas and learning between people.

Statement by Mr. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and Chair of the fourth session of the Forum

Mr. Jiang, welcoming representatives, said that the theme of the Forum reflected the importance attached by the international community to the harmonious development of cities.

The Chinese Government stressed the importance of integrated development and rational planning in that China itself had a large population and limited resources, particularly in terms of land and water. China had taken a people-centred approach to integrated development through rational planning.

China was also focusing on coordinated development between its regions and cities, with particular emphasis on saving energy and mitigating climate change. It hoped to continue with such policies to ensure harmonious cities and the well-being of all Chinese.

Statement by the Secretary-General

The message of the Secretary-General was delivered by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), as host of the Forum, had survived many tests and was an appropriate place to consider the challenges of sustainable urbanization. Indeed, it was no coincidence that in 2008, Nanjing had won the highest award conferred by the United Nations in the human settlements field, the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour.

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

Stating that rapid urbanization had significant links to other crises, he noted that urban areas consumed most of the world’s energy and generated most of its waste. Helping cities to reduce waste

and emissions and consume less energy was integral to climate change mitigation. Food prices and the global financial turmoil were rooted in part in housing markets and they had together combined to form a triple crisis that threatened to erase years of efforts to eradicate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals – something that should not be allowed to happen. He expressed the hope that participants would use the Forum's theme to guide the world in that work.

Statement by Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Deputy Vice Premier of China

Mr. Zhang, welcoming representatives, highlighted the importance of the Forum for exchanging experiences on human settlements development, providing opportunities for discussing the problems facing urban development and promoting social and economic development. He encouraged all participants to discuss the theme of harmonious urbanization and to find the right approaches and strategies towards sustainable urbanization.

He said that urbanization reflected trends in social development and the pace of industrialization and modernization. The world was facing a financial crisis leading to a decline in many economies. As a result, cities were also facing severe challenges. Governments and municipalities had to strengthen their cooperation to translate challenges into opportunities.

He noted that China had made great strides in reforms over the past three decades, focusing on economic development that was rapid and sustainable with the reforms boosting foreign investment in the country. The rate of urbanization had reached 44.9 per cent at the end of 2007. Although the country was making good progress it remained, nevertheless, a developing country, with its urbanization levels lagging behind the developed world. China, however, intended to explore and implement a Chinese vision of urbanization.

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

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

The Executive Director, welcoming representatives, said that it was most auspicious that the world's premier urban conference was taking place in the ancient, yet modern and extremely harmonious Chinese city of Nanjing. The attendance of prime ministers, ministers and other senior government officials from many countries indicated the importance that they attached to the meeting and its theme of harmonious urbanization.

It was also auspicious that the meeting was being held in the same year as the Beijing Olympics. The opening ceremony contained most compelling images of China's past, present and future, all of which were tangible in Nanjing. It was therefore most apt that Nanjing had won the 2008 Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour – the highest United Nations award in that field.

She thanked the Government of Bahrain for its decision to sponsor the new Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifah UN-Habitat Award, which would henceforth become a standing feature of the Forum. She also thanked the Government of Norway for generously providing a grant of \$2 million to help to launch a new opportunities fund for urban youth-led development at the Forum. She cited Norway's assistance in ensuring the participation of civil society organizations and helping young people from some of the world's poorest countries make the journey to Nanjing. Since the end of 2007, the world had witnessed a succession of crises, the scale and pace of which had taken all by surprise. The year had begun with a fuel and food crisis, followed by a financial crisis. There was no doubt that the crises that they were facing would affect all countries, whether developed or developing. The United Nations system would do its utmost to ensure that the poor, the vulnerable and particularly the one billion people urban slum-dwellers worldwide did not become casualties of the crises.

Never before had the housing and urban development agenda been more central to the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development and the Habitat Agenda been more relevant to the challenges facing the world.

Statement by Mr. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya

Mr. Odinga highlighted the urban transformation that had culminated in more than half of the world's population living in cities by 2007. Without relevant policy interventions, he said, that would lead to a disaster, going on to question whether the world's urban areas were adequately prepared to accommodate two-thirds of humanity over the next 30 years.

He said that the urbanization process was inevitable and not something that could just be

brought to a halt as had been attempted through earlier policies. Africa in particular faced tremendous challenges with regards to urbanization. Declining agricultural productivity as a result of climate-change-related fluctuations in weather patterns, population pressure and conflict were pushing a greater number of rural residents towards cities. He cited the case of Nairobi, whose population had risen substantially from 250,000 in 1960 to some 3 million currently, accompanied by increased pressure on natural resources and an increase in the proliferation of informal settlements. Such pressure was shared by many cities throughout the world.

He urged representatives to give serious thought and attention to the challenges arising from rapid urbanization. He expressed the hope that the Forum would enable the sharing of experiences and viable approaches and enable collaboration between countries. There was an urgent need to improve facilities and services in cities as part of a strategy to ensure sustainable urbanization.

Statement by His Highness Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain

His Highness Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa underlined the importance of the Forum in the quest for sustainable urbanization.

He called for the establishment of a comprehensive strategy to foster sustainable urban development and provide support to developing countries in that regard. He stressed the importance of such a strategy in an era in which more than half of humanity was living in cities and the global financial crisis was poised to hinder the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum was instrumental in drawing attention to the need for policies and interventions for inclusive and sustainable development.

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

Bahrain, in recognition of the importance of the work of UN-Habitat, would be launching the Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa UN-Habitat Award, an annual award to recognize best practices in the field of human settlements, the first of which would be presented to the Green Brigade from Ouagadougou, a team of women engaged in street cleaning.

Statement by Mr. Noli de Castro, Vice-President, the Philippines

Mr. de Castro drew attention to the relevance of China's traditional philosophy to the challenge of harmonious urbanization and balanced territorial development. The current world faced two global threats in the form of financial crisis and climate change. The financial crisis was rooted in a combination of low interest rates and rising asset prices, exacerbated by excessive leveraging and a lax regulatory environment. The ultimate driving force was, however, human greed, a drive that had led to the failure of markets, leaving the consequent onus on Governments to face the challenges of finding solutions.

He also cited greed as the root cause of climate change, with excessive production and consumption fuelling carbon emissions. Although the problem had been recognized, it would require more than government action alone. Moderation was an effective strategy to reduce the impacts of urbanization and to help communities to adapt to climate change. He cited several examples from his own country of projects on adaptation to climate change and the strengthening of early warning and surveillance systems. Those projects had been implemented using the available resources at the local level and were reliant on neither market nor government institutions. Furthermore, they embodied participatory principles and what he termed "people power". He outlined the roles that each stakeholder should play and said that Government should provide an enabling environment. If those objectives were to be achieved, it would be necessary to draw on resources from development partners.

Summaries of statements delivered at the opening plenary session

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

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

She noted that a harmonious city was one in which everyone enjoyed access to basic services, and where there was equal access to resources and opportunities. The Government of India had already taken on those challenges by putting in place several measures at the policy and programme levels. Those included adoption of the national urban housing and habitat policy in 2007, which placed special emphasis on the urban poor, and launching the Jawaharlal Nehru national urban renewal mission that aimed to fast-track planned development in 63 Indian cities.

She said that her Ministry had also embarked on preparing an Indian urban poverty report that would gather data on various issues, such as gender, migration, microfinance, urban insecurity and access to basic amenities. India's historic 74th constitutional amendment, enacted in 1993, had enabled local governments to play a significant role in urban development.

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

2. Statement by Mr. John Zefania Chiligati, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the Co-Chair of the third session of the World Urban Forum

Mr. Chiligati said that, at the end of the previous session of the Forum in Vancouver, Canada, participants had pledged to strengthen efforts to balance economic, environmental and social development for achieving sustainable urbanization. Participants had committed themselves to fostering partnerships between all stakeholders, promoting innovations in urban development, enhancing the role of local authorities and community-based organizations and improving urban governance.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress made towards the vision developed in Vancouver, including the experience of his own country in its implementation of the urban sustainability agenda. He congratulated UN-Habitat and the host country on the theme of the fourth World Urban Forum and expressed the hope that specific measures to achieve its aim would be identified.

He stressed that participants from various sectors, regions and countries had to combine their efforts and share responsibility in pursuit of the common agenda.

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

Sir John Kaputin spoke of global concerns over climate change, food security, commodities, the financial and energy crises and their impact on developed and developing countries. He said that there was an urgent need for good leadership, effective action and dynamic change. He noted that global issues had the most severe impact on slum-dwellers and the poor and drew attention to the need to build national and local capacity to improve urban management. He called upon leaders to create the necessary environment for inclusive decision-making, taking into consideration democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance. He endorsed the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group in its progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals, with the key objective of alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development. He pointed to the participatory slum-upgrading initiatives currently under way and the need to expand them. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that cities were the heartbeat of countries and underlined the importance of safe and sustainable urban development, and the need to focus on people-centred programmes that improved the quality of life.

4. Statement Mr. Zhang Guangning, Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments and Mayor of Guangzhou, China

Mr. Zhang expressed his belief that the current century was the century of the city, with over 180,000 people flowing from the rural areas to the urban areas every day. That meant that cities and local governments had to take responsibility for public services such as employment, shelter, communications, culture, education and sanitation. Rapid urbanization meant that the question of how to deal with such difficulties as population expansion, limitation of resources, environmental pressure, and traffic jams had become important issues for the international community.

He noted that local governments, central Governments and the international community had to coexist and that they required mutual support and coordination to respond to and solve global challenges and create an equal and sustainable world. Guangzhou had established friendly relationships with many cities throughout the world and had had some success in solving problems.

He said that the purpose of United Cities and Local Governments was to promote the communication and cooperation between world cities and local governments. That was why members from 1,000 cities and 120 local government associations, representing half of the world's population, had gathered in Nanjing for the Forum. As the organization's co-president, he emphasized the importance of the Forum's theme, having fully realized the importance of harmonious urbanization. The organization was actively involved in Forum sessions, discussing the Millennium Development Goals, climate change, local government management capacity and the role of local governments in emergencies and public service. In closing, he requested the United Nations and its Member States to strengthen their relationship with local governments and local government associations, including his organization. He promised, on behalf of the world's mayors, that they would dedicate themselves to building a better urban future.

5. Statement by Mr. Peter Götz, member of the German parliament and President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Mr. Götz said that over 100 members of parliament from many countries had accepted the invitation to attend the Forum. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was an international organization of parliamentarians concerned with sustainable development and urban settlements, founded over 30 years ago in Vancouver, Canada. He paid tribute to his predecessor, Senator Eloy Cantú Segovia of Mexico, for his outstanding leadership and excellent teamwork. The Forum offered parliamentarians a good opportunity to contribute to the conference and also to coordinate the organization's work at the international level.

He referred to the collapse of financial markets, the widespread national security crisis generated by terrorist threats, climate change and the energy crisis. He maintained that all those crises were interrelated and interdependent, and that office-bearers in all spheres of government bore a responsibility for the future of the world's children. He pointed out that cities already accounted for 75 per cent of energy consumption and some 80 per cent of carbon emissions. The most important resource in climate change was political determination, but cities on their own could not win the struggle against climate change; it required the support of Governments and parliaments.

6. Statement by Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World Young Women's Christian Association

Ms. Gumbonzvanda drew attention to China's historic contribution to the empowerment and rights of women through the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women, together with other international resolutions and protocols, underlining the importance of women's empowerment and their contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. The aim of the fourth session of the Forum was to discuss the plight of people burdened by extreme poverty, homelessness, conflict, wars and HIV/AIDS. She outlined five key strategies: participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive urban governance; economic empowerment; the quality of services; safety, security and gender mainstreaming; and accountability. She urged that gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women be accorded a higher profile on the Forum agenda. She also called for due consideration to be given to the rights of men, women and children.

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

Mr. Lamba acknowledged the presence of civil society at the Forum, noting that it exhibited great diversity in its range and in its demands and perspectives. He based his remarks on his experience of the Habitat International Coalition, founded in 1976 in Vancouver.

He said that the organization was inspired by the Chinese philosophy of yin and yang, which

stated that there were two sides to everything. According to that principle, there could be no harmony without balance, and the two were mutually interdependent and indivisible.

He stressed that there were gross social imbalances at the local and national levels, which had resulted in equally gross inequalities. He called for the realization of a world in which there was human well-being, health, safety and security. He pointed to the need for ordinary people to be more extensively included in the decision-making process. He called for a more equitable distribution of wealth, respect for human rights and democracy, and a halt to evictions and dispossession. He also called upon decision-makers to be more ethical and responsible, for corruption to be brought to an end and for social imbalances to be tackled by the removing of all gender, race, ethnic, class and North-South discrimination.

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

8. Statement by the Chair of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum and Chair of the advisory group, Mr. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China

Mr. Jiang gave a brief presentation on the organization of work of the Forum and presented the agenda of the meeting, including the dialogues and other sessions.

Annex III

Summary of the statements at the 4 November plenary session

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

Mr. Hunter urged participants to work more closely with urban planners in their respective countries. The Association was the oldest and largest non-governmental organization dedicated to city and regional planning. With regard to such issues as access, the right to information and the roles of the public and private sectors in promoting urban equity, he asked who benefited and who paid as a result of the impacts of urbanization.

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

Mr. Janneh said that strong urban agglomerations contributed to wealth because they were home to vital sectors for economic growth such as industry, commerce and finance. Urbanization, however, also created problems of poverty, especially evident in the growth of slums. In that regard it was important to build harmony and equity in cities from the perspective of good urban governance so that barriers could be broken down, and access to jobs, affordable housing and education encouraged. Good government at the local level was central to the effective management, development and administration of urban services. To ensure equity, local governments had to be based on the principles of popular participation, transparent and accountable structures and viable institutional frameworks. Local leaders had to have the skills and the capacity to manage cities in partnership with community-based organizations, the private sector and other non-governmental bodies.

He drew attention to the fact that increasing numbers of cities in developed countries were building inclusive communities through the committed efforts, participation and engagement of their citizens, while at the same time promoting equal opportunity and fairness.

He said that the institutional framework for the governance of cities, especially in Africa where his organization was mandated to promote economic and social development, remained an unresolved question. The findings of the Economic Commission for Africa demonstrated that further consideration was required on the balance of responsibilities between central and local governments. There had to be more decentralization, or subsidiarity, in the management of local public affairs.

He cited various programmes as examples of ways to combat social exclusion and induce economic achievement. Those included the single regeneration budget and the new deal for communities programmes in the United Kingdom; the policy for cities programmes in France; community participation in the city's rebuilding and development programme in Cape Town, South Africa; water delivery in Yaoundé; and local Agenda 21 programmes in Uganda.

In conclusion, he stressed the importance of raising awareness and focusing attention on the importance and value of inclusive communities in the promotion of equitable and harmonious cities.

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

The Executive Director underlined the urgency of bringing urban planning back to the policy level. If the goal of cities without slums was ever to be attained then planning had to be firmly in the mainstream. Proper planning to prevent the formation of slums was the best way to avoid reactive measures such as slum upgrading.

4. Statement by Mr. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya

Mr. Odinga said that slum upgrading and housing were matters of prime concern to his Government. While decent and affordable housing was the responsibility of any Government, in Kenya the task was monumental. His own constituency covered both Karen, one of the wealthiest and most affluent suburbs of Nairobi, and Kibera, an overcrowded slum, home to nearly 750,000 people.

He quoted United Nations estimates showing urbanization to be growing more rapidly in Africa than in any other continent. In most cases rural migrants ended up in slums and conditions worse than those that they had left behind, thus causing a build-up of anger, hunger and frustration. His Government was working with UN-Habitat on a slum-upgrading programme established in 2003. That programme, which was being implemented in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu, was aimed at helping the country to attain the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7, Target 4 on improving the lives of slum-dwellers around the world. He described the slums as places of disease and misery, dusty during the dry season, muddy during the rains, always stinking of human waste, and always a threat to health. He expressed the belief that housing was not merely a matter of putting up homes, but also of ensuring that hospitals, schools and other facilities were available, together with water, sanitation and electricity services.

He explained how people were angry at their plight and sceptical of government promises of better living conditions. He quoted the case of a Kibera resident who said that he or she had been born in the slum, would live there always, would die there and would even go to a slum in heaven. With that sort of mindset, he added, only a Government that was accountable and trustworthy could ensure improvements. There was a certain resistance to slum upgrading, however, because past upgrading projects had not benefited the urban poor but rather had tended to benefit non-slum residents.

He said that Governments had a duty to ensure that people were not forced to believe that if they had been born in a slum they would remain there forever, even in death. Governments owed their citizens decent housing.

5. Statement by Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Mr. Costa said that, in a new urban age in which most people lived in cities and most national income was generated there, it followed that most crime was committed there. He expressed his belief that the rise in crime would continue and accelerate as urbanization, especially in Africa and the Caribbean, continued to grow rapidly. The growing rise in crime had important implications for global and local security.

He said that urbanization brought challenges from social, health and security aspects. From the social aspect, he cited cases of rioting in Lima, Nairobi and Paris, which showed the dangers of social exclusion. From a health point of view, he pointed out that most drug users lived in cities and that the cities themselves were increasingly the source of drug supplies. On security, he said that human security was threatened when residents of a city were caught in the crossfire of neighbourhood brawls. City residents were threatened by burglary and muggings, and cities were also magnets for organized crime with people, guns and drugs being trafficked into those urban areas where demand was highest. Cities enabled criminal groups to launder money and bring illegal goods on to the open market. They remained, moreover, the major targets for terrorist attacks, while providing the best hiding places for terrorist cells.

He maintained that urbanization was first and foremost a development issue. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had issued reports on regions in which crime affected development, for example in Africa, the Balkans, the Caribbean and Central America, which had demonstrated that under-development increased vulnerability to crime and that crime was detrimental to development.

He said that vulnerability to crime and disease was always highest in poor neighbourhoods in which there was less access to security, justice and public services, creating an environment in which crime prospered, but from which investors turned away.

The key to strengthening justice and attaining the Millennium Development Goals, therefore, was to strengthen the rule of law. That was how the Office, in partnership with UN-Habitat, municipalities and civil society, could contribute to building safer cities. He concluded by praising Nanjing for setting a wonderful example of a harmonious and safe city.

6. Statement by Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Ms. Rolnik asked how harmony could possibly be achieved in cities and whether the world was indeed capable of living in harmony. The measuring stick was inclusiveness: there needed to be harmony in housing and planning policies for all. Social inclusiveness and political participation in the provision of adequate housing were therefore the cornerstones for achieving harmonious cities.

Urban development and urban change had been more oriented towards producing for profit and were therefore geared towards those with higher purchasing power. As a result, low-income earners and

the extremely poor tended to be excluded from some areas and from access to services. Consequently, in the event of an economic crisis, as happened at the time of the Forum, housing and numerous other urban issues were ignored.

She stressed that harmonious urban development could not be achieved in the context of inequities and exclusion, but was dependent on inclusiveness.

7. Statement by Mr. Greg Peng, Head of Merrill Lynch Global Principal Investments and Real Estate group, China

Mr. Peng talked about the role of capital markets, increasing urbanization in Asia and a low-cost housing project supported by his company in Central America. The unprecedented global financial crisis and credit crunch prevailing at the time of the fourth session of the Forum had been brought on by the bursting of the housing bubble financed by securitized sub-prime loans. He was of the view that the property market, especially in the United States, would need a time of adjustment before confidence could be restored. He added, however, that capital markets could still play an important role in facilitating the provision of low-cost housing as long as there were responsible lenders, counterparts, investors and end-users. There was a case for Governments in the less developed economies to put financial instruments to good use in providing low-cost housing for people in need.

He estimated that in Asia more than 30 million rural workers moved to cities every year and that, in China, that movement was part of a vast migration. While at present urbanization in China stood at around 38 per cent, below the world average of 46 per cent, Merrill Lynch estimated that, by 2010, some 45 to 50 million workers in China would have moved out of agriculture into urban areas as part of a continuing trend.

He concluded with a description of the Global Housing Foundation, a partner of UN-Habitat, which provided sustainable housing for the working poor in countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama. Merrill Lynch was working in partnership with them in the programme by buying a majority stake in the pools performing mortgages, enabling banks to offer loans at affordable rates. The project was being extended to South Africa and possibly to Asia at a later stage. The company's business philosophy was one of contributing to the communities in which it operated.

Summary of the statements at the 5 November plenary session

Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works, Indonesia, and Mr. Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, United Kingdom, gave accounts of the steps that they were taking to make their cities cleaner, greener, more harmonious and more inclusive. Both called for better urban planning.

Mr. Kirmanto outlined the status of urban development in his country and explained its strategic policies with regard to regional autonomy, spatial planning and disaster management. Indonesia was the world's fourth most populous country after China, India and the United States of America, with a population of more than 224 million people, comprising over 300 ethnic groups. In 2008, for the first time in Indonesia's history, half of the country's population was residing in urban areas. It had been estimated that, by 2025, some 65 per cent of Indonesia's population, i.e., 180 million people, would occupy urban areas, primarily in 16 large metropolitan cities.

Urbanization, however, had created severe environmental degradation in urban areas, compounded by the poverty in which millions of the country's population continued to live. The situation was further exacerbated by the prevalent economic stress of a world in which every city was linked to the global economy.

Indonesian cities would also suffer the effects of climate change. Moreover, if sea levels were to rise by 30 centimetres by 2030, Indonesia could lose more than 2,000 islands, including some of its coastal cities and most of its outer islands.

Indonesia was reshaping its approach to urban development through capacity-building, active public participation, the adoption of climate change policies, strong urban leadership, clear urban development policies, planning for open green spaces in cities and harmonious urban growth. Disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction strategies were being moved to the top of the agenda.

In terms of achieving harmony with nature and the environment, the country had increased the number of parks being developed and the number of pedestrian-friendly cities, while at the same time conserving cultural heritage. The public transport system was being improved by the introduction of rapid transit bus systems to reduce the amount of private motorized transport.

With regard to rural areas, he said that since 2002 what were known as pilot "agropolitan" projects had been introduced to promote rural productivity, reduce dependency and modernize urban-rural linkages. Indonesia, through its poverty reduction programmes, remained committed to attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

He said that national Governments should build the capacity of local governments, while local governments in their turn should increase their transparency and accountability. For urbanization stress to be reduced, national and regional Governments would have to promote rural development. Cities should protect small- and medium-sized enterprises and other sections of their local economies from the financial effects of global capitalism. They should also include more green spaces in their planning, work towards balanced development with their surrounding regions and promote harmony among all their residents. It was also extremely important to improve their disaster mitigation capacity,

He said that it had not been easy for his country to wipe away memories of the tsunami disaster in Aceh in 2004, or the earthquake in Yogyakarta, thanking UN-Habitat and the international community for their timely assistance in both disasters. He called for the development of an international protocol to facilitate foreign aid involvement in disaster rescue and relief programmes.

Mr. Wright pointed out that the next generation would see a profound change in global living conditions in that 80 per cent of people would be living in cities, providing many challenges for leaders and policymakers. The slums and poverty described by Charles Dickens remained recognizable in some of the shanty towns of the modern developing world. In that regard he pointed out that, while the United Kingdom had taken 130 years to achieve cities without slums, China, through its drive to create harmonious, inclusive cities, had reached that goal in just 30 years.

He pointed to the paradox that, if a city grew too rapidly, it risked leaving its people behind, fostering poverty, inequality and social unrest, while at the same time, there would be no foundation for prosperity without growth.

He outlined the three principles underlying the United Kingdom approach to transforming cities: investing in people and buildings; according equal importance to national and local leadership and taking due consideration of the effects of climate change.

Annex V

Reports on dialogues

1. Dialogue on territorial balance in urban development

4 November 2008

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

Panellists

Mr. Nicolas Buchoud, international representative, Société Française des Urbanistes (French Society of Urban Planners), and Office of the President of the Paris Île-de-France region, France

Mr. Richard Gill, planning consultant, Barbados

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

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

Ms. Diana Mitlin, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom

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

Mr. Keshav Varma, Sector Manager, Urban Development Sector Unit, East Asia and Pacific region, World Bank

Mr. Yubin Yang, Director-General, Bureau of Urban-Rural Planning, Harbin, China

Major issues and concerns

The discussion focused on the role of planning in sustainable and harmonious development. Recent developments in spatial planning were examined in the context of new issues highlighted in the UN-Habitat flagship report, *State of the World's Cities 2008–2009*. Using case studies, participants discussed how territorial and regional planning could work in the future taking into account the growing involvement of civil society and the emergence of an international dimension to planning.

Debate

The dialogue opened with a video message from the Prince of Wales, who stressed the vulnerability of the planet and the impact of climate change and disasters on development. In his view, the significant contribution of urbanization to natural disasters was often overlooked, with the existence of slums increasing the vulnerability of the urban poor. He referred to the need to explore more ecological approaches to planning and to offer adequate and decent housing in mixed neighbourhoods to everyone. He stressed that new practices should be rooted in living traditions, and be aware of diversity while taking account of the character of individual places. He reaffirmed his belief that planning based on local knowledge and carried out through partnerships that included local communities had the potential to make development more sustainable. He concluded by calling for more creative thinking, saying that design was an essential element of urban management.

Mr. Li summarized the key issues at hand. He pointed out that the Global Planners Network and the UN-Habitat *Revisiting Urban Planning – Global Report on Human Settlements 2009* were important vehicles for capturing new policy considerations that might emerge from the dialogue.

Ms. Platt stressed that it was not a business-as-usual approach for planners and that the third session of the Forum in Vancouver had affirmed the importance of urban planners as agents of change. She highlighted the key principles of the Vancouver Declaration on reinventing planning that recognized that, while spatial dimensions remained a core consideration, planning needed to be sustainable, integrated and strategic, based on inclusive partnerships and subsidiarity. She pointed out that grass-roots planners were part of the drive to reinvent planning and emphasized the need for political support and adequate funding for capacity development and planning activities. She concluded by stressing the interdependence of the three issues of sustainable development, sustainable urbanization and planning.

Mr. Varma noted with satisfaction the enhanced profile of urban planning and the recognition of the need for territorial balance to ensure a more equitable spread of urban growth and wealth. History had shown that the use of State control to enforce territorial balance, based on identified gaps, was

much less successful than market-led redistribution supported by infrastructure investments. For some disadvantaged regions, however, where it might be impossible to attract investments through infrastructure development, income transfer might be the only solution. Forward-looking planning, based on the comparative advantage of locations, was essential. He cited the use of information technology in Bangalore, India, to link up with the global economy to demonstrate the need for creative planning, recognizing the key role played by urban planners.

During the first dialogue, the need to align national, regional and local policies and planning efforts was emphasized in the context of dealing with the larger issues of environmental sustainability and poverty reduction. There was a call to ensure that participatory governance would pay sufficient attention to women and other vulnerable groups. UN-Habitat was called upon to promote good practices.

Mr. Yang pointed to the challenges of territorial imbalance caused by rapid industrialization and urbanization. In reference to China, he noted that emerging issues of importance included the urban-rural divide, the need for rural development, the obligation to protect the environment and natural resource base and the challenge to keep pace with infrastructural development. The priority was to focus on strategically important areas, building on the comparative advantage of each region while avoiding monopolies. Government policy should align itself with market-led developments, while providing macrocontrol through policies and planning instruments. National policy also needed to be translated into local action.

Mr. Gill focused on the challenges posed by climate change in Barbados, a small island State, especially the problems related to the rise in sea level. He was of the view that the approach should be geared to the characteristics of the location: no action to be taken in areas where nature could take over; a mild form of control in the introduction of policies for setbacks in the case of new developments; firm protection measures to be introduced in areas where development has advanced too much and, lastly, advancing the line where possible. He made it clear that, as climate change was a reality, long-term monitoring was essential and emphasized the need to prioritize risk reduction, prevention being cheaper than cure.

Mr. Kowalewski reflected on the experience of the European region in balancing territorial development and its struggle to produce a workable definition. He pointed out that, as planning was a national and local imperative, there had always been tension regarding European directives. He noted that Poland had a long planning tradition and that its integration within Europe, resulting in new systems of governance, new planning frameworks and private ownership, had resulted in a de facto loss of control over development. The region faced new challenges, including redefining the public good so as to protect it from private interests, preserving local identity in the context of the growing power of international organizations and maintaining quality of life when profit was the main credo. He expressed the belief that it would be impossible to achieve territorial balance without the involvement of a broad coalition including representatives of the business sector, Governments and communities.

Mr. Kurosawa emphasized the fundamental role of spatial planning and infrastructure development in guiding territorial development. He said that, in Japan, some success had been achieved using a top-down approach that focused on infrastructure-led development. Regional planning had recently come to the fore as a result of decentralization within the political and economic context. There had already been a noted increase in the participation of local stakeholders, resulting in more effective partnerships between the various levels of Government and the private sector and encouraging the inclusion of a much broader range of issues, moving beyond the current narrow technical focus on planning. In countries such as Japan, however, planning would need to be geared towards the new challenges of a decreasing and ageing population, particularly in rural communities, and the shifting of industries towards emerging economies. He called for mitigation and adaptation to climate change to be made an integral part of urban policies.

Ms. Mitlin emphasized the need for planning to reinvent itself, saying that planners were too keen on keeping control for themselves rather than involving communities in a meaningful way. The challenge went beyond the slums to the cities and regions and planners could not rise to that challenge alone but had to build on the capacities of local communities. She stressed the need for various communities to be organized and linked up throughout the city to enable them to set priorities and make informed choices. Their involvement would also enable the development of inclusive city-wide strategies. Planners should be open to change.

Mr. Buchoud referred back to the Global Planners Network Congress that had taken place prior to the World Urban Forum from 31 October to 2 November in Zhenjiang, China, and at which there had been a clear call from planners worldwide for capacity-building and global partnerships that would enable exchange and mutual support. The Congress communiqué had called upon Governments to modernize their planning systems to make them more strategic and integrated. Modernization would

also enable planners to acknowledge people's right to their cities, to mitigate climate change-related risks and to take due consideration of cultural aspects. He concluded by saying that the complexities of the current world required joint global and local action, innovation and the need to focus on policies and commitments that went beyond superficial glamour. He suggested that the sustainable urbanization campaign would be the perfect vehicle to take that forward and enable planning to become a strategic tool for the twenty-first century.

In the concluding dialogue, there was a renewed call for genuine partnerships between planners and stakeholders.

Summary and conclusions

- Planning was essential for sustainable urbanization, without which sustainable development was not possible
- Urban planning needed to continue to reinvent itself to respond to the new challenges of a complex world, including climate change, demographic shifts and migration. Urban policies must include risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation
- Although the core of urban planning remained spatial, it also needed to be strategic and inclusive, focus on integrated development and take into account the principles of subsidiarity
- Planning needed to look beyond the cities and consider the issue of territorial balance, which required the alignment of national, regional and local policies and analysis of the comparative advantages of various regions. A creative approach would be needed to support development in rural and deprived regions
- Participatory governance and partnerships should be genuinely inclusive, built on the active participation of organized community groups and the private sector. Planners must be open to using local knowledge and should give consideration to the issue of cultural diversity

2. Dialogue on promoting social equity and inclusiveness

4 November 2008

Moderator: Ms. Rita Payne, Chair, Commonwealth Journalists' Association, United Kingdom branch

Panellists

Mr. Jockin Arpurtham, President, Shack/Slum Dwellers International (non-governmental organization)

Mr. Stig Enemark, President, International Federation of Surveyors

Mr. Larry English, Chief Executive, Homeless International (non-governmental organization)

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

Mr. Li Guo, Senior Agricultural Economist, World Bank

Mr. Werner Haug, United Nations Population Fund

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

Mr. Anders Knape, President, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden

Ms. Edith Mbanga, Homeless International, Namibia

Mr. Jean du Plessis, Advisory Group on Forced Evictions

Mr. Pasqualino Procacci, Director, Italian Cooperation Office: Kenya, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Lee Yalan, Deputy Mayor, Mianyang, China

Major issues and concerns

The dialogue focused on the achievement of socially harmonious cities through the creation of a forum for citizens, local and central authorities, researchers and professionals worldwide. Participants encouraged debate on land rights for the poor, condemned unlawful forced evictions and called for adequate housing for all as opposed to the few and the provision of city-wide basic services to neighbourhoods hitherto deprived of them. Participants explored the merits of approaches based on those ideas, expressing the hope that they would lead to the emergence of new and innovative policies.

Debate

The debate began with the showing of a short film, *The Tale of Two Cities*, which raised the questions of how to ensure security of tenure and housing rights for all, how to expand basic services to all and how to put an end to the “two cities” phenomenon. Ms. Payne made introductory remarks outlining the three themes of the dialogue: land rights for the poor as opposed to unlawful forced evictions; adequate housing for all as opposed to the few; and the provision of city-wide basic services to neighbourhoods hitherto deprived of them.

Mr. Enemark said that secure tenure was of fundamental importance to slum-dwellers. He referred to two key publications, *Secure Land Rights for All* and *Improving Slum Conditions through Innovative Financing*. He suggested that a new model for security of tenure would need an expanded brief, covering objects, subjects and social tenure. He expressed the view that non-governmental organizations played a special role in the global agenda, which should focus on what he termed the “three Ps”: people (human rights and dignity), politics (land policies and good governance) and places (shelter and natural resources).

Mr. Li spoke of land and housing rights for the poor. Land played a major role in social and economic transformation, and harmonious urbanization would require a land policy that promoted social equity and inclusiveness. Such a policy would provide a higher degree of security of tenure to land-rights holders, afford better protection for land transactions, set clear restrictions on compulsory land acquisitions, accord better protection to landholders for economic activities, curb abuses of power through legal reform and promote a better awareness of the rights of land-holders. He outlined recent policies adopted in China to guarantee long-term land rights to citizens. He explained that in China the land was owned by the Government and consequently people who were displaced following changes in land use were compensated in a variety of ways following due process. Furthermore, complainants were permitted to pursue their complaints through official channels.

Ms. Kang said that it was essential to uphold the right to basic housing if forced evictions were to be ended. States were obliged to respect, protect and fulfil that right and ensure that it was enjoyed by all. Forced evictions were a last resort and should occur only when rehabilitation proved impossible. Problems arose when victims of forced evictions were denied access to appropriate forms of legal protection. Forced evictions should always take place in the presence of government officials and adequate, reasonable notice should be given, based on conditions and procedural limits that should be conceived, developed and implemented in an appropriate manner.

Mr. du Plessis called for a paradigm shift to resolve the crisis of insecure tenure. Forced evictions springing from insecurity of tenure were extremely widespread. He cited examples in several countries of forced evictions that had occurred during the preparations for the Beijing Olympics and as a result of irresponsible mortgage lending in the United States. The problem lay in the lack of compensation, consultation or offers of credit alternatives to the affected individuals, though poverty, lack of water and sanitation and fear of eviction contributed equally to insecurity of tenure. He suggested that inherent power structures should be targeted and that solidarity should be established with the victims so that a resolution could be reached on their terms.

Ms. Li discussed the government response to post-earthquake housing provision. She described how, following a recent earthquake in her region, 30 per cent of the rural residents relocated to Mianyang were moved to premium urban houses. The Government had provided a proportion of the construction costs of each house, subsidized the materials and their transportation and provided infrastructure facilities, free designs and security assessments. The Government covered one-third of the cost of post-disaster housing construction, demonstrating that a stable society based on law and order could ensure that all its citizens enjoyed access to secure houses.

Ms. Mbanga spoke of the importance of incremental processes in providing adequate housing for all. The poor, often unable to buy houses, usually had to rent and in such cases some provision should be made to ensure their protection from eviction. The first step in the process towards incremental development could be the upgrading of slums by installing community toilets, providing

financial assistance for building work, negotiating prices with suppliers and builders to make houses affordable and providing a water and sanitation infrastructure.

Ms. Rolnik said that markets had failed to provide adequate housing for all. The concept of “home” should not be seen as a market commodity but rather a place to live in security and dignity. The sub-prime mortgage crisis had led to a sharp increase in evictions and homelessness. While structural problems such as a lack of liquidity and regulation might be involved, it should be accepted that markets were fundamentally inequitable. Homelessness did not only mean material deprivation but also involved the loss of other human rights. The achievement of adequate housing for all might require a wide range of subsidies and options, even though ownership might be the most popular option.

Mr. Arpurtham said that slum-dwellers were a fact of life in cities and that their numbers would continue to increase. He had lived in a slum for 35 years, he said, asserting that until the communities themselves could become involved in forging housing and finance policy, nothing positive would be achieved. The average woman on the street of a slum could tell a planner infinitely more about the inhabitants’ needs than could be learned from statistics. Community participation was the only genuine solution to the shortage of housing but, unfortunately, policymakers were not prepared to be sufficiently inclusive.

Mr. Knappe discussed ways to provide access to high-quality services at affordable prices and pointed out that all models varied with regard to the extent of decentralization and privatization in their design. City authorities should be well informed about their specific local conditions and needs. Positive results could only be achieved through decentralization by central Governments and the provision of adequate financial means and increased administrative capacity. While decentralization was not a catch-all solution, it provided a sound framework for promoting equality and inclusion.

Mr. Feng spoke of the pressure of accelerated urbanization on the provision of basic services and expressed the view that Governments should take a holistic approach to services and the sectors that provide them. Such an approach, however, would require the full participation of all stakeholders. Vulnerable groups such as migrant workers and the unemployed must be included in basic rights and benefits, including through training. Priority should be accorded to the poor when providing housing.

Mr. Haug referred to the role of the public sector in ensuring access to services for the urban poor. The growth of new slums was most intense in environmentally vulnerable areas. Adopting a proactive strategy would be more effective than taking corrective measures. Policies to reduce migration would not halt internal growth. The public sector, therefore, would have to ensure land availability and affordability. The holistic approach would serve to combine city-wide service provision and targeted interventions.

Mr. English spoke of the role of civil society in community-led finance. He stressed that planners should regard people as an asset rather than as a liability, and urbanization as a positive rather than negative concept. Slums and exclusion were not inevitable. Governments alone could not adequately meet the needs of slum-dwellers; civil society institutions were also important agents of mediation and implementation. The process of upgrading was long and drawn-out, meaning that institutions must be prepared to provide long-term financing.

Mr. Procacci discussed the provision of services and the sustainability thereof. He cited the example of Korogocho, Kenya, which had deployed a holistic approach involving strengthened intersectoral dialogue, improved intergenerational and cultural communication, increased community representation and the establishment of income-generation projects. Community participation was crucial to success but serious economic problems remained to be overcome, such as the high risk factor and the threat of unprofitability.

Summary and conclusions

- Adequate housing for all was a basic need that all Governments should respect, protect and fulfil. Although forced evictions did not pose as great a problem as insecure tenure, it was important to mitigate their negative effects through consultation, advance notice and procedural limitations
- Adequate housing for all could not be achieved through market mechanisms, even when regulated. Treating housing as a commodity had led to the crises in real estate, which in turn had precipitated the spread of homelessness and human rights abuses. Targeted subsidies were among a wide range of options for meeting housing needs
- Equity in service distribution depended in part on the devolution of power to local authorities. It also required a thorough knowledge of conditions on the ground, the

participation of all stakeholders and a focus on the most vulnerable in society, especially women

- The participation of civil society was vital to improving urban housing and infrastructures. Representatives of civil society often understood the needs of inhabitants better than central Governments, they were more likely to view people as assets and were more aware of the “bigger picture” rather than the short-term time span of the electoral cycle
- Housing policy would never deliver adequate results until it directly engaged the poor. Incremental upgrading was an effective measure that recognized the genuine needs of slum-dwellers. Land was a key issue in social and economic transformation, and there could be no harmonious urbanization without a land policy that was focused on the poor

3. Dialogue on creating productive and equitable cities 5 November 2008

Moderator: Mr. Anver Versi, Editor, *African Business*

Panellists

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

Ms. Pamela Agnone, Senior Vice-President of Retail Services, United Nations Federal Credit Union

Mr. Tayo Fashoyin, Director, International Labour Organization

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

Mr. Ali Mchumo, Managing Director, Common Fund for Commodities

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

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

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

Major issues and concerns

Many cities around the world were faced with an urban paradox. They were at one and the same time the driving forces of national economic development and centres of increasing poverty, inequality and unemployment. The panellists examined the most effective options for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and explored measures (such as public-private partnerships) to generate employment, provide better services and finance sustainable cities.

Debate

Mr. Versi noted that the major challenge for the future was to promote development strategies that simultaneously increased urban economic productivity while ensuring a more equitable approach to development. A short video was shown that highlighted the urgent need to mobilize adequate resources to fund the increasing demand for urban services around the world and challenged participants to identify the most effective economic policies to provide productive urban employment, affordable housing and basic services to the urban poor.

Mr. Mchumo stressed that cities could only become true engines of national development if Governments ensured that the benefits of urbanization were also felt in the rural areas. It was important to look beyond the traditional rural-urban dichotomy that continued to characterize much of the debate on rural and urban development. Rural development in a rapidly urbanizing and globalizing world was increasingly reliant on cities, whose success depended on the provision of adequate infrastructure networks to support transportation, distribution and marketing systems. Urban and rural areas were complementary spaces for economic planning purposes.

Mr. Yumkella drew attention to the contribution made by industrial development in promoting technology transfer, building domestic industrial capacity and assisting urban economic growth in various geographical regions. He discussed the main findings of an extensive survey by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial clusters around the world and suggested that Governments focus on three key policy issues: the implementation of policies to create an enabling environment for the expansion of the private sector; the critical role of national and local

authorities in the provision of basic infrastructure and services; and the implementation of forward-looking industrial development policies.

Ms. Joshi-Ghani emphasized the critical importance of public-private partnerships in financing sustainable urban development and improving key urban infrastructure. In the new urban era, local authorities were assuming greater responsibility for providing and financing effective public services. She proposed the following innovative financing mechanisms for the consideration of municipalities: the valuation and sale of underused State-owned urban land; greater use of carbon trading to finance critical urban infrastructure; and the establishment of a clear policy framework for public-private partnerships.

Mr. Fashoyin focused on measures to create an appropriate regulatory and policy framework to release the economic potential of the urban economy. He referred to employment-intensive investment policies, targeting unemployment among young people, in particular and emphasized the importance of choosing employment policies (including those geared towards small- and medium-sized enterprises) that would benefit the poor. He also drew attention to the need for complementary development policies, such as improved access to urban infrastructure and credit. In his view, it was essential to frame all such policies within a decent work agenda that included social protection and social dialogue.

Ms. Tsingou-Papadopetrou said that an integrated approach to urban planning should be adopted, as in the case of the European environment and sustainable communities approach. She emphasized the role that international financial institutions could play in introducing new financial instruments to tackle the financial crises faced by cities, citing the experiences of the recently created urban development fund for Leipzig, Germany, under the joint European support for sustainable investment in city areas initiative.

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

Ms. Agnone described the approach taken by the United Nations Federal Credit Union to promote affordable housing programmes and community outreach policies that benefited local communities and ensured more equitable urban development. Those included internships for young people, the Kilimanjaro initiative to support young people as agents of positive change and the formation of savings and credit cooperatives as central to microfinance.

Mr. Nan underlined the importance of planning legislation in filling the widening gap between urban and rural development in China. The legal status of rural-to-urban migrants had become a key issue in China's rapid urbanization and adequate urban housing should be provided to low-income groups, including rural migrants. He concluded by providing details of policies and legislation that had achieved some success in China, including the provision of low-income housing, public participation in planning and effective measures to narrow the rural-urban gap.

In response to an enquiry about the potential role of carbon swaps in financing urban development, Ms. Joshi-Ghani said that developed countries could contribute to the financing of key infrastructure projects in developing countries in exchange for carbon credits that could be used to meet their national targets for greenhouse gas reductions. Mr. Yumkella added that clean development mechanisms were helping several developing countries to gain access to important technologies but pointed out that more effort should be made to assist poor African developing countries to make greater use of those mechanisms.

A representative of the municipality of Libreville asked for more information about the guarantees required by municipalities in developing countries to gain access to development finance. The representative of the African Development Bank replied that they did not usually require guarantees, but that proposed projects should meet their minimum technical requirements. Other representatives drew attention to the need to ensure greater transparency and environmental sustainability and to meet the minimum financial requirements.

Policies promoting patterns of efficient sustainable urbanization, together with effective pro-poor measures, could make a significant contribution to overcoming social divisions. Such patterns of sustainable urbanization, however, should go hand-in-hand with more balanced processes of territorial development, focusing on enhanced rural-urban development linkages.

Summary and conclusions

- Integrated urban and regional development strategies had great potential for accelerating social and economic development, reducing poverty and generating new employment opportunities for both the urban and rural poor
- While foreign direct investment could help to diversify and improve the skills base, measures must be taken to expand the national technological base to maximize positive results in building urban industrial capacity
- To meet the increasing demand for urban infrastructure and basic services, local and national Governments should manage their available resources more efficiently; mobilize new sources of finance, such as urban development funds and the sale of municipal bonds; and encourage increased private investment
- Governments needed to formulate and implement innovative housing finance mechanisms to increase access to affordable housing; those included special housing funds, the issuing of housing bonds and community-based savings schemes for low-income housing
- To attain the poverty-related Millennium Development Goals, there was an urgent need to implement employment policies that focused on the poor, such as measures to simplify the operation of small businesses, improve access to credit and finance and create policies that promoted macroeconomic stability and urban economic development

4. Dialogue on harmonizing the natural and artificial environments
5 November 2008

Moderator: Mr. Steve Bradshaw, British Broadcasting Corporation, United Kingdom

Panellists

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

Mr. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, Local Governments for Sustainability, Canada

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

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

Ms. Alejandra Maria Devecchi, São Paulo, Brazil

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

Mr. Kwi-gon Kim, Director, International Urban Training Centre, Republic of Korea

Mr. Leonard Bihondo, Mayor, Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania

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

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

Major issues and concerns

Some cities were significant consumers of energy and emitted excessive amounts of greenhouse gases from production, heating and transport. Participants looked at the experiences of selected cities to showcase innovative ways of preventing and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in a way that included the urban poor in the debate. Special focus was on climate change, energy efficiency and environmental management.

Debate

The dialogue was opened by Mr. Wasstøl, who recalled that the awarding of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Panel on Climate Change and Mr. Al Gore, former Vice-President of the United States, demonstrated the recognition of climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and the planet. Every place on earth would be affected by the consequences of climate change: the effects, however, would be distributed unequally, with developing countries and the urban poor suffering most from the adverse impacts of global warming and the rise in sea levels.

He warned that an increase of over 2 per cent in the global temperature would have devastating effects, which was why the Government of Norway was pushing for an 85 per cent cut in carbon

dioxide emissions as compared to the 1990 level. Although major cuts had to be made in the developed world, the developing world would also have to form part of the solution, and it was vital for the urban poor to get involved in developing solutions.

The debate was structured in two parts. The first focused on sustainable urbanization and the second on climate change. The moderator, Mr. Bradshaw, opened the discussion on sustainable urbanization by quoting Mr. Paul Crutzen, who had said that humankind was living in the Anthropocene geological age in which it was changing the planet as dramatically as natural extreme events such as earthquakes. That development could make the planet uninhabitable.

Mr. Otto-Zimmermann criticized cities for continuing to work against nature by building and expanding in low-lying coastal areas in spite of expected rises in sea levels, in deserts where enormous amounts of energy-based fossil fuels were required to provide people with water, food and cooler temperatures, on prime agricultural land in spite of the global loss of fertile topsoil; using inefficient, and non-durable buildings; and with an infrastructure that was not energy-efficient. The world needed to make a radical shift towards eco-efficiency and not necessarily a high-technology version.

Mr. Uwejamomere stressed the need to take the urban poor into account if urbanization was to be sustainable, as living conditions, particularly the lack of proper sanitation, posed a threat not only to the poor but to all humanity.

Mr. Johansson argued that sustainability was easier to achieve in the construction of new cities than by trying to fix existing urban structures. He cited the example of Växjö, Sweden, which had introduced an environmental audit plan for new development areas that emphasized public transport, energy efficiency, water management and biodiversity conservation. He also stressed that local authorities did not need to await international agreements to become more sustainable.

Mr. Simon underlined the need to expand visions. Cities should not be viewed in isolation from their spatial surroundings as they depended on the resources around them, including urban hinterlands and the urban fringe, or the peri-urban interface. Furthermore, cities needed to take on global and local responsibility, not only towards their rural hinterlands but also towards their fellow citizens worldwide.

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

Mr. Fawaz gave the example of Beirut, which had been devastated by 16 years of civil war. The model for its reconstruction was not the common Western model, however. Instead of providing the displaced slum-dwellers with low-income housing, the Government had provided them with funds to build their own homes. Those funds enabled the citizens to make their own decisions and choices according to their own priorities and meant that former slum-dwellers were no longer marginalized as they were not artificially concentrated in one area but spread all over the city.

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

Mr. Bihondo spoke of the challenges currently faced by the Tanzanian city of Mwanza: annual urban growth rates of 11 per cent, resulting mainly from rural-urban migration, had led to an uncontrolled spread of unplanned settlements, largely in hazardous areas. In spite of resettlement initiatives and support from the Ministry of Lands and donors, the city's uncontrolled growth had yet to be reduced.

Ms. Ni said that housing design in China had recently been evolving to respond to environmental concerns; eco-friendly neighbourhoods, including courtyards with green spaces promoting comfortable living, had been developed.

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

The second segment of the dialogue focused on the potential of cities to adapt to climate change. It was asked how cities could be mobilized to commit themselves to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions even if they were not directly affected by the consequences of climate change.

Mr. Otto-Zimmermann pointed out that, although Local Governments for Sustainability had brought together over 800 cities in a climate action campaign focusing on mitigation immediately following the Rio Summit in 1992, many other cities had not yet implemented the recommendations of the campaign.

Mr. Uwejamomere linked the climate change debate to concerns relating to water, the most fundamental resource. The focus should not be on long-term plans but on daily actions and realistic measures.

Mr. Johansson said that Växjö provided a practical example. After the oil shock, the city had already decided in the early 1980s that it would become fossil-free by 2050 and be able to use cheap and locally produced energy resources. By 2010, its carbon dioxide emissions should have been reduced by half, but to date, the city had managed to reduce its emissions by 32 per cent by taking simple measures such as switching to biomass for heating and cooling and increasing the use of other renewable energy sources, such as solar energy. The switch to biomass had had the additional benefit of generating jobs.

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

Mr. Simon said that urban areas of all sizes were contributing to climate change. He proposed the use of the term “environmental changes” as that would encourage all cities to take part in the debate and to endeavour to be part of the solution.

Mr. Kim said that green urban spaces were one example of urban adaptation and mitigation. He was of the view that there needed to be a high level of political will on the part of politicians and heads of State in committing themselves to efforts to combat climate change. He referred to the eco-towns of the Republic of Korea that provided an example of how to use the best available energy techniques.

In reference to the environmental changes in the Lake Victoria region, Mr. Bihondo agreed with Mr. Uwejamomere that there was no need to raise awareness of climate change in that region as the local people were already aware of the changing climate owing to changes in rain patterns and food insecurity resulting from reduced agricultural production.

Ms. Ni said that cities should adhere to good building standards, using the latest design and technologies to tackle climate change.

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

Mr. Simon underlined the need to avoid a global blueprint as there was no catch-all solution when it came to climate change. He also emphasized that local management structures should go beyond the jurisdictions of cities.

One participant pointed out that much could be learned from the example of Mauritius, a country in which 20 per cent of the total energy was produced using renewable sources such as sugar cane and whose Government subsidized energy-efficient light bulbs and solar water heaters to decrease its ecological footprint.

Summary and conclusions

- There was no need to reinvent the wheel – existing models should be identified that could be adapted and applied to individual urban contexts
- It was necessary to learn from past mistakes; cities in the South should not repeat the mistakes made by cities in the North
- A high-technology approach was not the only way to tackle challenges such as climate change; the perspectives of local communities should be considered and the communities themselves incorporated into the process
- People should not be offered ready-made solutions but rather provided with the resources to deal with environmental challenges themselves
- Cities should not be seen in isolation but as part of a broader ecosystem. It was also important to remember that a sustainable city was also a dense and compact city

5. Preserving the historical roots and soul of the city

6 November 2008

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

Panellists:

Mr. Amir Farjami, Deputy Minister of Urban Development and Architecture, Islamic Republic of Iran

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

Mr. Mutula Kilonzo, Minister of Nairobi Metropolitan Development, Kenya

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

Mr. Lu Bing, Deputy Mayor, Nanjing, China

Mr. Ngoné Ndoye, Mayor, Rufisque, Senegal

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

Major issues and concerns

Not only were cities centres of knowledge, art and culture, they were also trendsetters. Participants discussed ways of preserving the cultural heritage of cities in a rapidly urbanizing world in which there were competing demands for the allocation of investment in areas such as regeneration, increased productivity and improved welfare. The dialogue began with a brief presentation on the conflicts inherent in heritage preservation that proposed new initiatives to ensure conservation.

Debate

Mr. Farjami said that decades of deterioration of their cultural heritage had brought many cities in the world to the point where they were losing their identity, an issue that was not sufficiently recognized in education and training in that field.

Mr. Kéré described the experience of living in two countries – Burkina Faso and Germany. He referred to the varying perspectives on heritage between residents of Western cities such as Berlin and those living in informal settlements in Ouagadougou. He noted the danger of African architects copying Western ideas. The relationship between people, buildings and their cities constituted the soul of the city.

Ms. Liljequist agreed that people had differing perceptions of what was meant by heritage and suggested that such issues should be democratically reconciled. She pointed out that heritage was a matter of objects or monuments but part of the wider urban landscape – both tangible and intangible.

Mr. Bing Lu outlined the measures taken in Nanjing to strike a balance between expansion and modernization on the one hand and the protection of heritage on the other. It was possible to construct new towns and buildings while preserving the old. Nanjing, for example, had built a new state-of-the-art convention centre while preserving the old inner city where high-rise buildings were banned.

Ms. Ndoye said that in Rufisque policymakers had not taken cultural heritage into account.

Mr. Wario Hernández said that, in the context of Latin America, the soul of the city was often symbolized by festivals. The reality could, however, be quite different in that Latin American cities were the most income-differentiated cities in the world, based on a heritage of colonial segregation. He expressed the belief that regenerating the soul of a city would require high levels of political capital and enlightened leadership.

Mr. Kilonzo referred to the national park bordering Nairobi and spoke of the challenge of sustaining the natural habitat of the park while improving the living conditions in Africa's largest slum, adjacent to the park. An international design and planning competition would be announced shortly, which would provide an innovative spatial planning solution.

Participants spoke from the floor on wider definitions of the soul of a city, taking into account its social and spiritual attributes, and reference was made to the rapidly changing role of the media in defining our heritage. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization were urged to collaborate more closely on that issue.

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

Mr. Farjami said that it was a complex but achievable goal, even in the context of rapid growth. He expressed the belief that the Petronas towers exemplified the best of contemporary South-East Asian architecture and said that all modern architecture should incorporate historic references in its design.

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

Ms. Liljequist said that there were lessons to be learned from many sites within the purview of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. Bing Lu pointed to the advantages of integrated policies that linked the conservation of cultural heritage with the needs of low-income groups and the necessity of new urban development.

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

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

Mr. Kilonzo said that conservation and modernization were not mutually exclusive, adding that a city that could not reinvent itself would die.

Summary and conclusions

The soul of a city had many aspects: cultural, spiritual, economic and political. It was not only reflected in the artificial environment, but in people, their memories and their use of spaces. Nurturing the soul of a city had many facets. It concerned striking a balance between architectural and economic innovation and social equity and between preservation and natural evolution. Providing for the needs of the people and maintaining the traditional fabric of a city were not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, both were necessary for a city to survive. Conservation strategies needed to be pursued at the same time as other strategies for providing affordable housing and urban facilities. In all cases stakeholder participation was necessary to forge a common appreciation of what needed to be preserved and why. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization were encouraged to collaborate closely to strike a balance between human settlements and historical preservation.

6. A city for all generations

6 November 2008

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

Panellists:

Mr. Roger Stone, Leader, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, United Kingdom

Mr. Sunil Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India

Ms. Ekua Taylor Kregel, public health professional, United Hospital, United States

Ms. Narelle Townsend, Board member, Global Housing Foundation

Mr. Allen Massawe Kivaisi, teacher of information technology, Joha Girls Secondary School, United Republic of Tanzania

Mr. Moussa Daby Diagne, former Mayor of Louga and Member of Parliament, Senegal

Ms. Fatma Said Ali, Member of Parliament, United Republic of Tanzania

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

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

Mr. A. S. J. Kwegir, Member of Parliament, United Republic of Tanzania

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

Major issues and concerns

The dialogue covered the issue of the increasing numbers of older persons in cities and asked whether their needs, and those of the growing population of young people, were being taken into account. Participants explored the economic pressures on health-care and pension systems, and the need for local authorities to harmonize the interests of all groups.

Debate

Mr. Stone pointed out that, while young people often had to share the same space as their elders, there were conflicts and communication problems between generations. The establishment of offices and libraries for young people and the use of information technology could contribute to promoting intergenerational harmony. Communication, engagement, the creation of partnerships and the establishment of plans and strategies were also critical thereto.

Mr. Singh explained the workings of young people and family integration in India. In spite of the existence of a national policy on young people and intergenerational problems in India, urbanization, migration and globalization had caused significant changes in family structures, leading to conflict between the young and the old.

Ms. Kregel said that health-care systems were important for the well-being of all age groups, especially older persons, and added that clinical costs should be kept as low as possible so that care for older persons could be sustained. Access to clinics should also be made as easy as possible. There was a need for culturally sensitive care supported by suitable legislation that would take due account of the health requirements of all generations.

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

Mr. Kivaisi spoke about the problems confronting young people in the North and the South. He said that in the United States most of the problems facing young people were confined to large cities, and that solutions needed to focus therefore on large city dynamics. Although there were support systems in place to help young people in the developed world, young residents from the developing world with irregular residence status risked deportation if they turned to the system for help.

Mr. Daby explained the importance in Africa of engaging with the traditional cultural norms of solidarity and respect for one's elders. He stressed that good governance was imperative if solutions were to be found to the problems afflicting young people. He expressed the belief that local knowledge should be incorporated into the governance and planning of cities.

Ms. Ali said that, for varying age groups to be able to live harmoniously in cities, some significant challenges needed to be met, such as sanitation, infrastructure, water, transport and land use. The harsh living conditions of poor women in developing countries would be further exacerbated without policies in place to tackle those problems. The generational debate therefore had to include a gender perspective that encompassed age, ethnicity, social status and income level. She called for local authorities to include women of all generations in urban planning and design.

Mr. Challen gave an outline of the Kilimanjaro initiative, which each year brought various age groups together to climb Africa's highest mountain. It was important for civil society groups to engage in cross-generational exchange programmes.

Ms. Ofori-Atta called for better dialogue on the subject between the North and the South. She spoke of the Minnesota kinship programme in Bloomington that gave young people and older persons alike the opportunity to volunteer in schools, or with meals-on-wheels for older persons unable to leave their homes. She suggested that project ideas and experiences should be exchanged between the North and the South while recognizing the challenges of carrying out such transference and the need for innovative solutions.

Mr. Kwegir said that the problems of persons with disabilities should not be excluded from the discussion; planners must deal with their situation in bringing together various age groups. He proposed the establishment of financing mechanisms to help older persons with low incomes and little education. He suggested that it would be useful for civil society bodies and other agencies to promote city-to-city exchanges between the North and the South.

Mr. Lamba asked whether participants believed that the various interest groups really wished to be organized. He stressed that organizing the groups and initiating dialogue was fundamental to the promotion of intergenerational harmony. As cities evolved, they shaped their inhabitants and were in

turn shaped by the generations living in them. The safety and well-being of citizens were important social services that should be provided by the State.

Summary and conclusions

Mr. Mandara summarized the main points of the dialogue. It had been made clear, he said, that intergenerational matters should be brought to the forefront of local, national and global agendas. That meant incorporating the issues of gender, disability, social and economic standing and cultural background into the debate.

A better exchange of information, lessons learned and cultural traditions was called for, given that no single solution would fit everywhere. It was underlined that urban planning had to take into account the needs of all age groups, giving all generations access to opportunities, services, shelter, welfare and infrastructure.

Report of the round tables

1. Ministerial round table: recommendations to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and major regional groupings

3 November 2008

Chair: Mr. Jiang Weixin, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China

Vice-Chairs:

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

Mr. Mario Fortes, Minister of Cities, Brazil

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

Mr. Mohammad Saidi Kia, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Chairperson, Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

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

Moderator:

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

Highlights of the round table

Mr. Jiang outlined China's approach to urbanization, which included using the cluster effect of cities and setting up systems of regional coordination and programmes for the regions. Legislation was in place to support the upholding of social justice, the preservation of environmental resources and the protection of cultural and historical heritage. He referred to the provision of infrastructure, the prevention of damage from natural disasters and the importance of strategic planning in reducing the effects of climate change.

Ms. Selja said that developing economies needed to learn from one other. The concept of harmony implied equal access to the city and India was working to overcome exclusion, the income divide and unbalanced growth through development approaches that included setting standards for habitat and environmental reform. India promoted the coexistence of rich and poor, artificial and natural environments, modern cities and historic heritage.

The Executive Director emphasized the role of Governments in promoting sustainable urban development through harmony. The *State of the World's Cities 2008–2009* report proposed operational tools to confront urbanization challenges, including spatial disparities, inequality, environmental degradation and historic heritage. Consumption patterns and lifestyles would have to be changed to mitigate the effects of environmental degradation. Governments could promote cultural and generational harmony by protecting various relations and resources within and between societies.

Mr. Odom commented on the rapid unplanned urbanization, the growth of slums, the scarcity of infrastructure and the financing constraints prevalent in Africa. He requested support for urban governance, housing finance, poverty reduction and slum prevention, together with renewed political will. He urged the African Union to convene a summit to tackle the impacts of the global financial crisis on Africa.

Ms. Falemo said that urbanization affected cultural heritage and the natural environment but also the living conditions of the poor. She emphasized that climate change was one of the major current challenges. She said that cities could be made more sustainable through comprehensive planning and better transport and recycling, areas in which Sweden was keen to share its experiences and to learn from others.

Mr. Saidi Kia requested the Forum to promote actions that would encourage sustainable and harmonious urbanization. He declared the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a secretariat for the exchange of information, the experiences of various countries in urban and rural development and the values of indigenous planning and architecture in contemporary construction.

Mr. Fortes stated that rules and instruments for land reform in his country had been established that also met the needs of the urban population and focused on social consensus. Housing, planning and urban mobility policies had been integrated and supported by federal funding for sanitation, slum upgrading and a housing policy to reverse urban inequalities. Such action would require a healthy expansion of the private sector into more downmarket areas to maximize investments that favoured the poor.

The representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China outlined his city's experiences with regard to harmonious urbanization. It had a low ecological footprint owing to the widespread use of public transport. He referred to its policies on promoting "green" buildings, waste management and water conservation. The city was undertaking urban regeneration and engaging its people in urban development towards achieving a harmonious city centred on quality of life.

Subsequently, the following 15 ministers delivered statements on harmonious urbanization (listed in the order in which they spoke): Kenya, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Israel, Slovak Republic, Palestine, United States, United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Cameroon, Namibia and Turkey.

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

Participants recognized the need for a clear definition of goals and terms for harmonious urban development. It was further noted that while more than \$600 billion had been raised almost overnight to bail out ailing banks and many more billions were allocated for warfare, it remained almost impossible to raise the \$18 billion required to support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Summary and conclusions

It was emphasized that harmonious urbanization hinged upon the concepts of inclusiveness, participation, equality and culture as pillars of sustainable development. The following issues were given especial emphasis:

- There was a need to overcome income divides and tackle unsustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles
- Standards needed to be set for habitat and environmental reform with clear guidelines and timelines
- With climate change, one of the greatest current challenges, countries needed to share experiences and continuously learn from one another
- Transport and mobility policies in particular needed to be strengthened to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and more effort should be made to increase the engagement of the private sector, in partnership with local authorities, in investments to benefit the poor and to advance green technologies
- Local authorities needed to deepen their understanding of credit and financial markets so that they could operate better in the global market
- Human settlement development should promote social and economic integration and involve communities in slum improvement and city development
- Clearly defined goals and terms of achievement needed to be set for harmonious urban development

2. Mayors' round table: role of local government in harmonious urbanization

3 November 2008

Chair: Mr. Zhang Guangning, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments, Vice-President of the China Association of Mayors, Mayor of Guangzhou

Conveners:

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

Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China

Facilitators:

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

Ms. Tao Siliang, Vice-President, China Association of Mayors

Speakers:

Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor, Nanjing, China

Mr. Guan Aiguo, Mayor, Kunshan, China

Mr. Chen Anjie, Mayor, Yangpu District, China

Mr. José Fogaça, Mayor, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Mr. Julio César García Garza, Mayor, Monterrey, Mexico

Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

Mr. Yang Guangxin, Mayor, Xi'an, China

Mr. S. Mehdi Hashemi, Deputy Minister of Road and Transportation, Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Heinrich Hoffschulte, former first Vice-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Mr. Pei Jinjia, Mayor, Xiamen, China

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

Mr. Wang Kouzhu, Mayor, Changsha, China

Mr. Ousmane Masseck Ndiaye, Mayor, Saint Louis, and Minister of Decentralization and Local Development, Senegal

Mr. Gunde Odgaard, Building and Wood Workers' International

Mr. Sam Okello, Mayor, Kisumu, Kenya

Mr. Wang Peiting, Mayor, Weihai, China

Ms. Olga Ramalason, Mayor, Antsirabe, Madagascar

Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor, Malmö, Sweden

Mr. Mir Abdul Ahad Sahibi, Mayor, Kabul

Mr. Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Mayor, Calbayog City, the Philippines

Mr. Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor, Stuttgart, Germany

Mr. Al Haji Nasser Ntege Sebagala, Mayor of Kampala

Mr. Berry Vrbanovic, third Vice-President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Mr. Xu Weixi, Mayor, Karamay, China

Highlights of the round table

The objective of the round table was to identify the role of mayors and local authorities in the search for harmonious urbanization, and to stress the relevance of decentralization in promoting urban harmony and social inclusion. Participants also discussed the need to balance development and urbanization with environmental concerns and to enhance intergovernmental relations and citizen participation in the planning process, and in decision-making in general.

The round table was attended by more than 60 mayors representing every continent. With over half of the world's population living in cities, local governments needed to be part of the solution to global challenges.

There was general support for the view that the solutions needed to originate at the local level and be supported from the highest level. Mr. Sarmiento stressed that national plans needed to be harmonized with local plans and that city development strategies needed national level support. Mr. Knape pointed to the fact that the UN-Habitat guidelines on decentralization provided for local government autonomy but that there was a need for improved cooperation and coordination in work done vertically with other spheres of government and horizontally with local stakeholders in non-governmental organizations and in the business and academic communities. Mr. Vrbanovic

emphasized the need to build the capacity of local elected and administrative leaders to direct the municipality and take advantage of decentralized authorities.

Mr. Schuster highlighted the need to invest in environmental policies to ensure the sustainability of cities at the social and economic levels. In that context, the development by United Cities and Local Governments of the *Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World* report was significant.

There was concern about the problems being experienced in African urban areas where local government power was often limited and urban sprawl, a rapid proliferation of informal settlements and a lack of land-use planning were prevalent. Mr. Nakijjoba said that there was an urgent need to tackle the problems of urban poverty and homelessness, which made social harmony impossible to achieve.

Ms. Janet Michael, Mayor of Ramallah, and Mr. Sahibi, Deputy Mayor of Kabul, focused on the particular problems of post-conflict, occupation and post-disaster situations. It was felt that solidarity needed to be demonstrated by the local government community for municipalities in such circumstances.

In terms of social inclusion, the issues of increasing mobility and meeting the needs of migrants were emphasized. Mr. Odgaard urged that inclusion should also focus on the position of migrants in the labour market and appealed to the mayors to ensure that workers' rights were secured in procurement policies. There was recognition that social infrastructure often lagged behind physical infrastructure.

Ms. Gateau said that harmonious urbanization depended on harmonious decentralization, harmonious finances and a partnership between UN-Habitat and local authorities. She emphasized that progress was already being made through rule 64 (participation of local governments in UN-Habitat Governing Council), the establishment of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and the adoption of the UN-Habitat guidelines on decentralization, and that it was time to begin their implementation.

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

- There was a need to decentralize powers and responsibilities, making sufficient resources available for effective governance
- The powers of local authorities should be included in all relevant national legislation, including the constitution
- Regular consultations between all spheres of Governments were necessary for the formulation of policies
- Countries should provide annual reports on their implementation of the UN-Habitat guidelines on decentralization; complemented by the United Cities and Local Governments report on decentralization
- Partnerships should be promoted with the private sector and civil society, in particular with grass-roots organizations
- The Forum should put greater efforts into facilitating dialogue between all spheres of government and with all stakeholders within cities (civil society, the business sector and academic institutions)
- Municipalities should become the focus for international development assistance with regard to urban development
- Efforts should be made to build institutional capacity at the local level and to carry out joint activities building on lessons learned
- Local governments would need direct access to development funds to enable them to deal with urban challenges

3. Women's round table: women in harmonious cities

3 November 2008

Co-Chairs:

Ms. Wang Yonghong, Deputy Mayor, Nanjing, China

Ms. Christine Platt, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners

Panel:

Ms. Kyun-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Ms. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Ms. Sheela Patel, Founding Director, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres

Ms. Lorna Chavez, Member, Huairou Commission

Ms. Carolyn Whitzman, Member, Commonwealth Association of Planners and Women in Cities International

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

Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, Young Women's Christian Association

Ms. Alison Todes, member, Commonwealth Association of Planners

Moderator:

Ms. Clara Greed, Commonwealth Association of Planners

Highlights of the round table

The Co-Chair said that, although a significant amount of progress had been made on gender equality, women remained by far the most affected by the worst impacts of poverty, especially in slums. Coordinated strategies and planning tools were needed to bring women's concerns into the mainstream of planning and management of cities; those would include tackling the issue of violence, providing infrastructure and services and designing housing and slum upgrading programmes.

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

Ms. Rolnik reaffirmed the right to adequate housing as a fundamental right of women and added that it was the State's responsibility to guarantee that right. She discussed the provisions of urban housing policies and recommended that they be reviewed to ensure women's participation as decision makers in their design and formulation.

Ms. Todes underlined the role that planning could play in promoting women's rights, particularly in informal settlements, and outlined the findings of the Commonwealth survey on gender-aware planning. She suggested that the approach to gender mainstreaming was overly broad and should have a more specific focus. Many interventions had concerned the development of policy rather than its implementation.

Ms. Whitzman stressed that violence was a planning and urban developmental issue. She pointed out that men and women had varying experiences and were affected in various ways by violence, and that it had direct and indirect costs that should be tackled through coordinated strategies and planning tools at the local level.

The Executive Director said that socially, economically and environmentally harmonious cities would provide an enabling environment in which women could live and work. Both men and women everywhere should have equal access to the social, economic and cultural benefits of living in cities. The recommendations of the round table would inform the development of the UN-Habitat gender equality action plan.

Ms. Jin pointed out that government interventions and women-friendly policies in health, education and childcare had done much to promote harmony in Chinese cities.

Ms. Patel said that women's entitlements should be enforced and added that there needed to be increased capacity to tackle the challenge of forced evictions. Jobs for women were key to women's economic empowerment.

Ms. Gumbovanza emphasized the role of women's land rights in post-crisis situations, in line with the Habitat Agenda and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). She suggested that women's right to land should be an integral component of peace negotiations and agreements.

Ms. Chavez highlighted the role of grass-roots networks in disaster preparedness and emphasized the need for enhancing the capacity of those networks for resilience and response. She summarized the lessons learned from the grass-roots academy held in Cebu, the Philippines, as a pre-Forum event and underlined the role of grass-roots coalitions in human settlements.

Ms. Jin referred to the role of planning in creating harmonious cities for women in China and cited several examples of cities in China, focusing on the provision of basic services.

Summary and conclusions

- Supporting gender mainstreaming in urban planning and management, including budgeting, hiring and political leadership decisions, helped cities to become more socially and culturally inclusive. The knowledge and tools to achieve that already existed; what was needed was for appropriate action to be taken by local governments, giving full weight to women's concerns and abilities
- Women had invaluable local knowledge that was important for disaster mitigation and response and for post-disaster reconstruction. That was significant for disaster preparedness and resilience, especially in the context of climate change adaptation. The capacity of grass-roots networks should be enhanced
- The right to adequate housing was a human right and all States should ensure that women's equal right to land, housing, property and secure tenure was respected and promoted. Furthermore, mechanisms and tools should be developed to protect women's rights to land in the context of crisis and post-crisis situations
- Women were often the custodians of neighbourhood history and of the social fabric; they played an important role in caring for the young, older persons and the infirm, including the HIV-positive population. Involving women and their community-based organizations was therefore critical to maintaining community solidarity, preserving a sense of place and belonging and maintaining intergenerational relations.

4. Parliamentarian round table

4 November 2008

Chair:

Mr. Peter Götz, President, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Panel:

Mr. Chen Jia Bao, Chair, Nanjing Municipal Congress, China

Mr. Eloy Cantú Segovia, Senator, Mexico, and Vice-President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, representing Latin America

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

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

Mr. Mohammad Saidi Kia, Islamic Republic of Iran

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

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

Mr. Wang Ping, China

Highlights of the round table

The Chair opened the round table by emphasizing the important role of parliamentarians in mitigating climate change. He then introduced Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, an organization of parliamentarians that strove to support the implementation of the Habitat-Agenda.

Mr. Chen emphasized the impact of climate change in Nanjing and the efforts by the municipality to protect the environment through practical and legislative work.

Mr. Cantú Segovia drew attention to the global scale of the issue, which had been of particular concern for Mexico recently following the devastating effects of Hurricane Wilma. He called for national legislative bodies to tackle the challenges of global environmental changes. Furthermore, he called upon parliamentarians to find the political will to recognize the prevailing global economic crisis that necessitated linking and coordinating national and international actions on legislation.

Ms. Selja reiterated that climate change was a global challenge and that three-quarters of all carbon dioxide was emitted by cities. She emphasized the role of parliamentarians in educating the public and framing legislation and pointed to India's recent initiatives including its national action plan on climate change that called for actions to enhance energy efficiency across economic sectors, including buildings, management of solid waste management and public transport. She pointed out that New Delhi was one of the first cities in the world to operate its public transport system on compressed natural gas.

Ms. Nalubega pointed out the effects of climate change as experienced in Uganda, such as drought, flooding and the melting of snow on mountain caps, some of which had caused loss of life and property. She referred to the environmental principles enshrined in the Constitution and relevant legislation. She called upon parliamentarians to play an active role in protecting the environment through campaigns, by adopting conventions, enacting regulations and involving women and young people. She recommended that parliamentarians should raise awareness in their communities on the issue of climate change and that they should monitor institutions that oversaw the implementation of environmental legislation and hold them accountable.

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

Mr. Saidi Kia emphasized that countries in the Asia and Pacific region were especially vulnerable to climate change, particularly poor countries. He pointed out that industrial growth in the Islamic Republic of Iran had exacerbated air pollution and water shortages. He stressed the importance of meeting the needs of urban populations and reducing the use of fossil fuel through alternative energies. He expressed the belief that developed countries had a responsibility to provide technical support to developing countries in that regard.

Mr. Wang de Jun described the efforts of the Nanjing People's Congress to enact legislation in a scientific and democratic manner, promote an ecological city and "green" construction, and ensure that those who infringed the law were punished.

Mr. Wang Ping listed the numerous environmental policies that had been put in place, including those to establish clean manufacturing methods, waste water and garbage treatment, efficient use of resources, recycling and renewable energy. He suggested that parliamentarians should adopt policies for the transformation of polluting industries, the promotion of energy saving and renewable technologies, the levying of taxation for environmental protection and the establishment of public participation mechanisms.

The following recommendations were made:

- While all countries had to work together to meet the challenge of climate change, developed countries had a particular responsibility to facilitate the provision of resources for the action plans of developing countries
- All parliamentarians should take responsibility to ensure that resources were used for their intended purpose
- Parliamentarians should collaborate regionally, as countries are interlinked through transboundary water resources, ecosystems and food security concerns
- Parliamentarians should play a proactive role to ensure that the policies that they enacted were actually implemented, and that adequate budgetary allocations were made

Summary and conclusions

The round table was instrumental in developing the UN-Habitat programmatic focus in the area of cities and climate change. It also strengthened the working relations between global parliamentarians

for Habitat and UN-Habitat. The parliamentarians who participated repeatedly highlighted the importance of legislation that was conducive to sustainable urbanization. They came from all parts of the world and represented a wealth of different cultures, traditions and parliamentary systems. The round table presented an opportunity for learning and exchanging experiences, reflecting the positive aspects of globalization.

5. Youth round table: A look at best practices in youth-led development

4 November 2008

Co-Chairs:

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

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

Moderator:

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

Highlights of the round table

Mr. Anantha Krishnan outlined the background to the new opportunities fund for urban youth-led development, which had been launched officially the same day, and set out the deadlines for its implementation. He pointed out that such development needed both human and financial resources and that the fund, which was supported by Norway, could play a crucial role in promoting development led by young people.

Mr. Erik Berg, Ministry of Development Cooperation, Norway, described the challenges facing young people in the current world. He noted that it was important for various stakeholders to work together on development and to invest in a more holistic and broad-based approach. Such an approach would involve innovations: recognizing the rights of children and their participation as actors and stakeholders in the process; recognizing that parents and families were the primary caregivers, protectors and guardians of children and should be supported in those roles; taking gender into account and recognizing the challenges that it presented. The fund should recognize the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda and work towards their implementation.

Mr. Laiheng Tao, Nanjing Psychological Rescue Centre, cited the importance of providing psychological care for young people as a measure towards achieving the balanced development of Nanjing. He suggested that the increased pressures on young people, particularly with regard to education, formed part of the problem. He described the work of the Centre, which offered help to young people in a variety of ways such as the provision of hotlines, therapy, training, face-to-face meetings and education programmes.

A number of organizations presented case studies on development led by young people.

During discussions from the floor, some concern was expressed about the definition of young people. It was noted that the fund currently followed the United Nations definition, which was the age group 10–24.

It was proposed that the Forum should be used as a form of General Assembly on the development and implementation of the fund and that young people, as key constituents, would give their input on the work of the fund at every session. Participants were encouraged to take an active part in the development of the framework for the fund, together with the establishment of its criteria and modalities. It was suggested that one success indicator of the fund could be the disbursement of 75 to 80 per cent of its financial resources to institutions and organizations led by young people, free of administrative or managerial costs. It was agreed that the fund would be used by such organizations or those that dealt with young people's issues, and the need to attract other countries and donors to join the fund was strongly expressed.

It was also suggested that the fund could be used as a potential resource for networking and partnership development. Measures such as the development of cooperative societies and revolving fund models were suggested as mechanisms through which young people's groups could access the fund.

Summary and conclusions

It was pointed out that lack of equal opportunities led to unbalanced development. Cities had the highest rate of growth, especially among the poorest segments of the population. Young people should be given a fair hearing and encouraged to grasp opportunities as they arose.

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

6. Round table on the Global Land Tool Network: land governance within a grass-roots and gender framework

4 November 2008

Chair/Moderator:

Ms. Agnes Kalibbala, Ambassador of Uganda and Chair of the Global Land Tool Network International Advisory Board, Kenya

Panel:

Mr. Alain Durand-Lasserve, National Centre for Scientific Research, France

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

Mr. Chris Paresi, International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation), Enschede, the Netherlands

Ms. Clarissa Augustinus, Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section, UN-Habitat

Ms. Edith Mbangwa, Shack/Slum Dwellers International, Windhoek

Mr. Geoffrey Payne, Geoffrey Payne and Associates, London

Mr. Humphrey Otieno, Nairobi Peoples Settlement Network and Hakijamii, Nairobi

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

Mr. Li Guo, Senior Agricultural Economist, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Paul Munro-Faure, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

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

Mr. Stig Enemark, International Federation of Surveyors, Copenhagen

Mr. Siseho Kamwi, Shack/Slum Dwellers International, Windhoek

Mr. Ulrik Westman, Global Land Tool Network Coordinator, UN-Habitat

Ms. Violet Shivtse, Huairou Commission, Kenya

Highlights of the round table

The main objective of the Global Land Tool Network round table was to bring Network partners (representing multilateral, bilateral, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, training institutions and grass-roots organizations) together to develop a better understanding of the overarching concept of land governance, gender and grass-roots, and for Network partners to report on current activities.

The Chair introduced the discussion on the way forward for the Network and the ways in which land governance related to the Network gender and grass-roots mechanisms. Mr. Wasstøl highlighted the progress made by the Network with regard to the development of land tools geared towards women and the poor, and reiterated its support for the initiative.

Mr. Westman stated that the Network's objectives were to contribute to poverty alleviation and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure. Ms. Augustinus described the common land governance framework that had been developed in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. That framework recognized that land governance concerned the rules, processes and organizations

through which decisions were made about access to land and its use, the manner in which decisions were implemented and the way in which competing interests in land were managed.

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

Mr. Munro-Faure referred to the measures to be taken to ensure transparent land administration for good governance and presented the voluntary guidelines on land and natural resources tenure that would be presented to member States for approval as a base for the establishment of a common code of conduct.

Network partners had developed criteria to incorporate gender within existing land tools, and to develop new tools that would be gender responsive. Ms. Yonder highlighted the importance of security of tenure and governance for women in local communities.

Ms. Shivtse and Mr. Otieno said that, as part of the land governance framework, Network partners had developed mechanisms that provided detailed criteria to assess grass-roots participation and determine whether it was genuine, effective and rights-based.

Mr. Enemark presented the findings of a practitioners' dialogue on improving slum conditions through innovative financing. He added that a publication was available on the websites www.fig.net and www.gln.net detailing the outcomes in regard to the linkages between mapping, planning, land rights, land register, valuation and financial services.

As an example of a current development in land tools, Mr. Paresi introduced the social tenure domain model, explaining that it was a new approach to pro-poor land records that was flexible enough to be applied in informal settlements in developing countries. The model allowed for the registration of informal rights, overlapping claims and land disputes.

Ms. Mbanga and Mr. Kamwi gave a presentation on the results of social and economic enumerations that had been carried out by local communities in informal settlements in Namibia.

Mr. Durand-Lasserve and Mr. Payne presented research findings into the social and economic impact of land titling programmes, which indicated that land titling might not always be the most appropriate or pro-poor option for providing security of tenure.

Summary and conclusions

The round table concluded with a presentation on the way forward with regard to Network land governance activities over the next two years. The Network partners present reiterated their support for the work of UN-Habitat in the area of land governance and management and the participatory process that it used for developing pro-poor land tools.

7. Urban researchers' round table: policy challenges of sustainable urbanization

5 November 2008

Co-Chairs:

Ms. Winnie Mitullah, University of Nairobi, and Chair, Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements

Mr. Soucheng Dong, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Moderator:

Mr. Graham Tipple, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, United Kingdom and Vice-Chair, Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements

Speakers:

Mr. David Simon, Royal Holloway College, University of London, United Kingdom

Mr. Xingpeng Chen, Lanzhou University, China

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

Mr. Mark Pelling, King's College, University of London, United Kingdom

Mr. Daniel Hoornweg, Sustainable Development Network, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Ceclina Njenga, Environmental Planning Branch, UN-Habitat

Mr. Li Nu Yun, State Forestry Administration, China

Mr. Jian Yulin, China Academy of Transportation Sciences, Ministry of Transport, China

Mr. Sun Jilin, College of Physical and Environmental Oceanography, Ocean University of China, China

Mr. Wu Yuping, Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China

Mr. Li Yu, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Highlights of the round table

Mr. Oyebanji Oyeyinka, in his introductory statement, emphasized the centrality of climate change to the quest for harmonious urbanization and, by extension, the work of UN-Habitat. He said that cities would be held responsible for global warming and its effects. He expressed the hope that the meeting would enhance the UN-Habitat cities and climate change initiative and provide inputs for the *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011*.

Mr. Simon outlined the extent to which cities contributed to climate change and spoke of the impact of global environmental change on cities. He called for climate change policies to focus on the most vulnerable populations, poor countries, urban areas and tropical zones.

Mr. Chen described the sustainable development challenges arising from rapid urban growth in China. He outlined the proposed solutions to those challenges, which included introducing cleaner production techniques, undertaking pollution control measures, setting more efficient patterns of resource use and strengthening resource conservation.

Mr. Pelling drew attention to the issues of social learning and self-organization. He referred to a case study of small towns on the Caribbean coast of Mexico, which showed that local capacity for social learning needed to be enhanced through improved knowledge and awareness of the urban impacts of climate change. He suggested that measures should also be taken to overcome the constraints to self-organization in cities, including community fragmentation and overly bureaucratic Governments.

Ms. Awuor said that Mombasa, the second largest city in Kenya and the largest port in East Africa, was extremely vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change. She emphasized the need to take immediate mitigation and adaptation action, including the integration of climate change concerns into physical planning, land use and building codes; the launching of public awareness campaigns and the deployment of strategic planning to guide future developments in the most vulnerable coastal areas.

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

One participant drew attention to the urgent need to incorporate climate change into education systems so that awareness could be raised in the long term. The role of the media in raising awareness was also emphasized. Another participant stressed the need to enforce basic building standards to mitigate the effect of climate-change-related disasters. Other issues raised included the need for social and environmental justice, the importance of refining the concept of urbanization in terms of its spatial manifestation and the impact of climate change on towns in mountainous areas.

Mr. Hoornweg described the preparations for the 2009 World Bank Urban Research Symposium that would focus on cities and climate change. Over 500 proposals had already been received in the areas of slums and adaptation, metabolism of cities, energy efficiency, governance, social inclusion, urban heat islands, risk reduction and modelling.

Ms. Njenga described her agency's recently established sustainable urban development network, whose objective was to promote and support sustainable urban development. It followed an interdisciplinary approach to the supporting of local action and sought to reinforce synergies between various institutions. It also aimed to mobilize and strengthen global, regional, national and local partnerships and networks. Its main focus points included decentralization and the relationship between cities and climate change.

There ensued six brief presentations on the experiences of China in various environmental areas, including China's carbon sequestration efforts; urban transportation policies to combat climate change; dealing with the impact of sea-level rise and other climate-related disasters on urban planning; enhancing the energy efficiency of the construction industry; and sustainable urbanization strategies being undertaken in North-West China.

Mr. Tipple reiterated the need to incorporate climate change into future policy implementation at all levels. He stressed that measures to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation should also include economic, technological, social and governance dimensions. He pointed to the Chinese presentations as reflecting the fact that efforts to combat climate change would have to involve professionals from a wide range of social and natural science disciplines.

8. Habitat partner universities round table: extending cooperation with educational institutions

5 November 2008

Co-Chairs

Mr. Tore Haugen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Mr. Sigfrid Wu, Tongji University, Shanghai

Moderators

Mr. Karl Otto Ellefsen, Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway

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

Mr. Stephen Agong, Maseno University, Kenya

Speakers

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

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

Mr. Bjorn Malbert, Chalmers University of Technology

Highlights of the round table

It was part of the policy of UN-Habitat to form partnerships with universities, creating Habitat partner universities as a means of extending its cooperation with institutions of higher learning and facilitating exchange and cooperation between the universities themselves. A key concern of the Habitat partner university initiative was to bridge the gap between research, education, policy and practice in sustainable urban development.

Mr. Reutersward and Mr. Tuts set out the objectives of the meeting, which were to identify and explore the potential for cooperation between existing and prospective Habitat partner universities. They outlined the main principles underlying the collaboration: the adoption of a systemic approach towards sustainable urban development; putting the focus on urban poverty reduction; the need for interdisciplinary and practice-oriented approaches at various levels, and commitment from the universities. Examples of collaboration modalities were given in the areas of research, education, knowledge management and institutional strengthening.

Mr. Sjoberg and Mr. Malbert described the experience of their organization having been a Habitat partner university since 2006. Mr. Wu spoke of his institution as a prospective partner within the Habitat partner university collaboration scheme.

The Co-Chair opened the floor for a short question-and-answer session before handing over to the moderators to lead a discussion on the potential structure and scale of the Habitat partner university collaboration, its thematic and geographical focus and its expected benefits for cities, universities and UN-Habitat.

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

With regard to the benefits for universities of engaging in partnership with UN-Habitat, it was recognized that such a partnership would be helpful in validating research efforts and approaches to sustainable urban development on the part of the university management and other partners. It was also

noted that benefits could be derived through joint fund-raising for priority research and educational initiatives.

One key issue raised was the importance of recognizing the artificial environment as an important component of sustainable development, and the need to engage in both interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary research.

Emphasis was also laid on the links between universities in the South, in particular on issues such as curriculum development. It was recognized that universities needed to link up with grass-roots organizations and communities, and with local and central Government officials, using UN-Habitat in the role of convenor.

Discussions on the possible structure of the initiative included an offer from Tongji University to create a website. It was stressed that universities should commit themselves to giving time and resources to the initiative, and that an assessment of the collaboration from both sides should be made on a regular basis.

In conclusion, it was said that there was a genuine interest from partner universities in supporting sustainable urban development. It was proposed that, as the Habitat partner university network remained a new initiative, the detailed modus operandi ought to be discussed further in the near future.

Annex VII

Summary of the special sessions

1. Private sector consultation: corporate responsibility towards harmonious cities

4 November 2008

Moderator

Mr. Gordon Feller, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Age Institute, United States

Panellists

Mr. J. Gary Lawrence, Urban Strategies Leader, ARUP, United States

Ms. Nie Meisheng, President, China Real Estate Chamber of Commerce, China

Mr. Eduardo Sevilla, Member, Executive Board, Global Housing Foundation, United States

Mr. Ramin Keivani, Director, International Land Markets Group, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom

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

Mr. Daniel Cukierman, Director, Veolia Transport, China

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

Major issues and concerns

Participants examined ways of improving living conditions and achieving harmonious cities. They discussed responsible business practices for sustainable urbanization and the relevant core principles underlying that concept. They also discussed affordable technologies and business models that could work for the urban poor at the bottom of the economic pyramid thereby rendering cities and towns safer, more equitable, harmonious and more conducive to business.

Debate

Mr. Lawrence opened the session by emphasizing the need to create opportunities to enable the private sector to play a bigger role in improving the lives of the urban poor. One of the greatest challenges faced by the private sector was to find ways of improving urban neighbourhoods without simultaneously destroying low-income housing and other informal settlements, adding that the poor not only constituted a source of hidden wealth but also a great source of intellectual capital.

Ms. Nie pointed out the important role played by the private sector in urban development in China, where it accounted for as much as 60 per cent of the gross domestic product. She said that, in many countries the private sector constituted the biggest employer and contributor to national income, often playing an active and crucial role in disaster relief measures, which was a clear manifestation of its corporate social responsibility.

In describing the successful micromortgage programmes offered by the Global Housing Foundation, Mr. Sevilla underlined the need to bridge the gap between civil society and the private sector. The Foundation's mission was to provide affordable housing for economically disadvantaged families. Recently, an agreement had been finalized with UN-Habitat and Merrill Lynch to provide up to \$250 million in long-term financing to enable the working poor to finance their home purchases.

Mr. Keivani looked at policy issues concerning the private sector's role in low-income housing, particularly the informal sector. There needed to be a paradigm shift to remove barriers incrementally to enable the private sector to meet the demand for housing and services at the bottom of the pyramid. For that to be achieved, partnerships between local communities, civil society organizations and the private sector were imperative.

Mr. Werna underlined the importance of the construction industry as a driving force of national economies, adding, however, that it also accounted for one-third of carbon dioxide emissions. The issue of climate change provided an opportunity for generating new “green jobs” through the need to mitigate such emissions.

Mr. Cukierman focused on the importance of forging strong cooperation between private operators and public authorities to build sustainable cities. He maintained that well-defined public sector policies and guidelines were necessary to guide private sector investments and operations in cities. The Seoul metro system and the Bogota busway projects were cited as successful business models based on cooperation between strong local governments and Veolia.

The Deputy Executive Director said that, as businesses could not be successful in a failing society, all stakeholders had a clear interest in helping to create functioning cities that were conducive to doing business. In its commitment to act as a catalyst between partners for a better and sustainable urban future, UN-Habitat supported the strategic approach of building and sustaining the city using the private sector.

Summary and conclusions

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

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

While acknowledging the crucial role the private sector played in terms of its contribution to economic development and employment generation, participants also recognized that the setting of fair and equitable wages, especially for recent migrants from rural areas, was the social responsibility of the corporate sector.

2. UN-Habitat lecture award and the launch of urban world

4 November 2008

Chair:

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

Opening statement and presentation of award:

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

Lecture:

Mr. Anthony Gar-On Yeh, Professor, Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, University of Hong Kong, China

Panellists:

Mr. Richard Sliuzas, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, the Netherlands

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

Mr. Suocheng Dong, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

It was explained that the UN-Habitat lecture award recognized outstanding and sustained contributions to research and thinking in the field of human settlements. The award rotated regionally every year, and 2008 was the year of the Asia and Pacific region. The winner, Mr. Anthony Gar-On Yeh of the University of Hong Kong, was one of the leading planners in Asia. He delivered his lecture on geographic information systems as a planning support system for harmonious cities at the Forum. The opportunity was also taken to launch the new UN-Habitat quarterly flagship magazine, *Urban World*, a more modern replacement for *Habitat Debate*.

Ms. Mitullah explained the rationale and criteria behind the award before Mr. Oyeyinka introduced Mr. Gar-On Yeh, outlining his outstanding research achievements and presenting him with the award, which carried a cash prize of \$10,000 and came with a commemorative plaque. He announced the launch of the new magazine, *Urban World* before inviting Mr. Gar-On Yeh to deliver his lecture.

Mr. Gar-On Yeh began by outlining how the concept of “harmony” had been represented in China through ancient concepts such as yin and yang and I Ching, dating back thousands of years. He then looked at the emergence of modern conceptualizations of harmony, including sustainable urbanization, encompassing the three pillars of social, economic and environmental sustainability. He analyzed the sustained relationship between geographic information systems and urban planning over the past decades, highlighting the numerous ways in which geographic information systems could enhance planning for harmonious cities, such as improving data collection and analysis and the evaluation and implementation of plans. He pointed out the usefulness of geographic information system techniques in dealing with fundamental urban challenges such as land use management and the spatial layout of services and infrastructure and suggested that participatory geographic information system techniques could also enhance public participation in urban planning.

He provided a number of examples of ways in which geographic information systems had been applied in urban planning, such as determining and evaluating the consequences of urban growth and testing different planning alternatives. Current constraints in the application of geographic information systems in urban planning were no longer technical in nature but rather related to data, skills and resource limitations. Geographic information systems constituted a fundamental support tool for the planning of harmonious cities, however that concept might be defined and whichever urban planning paradigms might be applied.

The panellists praised Mr. Gar-On Yeh for his outstanding research achievements to date, especially in the area of geographic information systems and urban planning. They stressed the importance of geographic information systems in planning for harmonious cities, given the current complexity and pace of urbanization. They pointed out that geographic information systems were of particular relevance in determining the future scenarios and consequences of urbanization and applying the appropriate planning. It was further noted that geographic information systems could revolutionize information sharing both between and within government departments and institutions. A more open and positive attitude towards information and data sharing, however, should be adopted to ensure an effective geographic information systems contribution to urban planning.

A number of issues were raised during the ensuing discussion, including the importance of striking a balance between the participation of the general public and that of technical experts when applying geographic information systems in urban planning. The resource limitations faced by Governments in developing countries with regards to the application of geographic information systems in urban planning were also underlined.

3. Harmony in the rapid urbanization process

4 November 2008

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

Keynote address

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

Presentations

Mr. Xu Zhongzhi, Deputy Mayor, Nanjing, China

Ms. Wang Jingxia, Deputy Mayor, Yangzhou, China

Mr. Xu Meijian, Mayor, Zhangjiagang, China

Mr. Guan Aiguo, Mayor, Kunshan, China

Comments and recommendations

Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction, China

Mr. Michel Savy, Université Paris XII Val de Marne and National School of Bridges and Roads

Ms. Clin, Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mr. Lu Weimin, Adviser, Beijing Capital Planning, United States

Mr. Cui Gonghao, Professor, Nanjing University, China

Mr. Wu Zhiqiang, Professor, Tongji University, China

Mr. Mao Qizhi, Professor, Tsinghua University, China

Mr. Dong Wei, Professor, Southeast University, China

Major issues and concerns

The meeting, organized by the Jiangsu authorities, provided several insights into ways of building harmonious cities. The importance of balanced urban and rural development in the most appropriate location was identified as an important aspect of harmonious urbanization. The rapid pace of urbanization in China meant that there were challenges to be met, in spite of the immense progress made over a brief period of time. For those challenges to be successfully met, all levels of government would need to work in partnership with communities to ensure implementation at the local level. One concern was that the rapid pace of government-led urbanization had resulted in the increasing uniformity of Chinese cities and the loss of specific identity.

The Executive Director noted that China had made good progress in balancing rural and urban development and that, as a result, several best practices had emerged and three cities in Jiangsu Province had been awarded the Habitat Scroll of Honour. She added that, although the country had accomplished remarkable reforms and achievements over the previous 30 years, urbanization challenges were expected to continue to emerge. She suggested that the world, and Africa in particular, could learn a great deal from China's experiences and achieve a deeper understanding of the processes and expertise required for realizing harmonious urbanization.

Mr. He said that the historic city of Nanjing had been in existence for 2,500 years. He noted that, in spite of its successful record in industrialization and urbanization, the city continued to face structural problems, including environmental pressures, unbalanced spatial development, conflict between population growth and the need for human-centred urban development and frictions between various interest groups. Those problems demonstrated the need for coordinated metropolitan and regional development, and greater focus on local identity and human-centred urban development. Four harmonies need to be realized: urban modernization; high-technology industrialization; capitalization of cultural resources and the promotion of eco-civilization.

Ms. Wang outlined the outstanding preservation record of her city, which included the comprehensive protection of streetscapes and individual buildings in addition to the rehabilitation of the traditional canal ecosystem. Traditional local culture has been widely integrated into existing conservation efforts.

Mr. Xu explained how Zhangjiagang had developed from an isolated village into a prosperous harbour through a process that focused on its people and was based on the social and economic development of the region's urban and rural areas. An integrated rural-urban development plan had eased the rural-urban divide, while the provision of the appropriate infrastructure had enabled high speed intercity connections. A long-term approach to environmental planning had improved the provision of clean water and increased the number of "green" neighbourhoods. Subsidized and low-rental housing had been made available and urban unemployment was below 2 per cent. Furthermore, Zhangjiagang had the lowest urban crime rate in China.

Mr. Guan said that, in spite of 30 years of rapid development, his town's architectural heritage had been preserved. Kunshan had won many awards for its achievements in combining rapid growth with sound social and economic development. Inclusive planning, functional design and regional cooperation were at the basis of its 2002–2020 master plan, which contained significant ecological and environmental components. As result of infrastructure development and the balanced development of rural and urban areas, connections between Shanghai and Suzhou had been streamlined. A three-tier

service network made urban services accessible to an increased number of people, while information and communications technology applications monitored urban service delivery. Those developments had been grounded in public participation in decision-making and democratic urban governance.

Mr. Qi said that, in spite of the metropolitan status of Nanjing, it had managed to maintain its links with the rich culture and environment of the region and was a showcase for other Chinese cities. While approaches to the achieving of harmonious urbanization differed throughout the world, all city managers wanted their own city to be an attractive and salubrious space. China followed a Government-led urbanization model, which relied on partnerships between all levels of government to enable local level implementation. He noted that Jiangsu Province, although continuing to face many urban challenges, was far ahead of the rest of China in terms of urbanization, and that city managers worldwide could learn much from its methods of dealing with rapid urbanization. Other developing countries could look at the use of information and communications technology in urban management in Shanghai and Beijing, for example, as a way to tackle urban management challenges.

Summary and conclusions

The special session made it clear that inclusive and participatory decision-making, together with long-term spatial planning, infrastructure development and the integration of tangible and intangible cultural assets, were instrumental in setting Chinese cities on the path of harmonious urbanization. Because all nations took varying approaches to achieving harmonious cities and it was not always easy to switch perspectives, a pragmatic approach to decision-making must be adopted.

4. Role of Governments in housing finance systems

4 November 2008

Moderator:

Ms. Barbara C. Hewson, Managing Director and Principal, Newline Capital Partners, New York

Panellists:

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

Mr. Robert van Order, Professor, former Chief Economist, Freddie Mac, United States

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

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

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

Mr. Michael Oxley, Professor of Housing, De Montfort University, United Kingdom and Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Ms. Anne Ruden, Director, State Housing Bank, Norway

Major issues and concerns

Participants discussed the current housing finance crisis in the world markets and its impacts on the global housing sector in general, and on affordable housing and the economy in particular. They examined the factors underlying the financial crisis and its development and looked at the major stakeholders involved, particularly Governments, government-sponsored enterprises, specialized housing finance institutions and funding mechanisms. They also analyzed the bail-out plans for large banks and lenders, and the implications of extended government intervention in the housing finance market.

Opening remarks

The Executive Director outlined the origins of UN-Habitat and the Human Settlements Foundation, describing it as a remarkable housing and urban development finance mechanism that had emerged from the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Environment. The Foundation had not yet been capitalized or implemented, but when put into effect would be key to the future of UN-Habitat. Unlike the Bretton Woods institutions, the Foundation had been conceived as a fund that could lend and borrow at its own risk, without sovereign guarantee, as mandated by the General Assembly. It was time to consider how to mobilize sufficient finances for affordable housing, using the experience of the equity markets and securitization processes, but ensuring that the necessary safeguards had been put in place to avoid the characteristics of the current global crisis.

Debate

Mr. Ericsson explained the lessons that Sweden had learned from the housing credit crisis that had afflicted its housing market in the 1990s. At that time, the economy was experiencing high rates of inflation and high tax levels, with speculators operating in the housing market. People found themselves unable to service their loans, just as was currently happening in the United States, and Sweden had been asked to give advice to the United States Government. For the banking industry, it had been a costly experience, meaning that he advocated reforms in the area of financial risk management to enhance housing affordability.

Mr. van Order said that there were two main elements in the current sub-prime crisis: first, the huge increase in mortgage defaults as a result of people being misled into taking out unaffordable loans and, second, the sudden rise and fall in house prices (the housing value bubble), resulting in negative equity. Each of those situations had arisen before, but never had they happened at the same time, as was the case currently. Another linked factor was the staggering loss of confidence in the interbank liquidity system: while losses from defaults might reach between \$200 and \$300 billion, the liquidity problem would be counted in trillions. A recovery would eventually be found, but would be a long and painful wait for many.

Mr. Kritavanavaj discussed the Thai experience during the earlier Asian financial crisis. He highlighted the importance of keeping the public well informed through regular information bulletins, analysis, policy statements and interventions by Government.

Mr. Vawda outlined the South African experience in which a strong government policy had led to housing being viewed as an asset, strengthening State and municipal investments in spatial planning and infrastructure.

Mr. Lindfield stressed that for the global public good there must be good governance and accountability, which he argued would counteract the weak regulatory environment that had led to the danger of lending above affordability.

Mr. Oxley outlined the European case for the commercial funding of social housing, saying that most Western European countries financed it through the private sector.

Ms. Ruden suggested that lessons should be learned from past experiences, and that there should be better coordination between supplementary mechanisms and private regulators.

Summary and conclusions

For developing countries the global financial crisis would mean a scarcity of capital, making the provision of aid even more necessary for those countries at risk, to alleviate poverty and tackle the continued lack of adequate housing. It would be more necessary than ever to enable the bottom billion people to gain access to financial systems so that they could enjoy decent housing. Mechanisms to provide such access should be established as part of the restructured global financial system.

The experience in South Africa had shown that a progressive housing policy could work for the public good even in times of global financial crisis. The case of Shack/Slum Dwellers International underscored their use of highly targeted microfinance system in close collaboration with local banks. The Thai experience in dealing with the earlier Asian financial crises was relevant to the current situation. Such lessons from earlier crises need to be taken into account and be transparently accessible to all. Speakers looked at the need for improved regulation of the global financial system; some even suggested the creation of a new global banking authority. Since the outcome of global financial systems affected everyone, every country needed to be part of the process of understanding and acting on financial information.

5. **Role of civil society in building harmonious cities**

5 November 2008

Co-Chairs

Mr. Davinder Lamba, President, Habitat International Coalition and Executive Director of Mazingira Institute, Kenya

Mr. Xu Liugen, Vice-President, China Association of Social Workers, China

Organizer

Mr. Günter Karl, Chief, Civil Society Unit, Partners and Youth Section, UN-Habitat

Panellists

Ms. Emmy Galama, Permanent Representative, International Council of Women, and Member, Huairou Commission

Mr. Robert Tonks, Administrative Managing Director, Network on Urban Research in the European Union, Germany

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

Ms. Rasna Warah, Editor, *State of the World's Cities 2008–2009* report, UN-Habitat

Major issues and concerns

The main theme of the session was “Civil society: partner and catalyst for sustainable urbanization and harmonious cities”. There was some discussion of the draft civil society organizations strategy paper presented by UN-Habitat. Civil society organizations were given the opportunity to discuss their role in achieving sustainable urbanization and harmonious cities. They also discussed the major issues raised in the UN-Habitat flagship report, *State of the World's Cities 2008–2009*.

Debate

Mr. Wambua presented the UN-Habitat draft civil society organizations strategy paper. He said that the Habitat Agenda recognized the significant contribution that partnerships with civil society could make to its work. Since its inception as a full programme of the United Nations, UN-Habitat rules of procedure had permitted civil society organizations to make submissions at formal meetings of the United Nations. The draft strategy paper recommended various arenas for engaging with civil society, including the World Urban Forum, the UN-Habitat Governing Council, regional summits and national and local level events, including networks of civil society organizations, training programmes, sharing and learning from best practices and online communities.

Ms. Galama explained that many women from local communities were unable to attend international meetings owing to lack of funding. While commending UN-Habitat efforts in publishing and producing reports, she suggested that it should also look at ways of enabling such women to attend its meetings in greater numbers.

Mr. Tonks welcomed the participation of civil society in the fourth session of the Forum and drew attention to the gap between the capacities of civil society organizations in the North and those in the South. He pointed out that, in European and other developed countries, civil society had extremely close relations with local authorities and advised other regions to follow suit, as without such close relations it would be extremely difficult to gain access to national Governments. He suggested that UN-Habitat should consider holding regional and subregional consultations rather than waiting for biennial meetings. He proposed that civil society organizations should put pressure on their Governments to provide more resources to UN-Habitat for activities related to sustainable urbanization. He also suggested that UN-Habitat should have a mobile branch to enable it to elaborate its policies more directly at the country level.

Ms. Warah pointed out that the flagship report presented new data on inequalities at the city level, demonstrating that urban inequalities were highest in Latin America and Africa, while Asia, in spite of its high poverty levels, had relatively low levels of urban inequality. In the area of climate change, she referred to the finding showing that consumption patterns, rather than urbanization levels per se, were responsible for a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions. She also drew attention to the section of the report revealing that the degree of shelter deprivation varied within regions, with

countries in sub-Saharan Africa suffering from some of the worst combinations of shelter deprivation. She expressed the hope that the report would be used by Governments and civil society organizations to guide policymaking and to make more informed, effective and targeted interventions at the city level. She stressed the pivotal role of Governments in slum reduction and prevention.

UN-Habitat was requested to consider the following suggestions: supporting regional and subregional consultations of partners; providing resources for activities rather than focusing on capacity-building alone; preparing a strategy paper that clearly defined the unique role of UN-Habitat and its relationship with partners, including a section on establishing partnerships in post-conflict countries; looking at the possibility of accepting and handling small private donations for use in projects; and making its large stock of publications more accessible to the public.

Summary and conclusions

The Forum provided UN-Habitat with an opportunity to engage seriously with civil society on sustainable urbanization issues, in line with focus area 1 of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, on advocacy, monitoring and partnerships. Partners provided significant inputs to the UN-Habitat draft civil society strategy paper. They stressed the need for the organization to support partner consultations at the regional and subregional levels, in addition to facilitating cooperation between North-based and South-based civil society organizations.

6. Challenges faced by indigenous peoples in urban areas

5 November 2008

Chair

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

Moderator

Mr. Christophe Lalande, Shelter Branch, UN-Habitat

Panellists

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

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Ms. Sonia Smallacombe, Social Affairs Office, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Major issues and concerns

Indigenous peoples were particularly vulnerable to discrimination and often prevented from participating fully in the social, political and economic life of the city. In addition, environmental challenges, notably the effect of climate change on traditional territories, could have a particularly negative impact on livelihoods, contributing to increased migration to urban areas. The event brought together indigenous peoples' representatives, Governments, United Nations agencies, academics and non-governmental organizations to discuss the role of local authorities in resolving their concerns.

Debate

Mr. El-Sioufi gave an outline of the policy guide to housing for indigenous peoples. The new guide, which covered the impact of climate change on indigenous peoples, among other things, was intended to advise policymakers, national Governments and cities on how best to incorporate indigenous culture and heritage into urban housing policies. He expressed the hope that the publication would encourage other United Nations agencies to produce similar guides, culminating in a joint policy series tackling the special challenges and needs of indigenous peoples living in urban areas.

The Chair cited the need for disaggregated data and suggested that it was time to move away from negative perspectives and to take account of the positive impacts of cities on indigenous peoples. He added that it was important for various government levels to work together with indigenous peoples to ensure the adoption of effective public policies and measures. He expressed the belief that the Forum

had helped to create the momentum for such initiatives and said that more countries should become involved.

Ms. Rolnik outlined her mandate as United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context. She called for more “group-specific” recommendations on matters such as building materials and designs for indigenous peoples, adding that such policies had been implemented in her home country, Brazil. Such publications should not be confined to advising Governments on urban matters but should extend their mandate to development-related evictions that affected traditional lands.

Mr. Lalande gave a presentation on the structure and key messages of the draft policy guide to housing for indigenous peoples, which was followed by discussion. Speakers brought up a range of issues, including the need for the document to incorporate best practices by Governments (such as the policy of the Government of Chile in relation to housing and indigenous peoples); the negative impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples; and the need to formulate recommendations on measures that could be taken jointly by Governments to work on those problems. One participant suggested that the document should give specific examples of the participation of indigenous communities in housing.

Summary and conclusions

Participants represented a wide spectrum of organizations dealing with the rights of indigenous peoples. All welcomed the new policy guide produced by UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under the United Nations Housing Rights Programme. It was felt that the document needed to cover issues related to the negative impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples, which was one factor leading to their migration to urban areas. One major concern raised at the outset was whether the document referred specifically to indigenous people in urban areas alone, or whether it covered indigenous peoples in general. Some participants also felt that housing formed part of a continuous process: there was a need to make provision for those individuals that moved from the streets into formalized systems of housing.

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

In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed his satisfaction with the draft version of the policy guide, which could be further enhanced by incorporating the comments made. He emphasized that more countries needed to be involved to translate those policy guidelines into specific action.

7. Gender equality action plan 2008–2013

5 November 2008

Co-Chairs

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

Ms. Inger Lindgren, Director-General, Housing and Building Department, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Norway

Panel

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Raquel Rolnick, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Ms. Janice Peterson, President, Huairou Commission

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

The Deputy Executive Director outlined three key objectives of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan, focusing on institutional effectiveness using the bottom-up approach,

working in partnerships, as part of United Nations reform and with a focus on country-level activities. She explained the six focus areas of the plan and emphasized the need for partners to contribute to the development of the gender equality action plan.

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

Mr. Tuts introduced the global campaign for sustainable urbanization, an important tool for the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and for raising the profile of urban issues, mobilizing partners and keeping everyone working together. He called upon partners to contribute towards the process by indicating priority areas for awareness and advocacy actions.

Mr. El-Sioufi spoke about the plan's focus area No. 3 – pro-poor land and housing – and the strategies of advocacy, knowledge management and capacity-building that should guide implementation of activities in that area.

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

Ms. Rolnick emphasized the need for networking to undertake meaningful actions and to achieve results. She was working with the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to develop a joint programme on assessing the incorporation of gender concerns into poverty alleviation and housing policies and programmes at the country level. That research could lead to the development of guidelines on how to integrate gender into poverty and housing policies and programmes.

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

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

Recommendations

- Introduce a "City Weekend on Gender Relationships" under the global campaign for sustainable urbanization that would enable discussions on gender issues with various target groups
- Collect qualitative and quantitative data at the national, local, city and sub-city levels and prepare case studies to document experiences that would not normally be captured in census data
- Provide separate toilets for men and women in slum upgrading programmes
- Develop monitoring systems that responded to the needs and priorities of the poor and that demonstrated impact at the grass-roots level
- Develop guidelines on incorporating gender and housing policies and programmes
- Listen to voices of grass-roots women and involve them in all stages of programmes as equals
- Focus on grass-roots women, disaster management and resilience
- Expand partnerships and enhance cooperation on gender and human settlements development.
- Document relevant case studies highlighting the good and bad elements of programmes to facilitate learning

- Capacity-building for gender mainstreaming should be inclusive and participatory
- Gender mainstreaming should be part of all UN-Habitat programmes and budgets should be allocated accordingly

8. Decent work in the urbanizing world: building sustainable cities: decent work agenda in the construction sector

5 November 2008

Moderator

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

Panelists

Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Mr. Tayo Fashoyin, Director, Social Dialogue, Labour Law, Labour Administration and Sectoral Activities Department, International Labour Organization, Geneva

Ms. Anita Normark, General Secretary, Building and Wood Workers' International, Switzerland

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

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

Major issues and concerns

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

Debate

The Executive Director emphasized the contribution of the construction sector to the urban economy and employment. That industry drew on many other sectors, such as mining and forestry, and therefore, if the construction sector went well, the overall economy was likely to follow suit. The sustainability of the construction sector did, however, depend on the working conditions of building workers, which would in turn affect urban sustainability.

Mr. Fashoyin emphasized the importance of decent and productive working conditions that encompassed freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The Decent Work Agenda created by the International Labour Organization offered a genuine opportunity for Governments, the business sector and the labour sector, not to mention other stakeholders, to develop and implement specific and attainable goals of poverty alleviation through employment creation. It was based on four pillars: need for rights at work; inclusion within national policies of improved opportunities to secure decent employment and income; social protection for all; and strengthened participation and social dialogue.

Ms. Normark looked at the relationship between procurement policies and employment. In particular, she defined the specific measures that needed to be adopted to use proper procurement and labour standards globally. The construction sector could only be sustainable if it were economically viable, environmentally friendly and socially responsible. For better cities to be built workers must be treated decently. For that to happen, national and local governments needed to act as agents of change.

Ms. Kruse presented the case of Copenhagen, where a strong procurement policy had been implemented with stringent clauses that dealt with health and safety issues and prevented child labour and discrimination. That policy was embedded in an overall social policy framework that encouraged

the inclusion of workers and provided a space for the unemployed and new migrants in search of jobs. The need to eliminate potential risks of inadequate labour conditions at source was highlighted.

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

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

Summary and conclusions

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

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

Annex VIII

Summary of the Habitat seminars

Habitat seminars on urban innovations enabled UN-Habitat partners worldwide to showcase innovative and unique responses to the challenges posed by a new urban area in which half of humanity already lived in cities. They focused on following up on the theme of the third session of the Forum in of turning ideas into action. Sixty-nine Habitat seminars were held. The following below is a sample of some of the recommendations that emerged therefrom:

Water and sanitation for developing clean healthy cities

Stockholm International Water Institute

Actionable ideas: Water and sanitation service provision and investments generated huge gains for cities. Failing coverage was costly, often resulting from outdated urban planning principles that neglected peri-urban and poorer areas or centralized sewerage systems applied in areas where the technology could not always be properly used or maintained. Effective communication, reform, monitoring, accountability, finance and implementation were needed to expand services.

Discovering a hidden cooperative advantage in social housing

Swedish Cooperative Centre

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

Green jobs, urban sustainability and construction

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

Actionable ideas: The construction sector was becoming more aware of the opportunities for and benefits of green employment. Currently, trade unions were not sufficiently mobilized to lobby for more environmental measures in the sector. Research undertaken in South Africa and in Europe had, however, proven that such mobilization was possible and improved the potential for cooperation between various urban stakeholders.

Addressing urban risk in Africa: local perspectives

African Urban Risk Analysis Network and ProVention Consortium

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

Global City Indicators Facility: measuring and monitoring

Global City Indicators Facility and the World Bank

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

Housing for inclusive cities

All India Housing Development Association

Actionable ideas: Suitable policies should be devised to strengthen fiscal, financial, institutional and regulatory systems to promote inclusive housing. Land tenure should be taken up as a prerequisite of inclusive housing. States should develop a systematic land policy to increase supply of land to a cross-section of households including those residing on illegal land holdings.

Linking urban research and policy towards sustainability

Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanization in the South

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

Slum mapping with space imagery

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

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

Unlocking urban land values for infrastructure finance

Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility and the World Bank

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

Decentralized solid waste management for small towns

Waste Concern

Actionable ideas: Replicating the community-based solid waste management approach in towns throughout Asia and Africa.

Builders of cities, building networks

Building and Wood Workers' International and the International Labour Organization

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

Universal sanitation: New resources from Asia

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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

Cross-cultural peacebuilding approach

YOUCAN and Rock.Paper.Scissors Inc.

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

Donor assistance for housing and urban development

Westat and International Housing Coalition

Actionable ideas: Slum housing and urbanization were increasing dramatically, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, bilateral donor countries had dramatically reduced both their funding and staffing for dealing with the increasing housing problem. Under those circumstances,

sub-Saharan country leaders needed to become knowledgeable advocates for increased funding for slum upgrading and housing in their countries and across the region.

Transforming urban markets for the poor through entrepreneurship

Ashoka Innovators for the Public and Global Urban Development

Actionable ideas: Business and social partnerships between large corporations and non-governmental organizations were essential to building packages of products and services – i.e. “value chains” – to upgrade slums and develop a wide variety of new housing solutions at a scale commensurate to the enormous demand from the many submarkets for the low or moderate income majority.

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

UN-Habitat

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

Global City Indicators Facility: Information session

Global City Indicators Facility and the World Bank

Actionable ideas: The Facility would roll out the programme to more cities and sign up at least 100 new participating cities in the coming year. Furthermore, the website (www.cityindicators.org) would be expanded to facilitate easy data entry by participating cities and the Facility would develop a statistical mechanism to accommodate and measure metropolitan areas or urban agglomerations. The sharing technical information among cities worldwide would also be facilitated through what was termed a web-based “MetroMatch Directory”.

Decentralized finance for secondary cities: Learning from experience

World Bank

Actionable ideas: Demographic projections indicated that secondary cities would have to accommodate the bulk of the urban population growth over the coming 15 years. It was a high priority to develop institutions to ensure that infrastructure finance was channelled to those places, especially to ensure that basic urban services were delivered country-wide, following the prescriptions of the *World Development Report 2009*.

Turning commitments to participation into reality

Practical Action

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

Cities, climate change, and spatial planning

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

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

Climate prosperity: sustainable economic and community development

Global Urban Development and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Actionable ideas: Climate prosperity generated substantial economic and employment growth and sustainable business and community development by demonstrating that innovation, efficiency, and conservation in the use and reuse of all resources was the best way to increase jobs, incomes, productivity and competitiveness. In addition, climate prosperity was the most cost-effective method of

promoting renewable energy and clean technologies, protecting the environment and preventing harmful impacts from global warming

Affordable housing and sustainable cities development

UN-Habitat and Ministry for Regional Development, Russian Federation

Actionable ideas: The housing sector was inseparably linked to construction and other sectors of urban economy and life and was one of the cornerstones of sustainable urban development. It had to be duly and properly addressed. The problem of affordable housing existed worldwide, including in developed countries. There was no solution without implementing a comprehensive integrated approach that included public-private partnerships. Participants emphasized the importance of a more flexible approach that met the needs of low-income citizens. There was an urgent need to have a platform to exchange experiences and lessons learned, both positive and negative.

Summary of networking events

Networking events gave Habitat Agenda partners a unique opportunity to strengthen networks and build new partnerships in an effort to advance the sustainable urban development agenda. Seventy-two networking events were held. The following are some of the recommendations that emerged therefrom:

Innovative approaches to financing slum upgrading

State Ministry of Housing, Indonesia

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

Sustainable development in degenerated urban areas

Municipal government of Rio de Janeiro (Department of Urbanism), municipal government of Belo Horizonte (Department of Public Policy)

Actionable ideas: Planners and decision-makers must be committed to the principles of sustainable urbanisation. That process must reinforce the convergence of efforts from all urban stakeholders, incorporate creativity, and, owing to the difficulty of forecasting urban futures, be flexible to tackle all manner of situations. Planners and decision-makers must exercise resilience to overcome any new challenges rather than giving up at the first hurdle.

Pro-poor public-private partnerships for municipal services provision

United Nations Development Programme

Actionable ideas: To improve the delivery of basic services to the poor, there was an urgent need to provide more support for local government partnerships with non-state stakeholders as service providers. Specifically, there was a need to step up capacity development of local governments to develop enabling and conducive environment for multi-stakeholder partnerships in the provision of local basic services (policy, regulation, oversight); to analyse the basic services sector for non-State stakeholders' involvement in basic services delivery to the poor; to engage in a transparent manner with non-State stakeholders into mutually beneficial partnerships; and to monitor performance of service providers and access and affordability of services for the poor.

Urbanization and growth

Commission on Growth and Development

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

Reinventing planning in a new urban Pacific

Commonwealth Local Government Forum Pacific Project

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

Financing urban infrastructure

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

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

CLIFF: The great debate III

Homeless International

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

Participatory budgeting: balancing resources for balanced development

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

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

Back to the future: deconstructing urban change

CHF International

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

Learning cities: interactive research and capacity-building platforms

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research

Actionable ideas: The benefits of local urban knowledge arenas as local platforms for continuous and interactive research, innovation and capacity-building among local decision-makers and local communities were an important resource for urban action.

Linking gender, local governance and violence prevention

Women in Cities International

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

Bahrain and urban poverty alleviation

Government of Bahrain

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

Innovative approaches for improving shelter in Asia

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Actionable ideas: Translation of the quick guides on housing the urban poor in Asian cities, developed jointly by UN-Habitat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, into local languages in view of their usefulness as means for policy change at the national and local levels was necessary. The guides should be made more widely accessible in the region.

Local participation: Keystone in Central American risk management

Matiklan

Actionable ideas: Triangulated efforts between national institutions, local governments and local communities was an extremely useful approach to local risk management. It was a strategic instrument to improve capacities for risk management at the local level, promoting and integrating all local stakeholders towards influence municipal management with prevention risk focus. That meant that round tables for local risk management was a simple and no-cost tool that strengthened the capacities of local stakeholders and governance.

Young municipal councillors supporting the Millennium Development Goals

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

Actionable ideas: The young councillors committed themselves to exchanging information needed to attain the Goals through the local level. They agreed to cooperate in lobbying international organizations and national governments for increased attention for local authorities when drafting and implementing development strategies.

Grass-roots women: at the heart of harmonious cities

Huairou Commission

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

Housing, HIV/AIDS: learning from Africa and Asia

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

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

Comprehensive planning in China and Canada

International Mayors Communication Centre

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

Summary of closing plenary

6 November 2008

Speakers:

Mr. Morten Wasstøl, Junior Minister for International Cooperation and the Environment, Norway, Co-Chair of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum and co-Chair of the Advisory Group

Ms. Khady Diagne, ENDA-Tiers Monde, Senegal, representing civil society organizations

Mr. Cedric Baecher, Senior Executive for Partnerships, Veolia Environment, France, representing the private sector

Ms. Wang Yang, Nanjing Youth Federation

Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, China

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

Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing

Ms. Anna Tibajuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Mr. Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, Consul-General of Brazil in Shanghai, representing Brazil, host country of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum

Summary of statements

Mr. Wasstøl said that the fourth session of the Forum had renewed the impetus to attaining the goals of the Habitat Agenda and the human settlements-related Millennium Development Goals. He cited the participation of a wide range of stakeholders in the Forum and underscored the importance and value of city life. He further recounted the contribution that the Forum had made to the implementation of the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic and institutional plan. The Forum had provided fresh and new ideas on issues such as tackling climate change. He hailed the contribution made by young people to the Forum and underscored the importance of the Opportunities Fund for Youth-led Development. He cited the example of China and how in just over one generation the country had almost achieved cities without slums, a process that had taken Europe nearly a century. He stressed the role of Governments in slum reduction and prevention and harmonious development. In conclusion, he reaffirmed Norway's support for UN-Habitat and its activities.

Ms. Diagne, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, thanked UN-Habitat and its partners for making the Forum a success and said that civil society organizations appreciated the opportunity that the Forum offered to make their voices heard by Governments, municipalities, the private sector and policymakers. She expressed the hope that the Forum would continue to remain inclusive.

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

Ms. Wang recounted the immense capacity and responsibility that young people held in policy development for harmonious urbanization, poverty reduction and other developmental challenges. She acknowledged the need to incorporate young people as key stakeholders in that regard. She cited the

memorandums of understanding that young people had entered into with UN-Habitat as a key contribution to their participation. She then summarized the outcome of the Youth Forum, which had focused on: the formation of local young people's organizations, young people's municipal councils and messengers of truth initiatives; local peace initiatives led by young people; involvement of young people in climate change; peer-to-peer HIV/AIDS initiatives led by young people; development of information and communications technology applications; provision of skills training centres for young people; projects and programmes to support young migrants; and initiatives to improve safety in urban areas. In conclusion, she requested all Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to support the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development and to provide for representatives of young people to participate in urban development.

Mr. Qi stressed that the current world needed understanding, participation, accommodation and harmonious urbanization, which reflected humanity's common values. Mr. Hongkun said that it was important to explore new frontiers and topics to promote harmonious urbanization, which was a common pursuit around the world.

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

The Executive Director reported that some 7,900 people, half of them from China and the other half from over 80 countries, had participated in the event. She praised all participants for their new ideas and concepts to support the development of harmonious cities and cited the example of the host city, Nanjing, which embodied the Chinese philosophy of harmony and was achieved by a combination of enabling policies, empowered local authorities and good planning. She recounted some of the key topics discussed at the Forum and in terms of new ideas and approaches, she cited the following: responsibility for shelter and services against a background of a global financial crisis; inclusion of the urban poor; the contribution that good planning governance and gender make to a better urban future; and the need for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In conclusion, the Executive Director promised that the new ideas presented at the Forum would be integrated into UN-Habitat strategies and programmes and that the issues would be presented to the UN-Habitat Governing Council at its session in April 2009.

Nanjing Call for Harmonious Urbanization

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