HABITAT III PREPARATIONS
TOWARDS A NEW URBAN AGENDA
Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

The Conference welcomes the participation of all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

Habitat III will be the first UN global summit after the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and, hopefully, a new climate change agreement.
The United Nations General Assembly convened the Habitat I conference in Vancouver in 1976, as governments began to recognize the need for sustainable human settlements and the consequences of rapid urbanization, especially in the developing world.

At that time, urbanization and its impacts were barely considered by the international community, but the world was starting to witness the greatest and fastest migration of people into cities and towns in history as well as rising urban population through natural growth resulting from advances in medicine.

Main outcomes:

// Recognition that shelter and urbanization are global issues to be addressed collectively

// Creation of the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)

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The Vancouver commitments were reconfirmed twenty years later, at the Habitat II conference in Istanbul.

World leaders adopted the Habitat Agenda as a global plan of action for adequate shelter for all, with the notion of sustainable human settlements driving development in an urbanizing world.

Main outcomes:

// Cities are the engines of global growth

// Urbanization is an opportunity

// Call for a stronger role of local authorities

// Recognition of the power of participation

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Forty years later…

// There is a wide consensus that the towns and cities structure, form and functionality need to change as societies change.

// The legacy of the city of the twentieth century, in terms of spatial pattern, is growth outside their boundaries to satellite or dormitory towns and suburban neighborhoods.

// Cities have continued to expand outwards beyond their peri-urban areas, often due to weak urban planning, poor urban management, land regulation crises, and real estate speculation factors.

// In 2010, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) reported that more than 827 million people were living in slum-like conditions.

// It is now well understood that slums are a spontaneous form of urbanization, consisting of a series of survival strategies by the urban poor, most borne out of poverty and exclusion.

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WORLD URBAN POPULATION 37.9%

WORLD URBAN POPULATION 45.1%
Cities today occupy approximately only 2% of the total land, however:

- Economy (GDP) 70%
- Global energy consumption over 60%
- Green gas emissions 70%
- Global waste 70%

“Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost”
HLP 2013

It is becoming more and more clear that achievements on Sustainable development will depend on how we will manage and guide the urbanization
HABITAT III EFFORTS

Member States of the GA, in resolution 67/216, decided that
the objective of the Conference is

// To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable
urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address
poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges.

// The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-
looking and action-oriented outcome document.

A CONFERENCE FOR RETHINKING
THE URBAN AGENDA

// Embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements, more
appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space,
bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in
addressing challenges through national and local development policy
frameworks.

// Integrating equity to the development agenda. Equity becomes an issue of
social justice, ensures access to the public sphere, extends opportunities and
increases the commons.

// Fostering national urban planning and planned city extensions.

// Deciding how relevant sustainable development goals will be supported
through sustainable urbanization.

// Aligning and strengthening institutional arrangements with the substantive
outcomes of Habitat III, so as to ensure effective delivery of the new Urban
Agenda.

// Revising and renewing UN-Habitat’s mandate to ensure that it is fit for
purpose. UN-Habitat is ready to join efforts with Governments and Habitat
Agenda partners to promote a new model of urban development for the
twenty-first century.
KEY ELEMENTS FOR A NEW URBAN AGENDA

KEY ELEMENTS to be considered at Habitat III
To create a pattern of sustainable urban development fostering a new model of city

✓ National Urban Policy. Establishing a connection between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development (20-30 years or more);

✓ Laws, institutions and systems of governance. Creating the normative basis of action, operational principles, organizational structures, institutional and societal relationships underlying the process of urbanization;

✓ Urban economy. While there is a strong positive correlation between economic growth and urbanization, this potential relationship is not spontaneous and self generating. Habitat III could be the means to guide a robust urban economic development;

Other operational factors to maximize the advantages of the urbanization process:
 a) Urban Planning  b) Local fiscal systems  c) Investment in urban basic services
TOWARDS a... Sustainable Prosperous Equitable Just Equal Safe CITY
Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

// Only a UN conference has the convening power to bring together the needed actors to achieve global goals. Solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization can only be found by bringing together member states, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector, civil society.

// Habitat III will guarantee outcomes take place within the global development Agenda (SDGs framework). It stands to be the first implementing conference of the Post-2015 agenda.

// An inter-governmental process links results with national legislation.

// A successful UN conference can provide a tremendous boost and ownership to implementation.
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

Growing recognition of urbanization reflected in global frameworks for sustainable global development

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

HABITAT I 1976
Brundtland Report

HABITAT II 1987
MDG Adoption

STANBUL + 5 1996
MDG: Poverty eradication and environmental sustainability

HABITAT III PREPCOM 1 2000
Target 1: Improve the lives of slum dwellers

ISTANBUL + 5 2001

HABITAT III PREPCOM 1 2002
WSSD Joburg

HABITAT III PREPCOM 2 2012
World Summit on Sustainable Development: Agenda 21-Sanitation incorporated within the key priorities

HABITAT III PREPCOM 3 2014
"...if well planned and developed incl. through integrated planning and management approaches cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies."

HABITAT III OCT. 2016
Post 2015 Dev. Agenda / Development Agenda / SDGs: Possibility of a stand alone urban goal
ROADMAP TOWARDS HABITAT III (2014 - 2016)

- **Engagement Urban Solutions**
- **Engagement Building Consensus**
- **Knowledge Monitoring and research**
- **Policy Commitment and action**

**WORLD URBAN FORUM 7**
- Medellin in April 2014

**NATIONAL URBAN FORUMS**
- World Urban Campaign
  - "The City, We Need" March 2014
  - World Urban Campaign
    - "Urban Thinkers Campaign" Quito, October 2014

**WORLD URBAN FORUM 8**
- 2016

**WORLD URBAN FORUM 9**
- Kuala Lumpur 2018

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP SURVEY**

**First PrepCom**
- 17-18 Sept 2014

**Second PrepCom**
- 14-16 April 2015

**Third PrepCom**
- 2016

**Habitat III**
- 2016

**The New Urban Agenda**
- 2016/2036

**NATIONAL REPORTS**

**REGIONAL REPORTS**

**GLOBAL REPORTS**

**HIGH LEVEL REGIONAL AND THEMATIC MEETINGS**

**POLICY UNITS**

**FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT**

**HABITAT III IMPLEMENTATION AND NEW EMERGING ISSUES**
Provisional Agenda
Provisional Agenda for PrepCom2
14-16 April 2015

The agenda of the second session of the Preparatory Committee will be adopted at the opening meeting on 14 April 2015.

The provisional agenda is as follows:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work
4. Preparations for the Conference
5. Organizational matters
6. Progress to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the New Urban Agenda
7. Arrangements for the third session of the Preparatory Committee
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the work of its second session
10. Conclusion of the session

Official meetings will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Side events

14-16 April 2015

Side Events provide a platform for governments, civil society organizations, private sector, community representatives, international and national organizations, academia, international and regional finance Institutions, and other United Nations entities to debate, showcase or present their views on sustainable urban development, as well as specific projects.

Side Events will be held on 14, 15 and 16 April 2015 during the following times:

• 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
• 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
• 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Call for Side Events was open on 28 January 2015 and the deadline is 1 March 2015.

All applicants will be informed on the outcome of the selection process by 15 March 2015.
Parallel events
11-16 April 2015

Beside side events, a number of other high-level events will also take place within and outside the United Nations venue organized by governments or stakeholders and revolving around the theme of sustainable urban development.

Programmes and projects, as well as global and regional networks of partners will take the opportunity to meet and advance in the debate on the New Urban Agenda during PrepCom2.

The General Assembly of Partners will meet on Monday 13 April 2015.

Other events will take place during the weekend.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day 1 (14 April)</th>
<th>Day 2 (15 April)</th>
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Participation

The PrepCom2 is open to the following:

• All States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
• Representatives of the interested organs of the United Nations;
• Representatives of intergovernmental organizations;
• Accredited stakeholders; among them parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector;
• Media accredited by the United Nations.

Deadline for NVs from Member States:
13 April 2015

Consult the letter of convocation here
LDCs countries

Funding will be made available from the Habitat III Trust Fund for **one representative** from Least Developed Countries to participate in the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

Deadline for submissions are 13 March 2015.

Contact habitat3secretariat@un.org

- Consult the letter of convocation for the LDCs countries [here](#).
- Also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).
- See [annex](#) on instructions.
Stakeholders

In its resolution 69/226, the General Assembly emphasized the importance on wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements; as well as called upon member states to ensure effective participation in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself of local governments and all other stakeholders.

Which stakeholders can participate?

1. Organizations in consultative status with the ECOSOC.
2. Organizations that were accredited in Habitat II.
3. Organizations that will be accredited in the post-2015 summit.
4. Organizations requesting special accreditation, subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus.

- Consult the list of organizations with ECOSOC status [here](#).
- Consult the list of organizations accredited to the Habitat II Conference in 1996 [here](#).
Organizational matters
Draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference


The draft provisional rules of procedure have been prepared on the basis of the provisional rules of procedure of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/CONF.165/2), the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (A/CONF.224/PC(I)/3), the provisional rules of procedure on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.216/2) and the rules of procedure of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.223/2).
Arrangements for accreditation and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

In its resolution 69/226, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements and called upon Member States to ensure the effective participation in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself of local governments and all other stakeholders.

Same resolution established modalities on stakeholders’ participation.
Topics for discussion
Guiding Questions

- What is your vision for the New Urban Agenda? Which are the key aspects to be considered?

- The New Urban Agenda should be focused on implementation. Which would be your priorities for action?

- What formulations can you provide to help guide actions on the proposed areas of work of the New Urban Agenda (see Issue Papers and Policy Matrix)?

- As a national government, how will you support implementation of voluntary and concrete commitments in your country? What types of mechanisms will help in the design and implementation of those commitments?

- Can regional and local governments accelerate and promote implementation of national strategies?

- There is increasing recognition of the importance of having national urban policies as a key element for sustainable urban development. How can the creation and implementation of national urban policies be promoted?

- Is there a system of information sufficiently robust to ensure accountability in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda? How can we ensure coherence with the Post 2015 Development Agenda process?

- How can stakeholders be part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda?

- In your view, how should we regularly review the implementation of the New Urban Agenda after 2016?
Issue papers / Policy Units
## ISSUE PAPERS AND POLICY UNITS MATRIX

### THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>ISSUE PAPERS</th>
<th>POLICY UNITS</th>
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| **1. Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities** | 1. Inclusive cities (a.o. Pro-poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing)  
2. Migration and refugees in urban areas  
3. Safer Cities  
4. Urban Culture and Heritage | 1. Right to the City and Cities for All  
2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework |
| **2. Urban Frameworks**                    | 5. Urban Rules and Legislation  
6. Urban Governance  
4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development  
5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems |
| **3. Spatial Development**                 | 8. Urban and Spatial Planning and Design  
9. Urban Land  
10. Urban-rural linkages  
| **4. Urban Economy**                       | 12. Local Economic Development  
13. Jobs and Livelihoods  
| **5. Urban Ecology and Environment**       | 15. Urban Resilience  
17. Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management | 8. Urban Ecology and Resilience |
| **6. Urban Housing and Basic Services**    | 18. Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including energy  
19. Transport and Mobility  
20. Housing  
21. Smart Cities  
10. Housing Policies |

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The table above outlines the key areas and related issue papers and policy units as part of the New Urban Agenda, emphasizing inclusive cities, socio-cultural urban frameworks, spatial development strategies, economic development, urban ecology, and housing services, among others. Each area is expanded with specific issue papers and aligned with corresponding policy units to provide a comprehensive approach to urban development and sustainability.
Regional/thematic meetings
CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Regional and thematic meetings for the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development which will take place in 2016. In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene, the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

The General Assembly in resolution 67/216 decided that the objective of the Conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges. And that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document.

The Conference welcomes the participation and contributions of all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

As part of the preparatory process for Habitat III, several regional and thematic meetings will be organized from May 2015 to February 2016.

Why regional and thematic meetings?

Since 2009, the majority of the world’s population lives in cities. Today, urban areas are a living combination of history, civilization, diversity and culture. Urbanization has been a force that has changed almost everything: ways of thinking and acting, ways of using space, lifestyles, social and economic relations, and consumption and production patterns. Cities, as economic and productive innovation spaces, provide opportunities for improving access to resources and services, as well as options in the social, legal, economic, cultural and environmental fields. Urbanization has ushered in economic growth, development and prosperity for many.
However, cities are also spaces where multidimensional poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to disasters and the impact of climate change are present. Today, more than two thirds of the global population lives in cities with greater levels of inequality than 20 years ago.

In this context, the preparatory process should encourage inputs from a variety of perspectives and different regions to ensure an inclusive and focused discussion on sustainable urban development.

**Expression of interest**

Member States, local organizations or other institutions wishing to express their interest in officially hosting a regional or thematic meeting for the preparatory process towards Habitat III are required to send an official communication to the Habitat III Secretariat, at Habitat3Secretariat@un.org, before 15 February 2015 (for details please refer to bid process and time frame)

**Bid process and time frame**

1. Call for expression of interest published (December 2014)
2. Deadline for receiving expressions of interest (15 February 2015)
3. Follow up with the potential hosts (expressions of interest received) (before 28 February)
4. Bid evaluation announcement of regional and thematic meetings (March 2015)
5. Starting of preparations and Cooperation agreements with Habitat III Secretariat (March-April 2015)

**Financial contribution**

To host any regional or thematic meeting of the preparatory process for Habitat III, a cash contribution to Habitat III Trust Fund of between 500,000 USD and 1,000,000 USD is required. The total contribution needs to take into consideration the dimension of the event in terms of participants, scope and other criteria such as travel costs or number of LDCs representatives attending.

The financial contribution mentioned above does not include the direct costs of hosting the event, including the venue (conference facilities), registration and accreditation, interpretation services for the main sessions, operational and logistical needs with respective human resources at the venue, as this will be separately and dealt with in the host country agreement.

The contribution will cover costs including (but not limited to) travel costs of LDCs representatives, as well as NGOs and other relevant stakeholders’ participation, members of the bureau, UN staff, Secretariat’s support, and promotional activities from Habitat III Secretariat.
To bid for a regional and thematic meeting for the preparatory process of Habitat III interested countries/institutions/organizations must answer the questions provided on the bid questionnaire below.

**Required Documents**

The bid proposal must contain the completed bid questionnaire and must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Official letter from the National Government, through the respective Ministry, endorsing the bid of the Member State, local organization or other institution for hosting a regional or thematic meeting of the Preparatory Process for Habitat III, indicating its willingness to support the expression of interest.

2. Letter from the National Government, local organization or other institution confirming the financial cash contribution to Habitat III Trust Fund, seen as addition to in-kind contribution to preparing and hosting the meeting, as well as its commitment to sign the Conference Agreement within 1 month after the regional or thematic meeting has been selected and announced.

3. Contact details of the team responsible for the bid proposal that would act as a focal point of the organization/institution.

In case of further questions, please, contact the Habitat III Secretariat
Habitat3Secretariat@un.org / Telephone: +1 (212) 963 8179

For more information on Habitat III: www.unhabitat.org/habitat-iii
Bid Questionnaire

To host a regional and thematic meeting for the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

1. Motivation & Vision
   1.1 Why do you want to host a regional or thematic meeting?
   1.2 What is your vision for the regional or thematic meeting? Explain how your vision for regional or thematic meeting fits into the preparations for Habitat III.
   1.3 Which objectives and outcomes are you aiming for?
   1.4 Which theme would you propose for the meeting?
   1.5 Which dates would you propose for the meeting?

2. Host country & Sustainable Urbanization
   2.1 What is your country’s policy approach towards sustainable urbanization? Please list your city’s and country’s achievements in the last five years.
   2.2 How can hosting a regional or thematic meeting in your country contribute to sustainable urbanization and Habitat III?
   2.3 What benefits would hosting a regional or thematic meeting bring to your city and to Habitat III?
   2.4 Which institutions working and contributing to advance on sustainable urbanization are based in your city and/or country?
   2.5 What legacy do you expect or would you like the regional/thematic meeting to leave to your country?

3. Participation, Inclusiveness and Innovation
   3.1. Which types of organizations/institutions are you aiming to invite to participate in the regional/thematic meeting? How many participants do you expect?
   3.2. How are you planning to ensure there is inclusiveness in terms of regional representation, gender/age balance or stakeholders participation in the event?
   3.3. Explain at least two innovative proposals that you will implement in the event to ensure the outcome is concise, focus-oriented to contribute as an input to the New Urban Agenda
Practical Information
Delegations

- NVs with members of the Delegation before 13 March 2015
- LDCs to communicate the delegate to be covered by the Habitat III Trust Fund
- Official documentation six weeks before the opening of the PrepCom
- List of speakers (statements 3 minutes)
- Accreditation/badge from 10 April 2015
- Vehicles accreditation
- Seating arrangements (1+1)
- Distribution of documents (paper smart)
- Booking of rooms for regional groups or bilaterals
- Exhibition area
- Webstreaming of plenary sessions
- Legacy project – interview schedule -

☑ Consult the practical information here
Outreach and Communications
Habitat III Visual Identity

Habitat III visual identity is created from the basis of city patterns, which strengthens the relationship between the image and the rational of the Conference.

A selection of ten city patterns will provide the graphic elements and colors. As a city, the essence of Habitat III image is flexible and modular, but it is consistent in design.

You can consult the brand manual here.
FAQs on Habitat III

In order to facilitate basic information on Habitat III Conference and its preparatory process, a document with ten questions and answers have been created.

Consult document here.
Press conference on 26 January 2015

Presentation of Quito 2016

By the Minister of Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

Access to the press kit here.
Organigram
United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Organigram (by 26 January 2015)

Executive Office
(1) SG (RB) (Seconded)
(1) DSG (RB) (Recruitment finished, waiting for approval from Secretary-General Office)
(1) P3 Special assistant (XB) (seconded by UN-Habitat)
(2) G7 (RB) (Recruitment finished)

Global Coordination
(1) P5 Secretariat Coordinator (XB) (Seconded by UN-Habitat)
(2) Consultants Coordination Unit (XB) (Recruited)
(1) P3 Programme and Planning (XB) (Seconded by UN-Habitat)

Operations
(1) P4 Programme Management Officer (XB) (Recruited)
(1) G7 Programme Management Assistant (RB) (Recruited)

Knowledge
(1) P4 Consultants Regional Report Coordination (RB) (Recruitment in last stage)
(6) P4 Consultants National Reports (RB) (Recruitment in last stage)

Engagement
(1) Consultant Advocacy Strategy (XB) (Recruited)
(1) Consultant Arts and Design (XB) (Recruited)
(1) Consultant Outreach and Communications (XB) (Recruitment in last stage)

There have been negotiations with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations for Project Operations (UNOPS) to support the Habitat III Secretariat in terms of recruitment. Negotiations started in October 2014 and are nearly at their last stage.

Next recruitments will be based on funds from Regional and Thematic meetings, as well as Policy Units (both in Policy).