Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director

Addendum

Report of the second session of the World Urban Forum

1. The second session of the World Urban Forum was convened by the Executive Director in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004. The report of the session is contained in chapters I–IV below.

2. The recommendations of the Executive Director, based on the deliberations at the second session and the resulting conclusions, on, in particular, the nine dialogues which were held in Barcelona, are contained in document HSP/GC/20/2/Add.1.

* HSP/GC/20/1.
Executive summary

The second session of the World Urban Forum on the theme “Cities: Crossroads of Cultures, Inclusiveness and Integration?” was convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004. The Forum was held during the Universal Forum of Cultures, an international event to celebrate cultural diversity, sustainable development and a culture of peace. A total of 4,400 delegates, representing national Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and a range of Habitat Agenda partners participated in the plenary sessions, nine dialogue sessions and over 100 networking events.

At the opening ceremony, world leaders and mayors warned that rapid urbanization was one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the new millennium. Many speakers at the opening plenary called for more backing for local authorities from the United Nations system and from Governments. The meeting called for a renewed drive for decentralization and expressed concern that millions of people in cities around the world still lacked access to safe water and sanitation, health care, education, shelter and security of tenure. Political will and commitments to resolve issues related to the provision of basic services in human settlements, cultural integration and security were highlighted. Speakers reiterated the importance of the Millennium Declaration as an important development framework for the global community and noted that for the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved, more action would be required at the local level in cities and towns.

Speakers at the opening plenary meeting highlighted that the first session of the World Urban Forum had focused on three fundamental issues relating to sustainable urbanization: poverty alleviation, gender balance and good governance. By focusing on issues related to inclusiveness and integration, the second Forum stressed the important task facing a globalizing world of preparing to live in a multicultural society. Speakers also noted that the theme of the second session of the World Urban Forum emphasized cities as the crossroads of cultures and that, despite some outstanding examples of cultural pluralism in cities, there was still no agreement on how to approach the fundamental issues of multiethnic and multicultural societies in an increasingly globalizing and urbanizing world.

Dialogue: The second session of the World Urban Forum was organized around four Partners’ dialogues focusing on the following topics: urban cultures; urban realities; urban governance; and urban renaissance.

The dialogue on urban cultures looked into how cities are responding to the globalization of cultures and how culture can be used in the planning, design and management of cities. The core message of the dialogue was the importance of urban cultural integration and inclusion. The discussion looked into the ways in which culture, in the context of globalization, is influencing social and economic patterns and processes within cities all over the world. Other issues highlighted were the overall effects of globalization on urban culture, including the consequences of international migration and how cities around the world are using culture as a central component of urban development strategies. It was emphasized that urban policies and programmes should be designed in such a way that they preserve urban cultural heritage while closely involving local communities. The legal, institutional and technological ramifications of promoting urban cultures were also emphasized.

The dialogue on urban realities examined some outstanding policies and legislation in implementing the Habitat Agenda and in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Cases from Brazil, China, Morocco, Philippines and South Africa were presented to underscore that there is no blueprint for addressing urban poverty. However, the need for commitment at the national level and empowerment at the local level was underscored. Emphasis was placed on promoting partnerships and fostering broad-based participation of stakeholders. The use of proper tools for implementation was emphasized, as was the need for continuous review of such tools to ensure that they match changing realities.

The issues of inclusive participation and the empowerment of civil society in urban governance were further explored in the dialogue on urban governance. The promotion of participatory and inclusive systems of local governance has proved to be an effective means of enhancing efficiency of urban management, overcoming negative consequences of social diversities, and overcoming problems of urban poverty. There are a number of tools and methods which have been developed and adopted that
maximize the benefits of inclusive governance and offset the opportunity cost to the poor. It was noted that inclusion is guaranteed when every urban citizen has a “Right to the City”.

The relationship between the millennium development goals and processes of fostering inclusion and enhancing good urban governance was strongly emphasized by many speakers, both from the panel and from the audience. Fostering inclusiveness was viewed as a key strategy to achieving the millennium development goals, especially Goal 7, target 11, which commit Governments to improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Some panelists said that Goal 7, target 11 could not be realised without restructuring current financing arrangements for housing and sanitation at a macroeconomic level. They advocated a review of the conditionalities for debt finance and the establishment of a technically sound financial arrangement to bridge the gap between macroeconomic policy targets and millennium development goals targets and commitments.

The global movement towards decentralization and strengthening of local authorities was also examined. The dimensions of that process which were addressed included: power and responsibilities of local authorities; administrative relations – local autonomy; financial resources and capacity of local authorities; and local governance and democracy. The work of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED), which was established by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in March 2004, provided a background to the discussion and the debate highlighted the linkages between decentralization, democracy and participation. Citizen participation was highlighted as an integral part of decentralization. The discussion expressed the hope that the efforts currently being undertaken by various countries to promote decentralization would eventually bear fruit and it was stressed that the partnership between local government, the private sector and civil society was essential to the urbanization process.

The dialogues acknowledged the connection with the Universal Forum on Urban Cultures, particularly on the challenges of overcoming urban poverty and ensuring a sustainable urban future. It was noted that the real challenge was to have proper institutions to promote democratic governance, drawing on available human and technological resources within the locality.

The role of local governments as partners for development was examined by addressing modalities of improving urban governance through municipal international cooperation, decentralizing the millennium development goals to cities and promoting local democracy and decentralization. It was noted that urban governance is a local issue which also has national and international implications for the well-being of citizens. In furthering the commitment in working towards the promotion of local authorities, an agreement of cooperation between UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments was signed.

In addition to the Partners’ dialogues, five thematic dialogues were held focusing on urban poor; urban resources; urban sustainability; urban services and urban disasters and reconstruction.

The dialogue on urban poor: improving the lives of slum dwellers emphasized the need for monitoring the internationally-agreed target on slums and concluded that the collection and dissemination of reliable data about slum dwellers was an important way of “putting the urban poor on the map” in international and national development dialogues and engaging in sound poverty-reduction strategies. An important conclusion at the dialogue was that in-situ upgrading should be the norm through regularization of informal settlements and provision of security of tenure whereas forced evictions should avoided. Relocation should be used only in exceptional circumstances, such as slum settlements in hazardous locations. The Millennium Development Goal on improving the lives of slum dwellers should be understood not only as a commitment to improve the lives of existing slum dwellers, but also as a request to plan for the future of cities with the view to preventing slum formation. Mechanisms to make affordable land available to the urban poor should be designed and implemented. Legislation and affirmative actions need to be actually implemented to ensure that women benefit from recognized rights and that the current disparities are effectively addressed.

The dialogue on urban resources: financing slum upgrading suggested that while there is an urgent need for more international aid targeted at slum upgrading, it is also important to design innovative strategies to mobilize domestic capital, including strengthening housing and microfinance institutions. The dialogue concluded that the establishment of property rights, transparency and public accountability are essential to urban development and revitalization. Panelists highlighted that slum dwellers are a resource and that drawing them into the formal economy, particularly through home ownership, contributes to both economic productivity and responsible citizenship. Women’s micro
credit groups in particular have demonstrated excellent credit histories with financial institutions and
proved that the urban poor are bankable. Governments should engage in a continuing effort to establish
conditions which stimulate the private sector to operate in a way that benefits the maximum number of
citizens and leverage private sector resources and skills to the maximum in meeting the needs of needy
citizens.

The dialogue on urban sustainability highlighted scaling up and capitalizing on local
Agenda 21 experience to the national level. A worldwide network of local Agenda 21 experiences
should be enhanced to stimulate local-to-local exchange, while at the same time facilitating hands-on
capacity-building “apprenticeships” in towns and cities. Participatory urban decision-making was still
very much needed in order to overcome the lack of enabling local urban governance and the exclusion
of particular groups in society. At the city level, eco-budgeting should be promoted worldwide as a
generic, local, modular system for better management of the local environmental resource base and
protection against hazards. To build lasting, local-level capacities for the implementation of multilateral
environmental agreements and other global principles and environmental topics, it was important to
engage intermunicipal organizations as partners.

The dialogue on urban services: water and sanitation – getting the private sector to work
for the urban poor emphasized that the private sector does not only relate to large multinational water
and sanitation companies, but also to local domestic companies, small-scale vendors and
community-based initiatives. More efforts must to be directed to creating partnerships within that group
to get the private sector to work for all users, including the urban poor. Under a pro-poor urban water
and sanitation governance framework, key elements which should be addressed are pro-poor policies,
pricing mechanisms, risk control, fair and transparent negotiations and contracts and access to finance
and texts of regulations. The dialogue also urged partners to develop a good and reliable information
base on water and sanitation access by the poorer communities.

The urban disasters and reconstruction dialogue debated the establishment of a permanent
link between emergency relief and the transitional phase of development, including disaster-risk
reduction. The discussion underscored the importance of disaster-risk reduction as a foundation for
sustainable development of urban settlements. It was emphasized that disaster-risk reduction policies
should be integrated into all poverty-reduction and development policies, be cross-sectoral, thus
complementing the overall concept of sustainable relief. In particular, disaster-risk reduction must be
included in the local-government agenda, using participatory processes as a key vehicle for
implementation UN-Habitat concept of sustainable relief, developed out of the recognized need to
address relief efforts within the framework of longer-term development strategies, was appreciated.
Sustainable relief implies assistance which is focused on the longer-term requirements of an entire
population while equally addressing the emergency needs of the few. Equally, it entails developing a
culture of prevention in which all actors can play an active role in mitigating the effects of disasters and
conflicts.

The closing session of the Forum was addressed was addressed by a number of dignitaries.
Apart from paying tribute to UN-Habitat and the city of Barcelona for the success of the Forum,
speakers reiterated the key challenges facing a rapidly urbanizing world and the need to reaffirm the
global commitments which have been made, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. The need
to devote more attention to combating the HIV-AIDS pandemic, to eliminate gender disparities and to
ensure the involvement of youth was emphasized. It was noted that the third session of the World Urban
Forum would mark the thirtieth anniversary of the first Habitat conference, which led to the creation of
UN-Habitat. It would build on the successes of Nairobi and Barcelona and would be inclusive of all
countries, cultures and people of the world. Most importantly, the next Forum, to be held in Vancouver
in 2006, would showcase a range of different challenges and meaningful solutions while recognizing
the diversity of our situations. In the final statement, the host country’s Minister of Housing described the
second session of the World Urban Forum as a “jewel in the crown” of the Universal Forum of Cultures
held in Barcelona.
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I. Introduction

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

II. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

2. The second session of the World Urban Forum was attended by 4,389 participants. The table below outlines the category of participant based on those 2,522 who indicated their affiliation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of partner</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Government</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Local authority</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Non-governmental organization</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV United Nations (excluding UN-Habitat)</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V Parliamentarian</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI Professional and research institution</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII Private sector</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII Foundation</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX Media</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X UN-Habitat</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI Other</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants who did not indicate affiliation</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of participants</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,389</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

(a) B. Opening of the session

4. The second session of the World Urban Forum was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004. The session was opened on 13 September 2004 at 10 a.m. by the outgoing Chair, Ms. Sankie D.Mthembi-Mahanyele, the former Minister of Housing of South Africa, who welcomed participants to the Forum. A summary of her opening remarks is provided in annex III below.

5. Statements were delivered by, or on behalf of, the following dignitaries:

   (a) Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities;

   (b) Mr. Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands;
(c) Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India;

(d) Mr. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities of Brazil and Co-chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum;

(e) Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals;

(f) Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(g) Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr. Annan’s message was read on his behalf by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA);

(h) Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland;

(i) Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

(j) Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon;

(k) Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain and Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum;

(l) Mr. Pasqual Maragall, President of the Generalitat Catalonia, who also inaugurated the second session of the World Urban Forum.

6. In addition, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka, delivered a statement. She then presented the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour to Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, for his exemplary work in the reconstruction of Lebanon. This was followed by a short documentary film on the reconstruction of Lebanon.

7. Summaries of the above-mentioned speeches are provided in annex III to the present report.

C. Adoption of the agenda

8. At its first plenary meeting, the Forum adopted the following agenda for its second session:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Establishment of an advisory group for the second session of the World Urban Forum.
3. Organization of work.
4. Partners’ dialogues:
   (a) Urban cultures;
   (b) Urban realities;
   (c) Urban governance;
   (d) Urban renaissance.
5. Thematic dialogues:
   (e) Urban poor;
   (f) Urban resources;
   (g) Urban sustainability;
   (h) Urban services;
   (i) Urban disasters and reconstruction.
7. Adoption of the report of the session.

D. Establishment of an advisory group

9. At the request of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Chair of the second session of the World Urban Forum, announced the names of the members of the Advisory Group for the second session of the World Urban Forum. The terms of reference of the Advisory Group were to advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of all the meetings and events held during the second session of the Forum. The members of the Advisory Group were the following:

(a) Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain, who served as co-chair of both the second session of the World Urban Forum and of the Advisory Group;
(b) Mr. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities of Brazil, who served as co-chair of both the second session of the Forum and of the Advisory Group;
(c) Mr. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada, and representative of the host Government for the third session of the World Urban Forum;
(d) Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America;
(e) Mr. Allan Lloyd, founding President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG);
(f) Mr. Clarence Anthony, Treasurer of UCLG and Mayor of South Bay, Florida, United States of America;
(g) Mr. A.M. Farvorski, Principal Architect of the Moscow Region Institute;
(h) Mr. Alejandro Florian Borbon, representative of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC);
(i) Ms. Irene von Ofen, Chair of the Habitat Professionals Forum and President of the International Federation for Planning and Housing (IFHP);
(j) Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru, National Coordinator, Kenya Chapter of Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) International;
(k) Ms. Bridget Majola, Youthlink Organization.

E. Organization of work

10. The Forum adopted the organization of work proposed by the Executive Director in document HSP/WUF/2/1/Add.1, on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, which contained logistical arrangements for the nine dialogues, and documents HSP/WUF/2/INF/1 and HSP/WUF/2/INF/2, which contained, respectively, the programme for the networking events and other special events and information on the exhibition.

(b) F. Keynote speakers

11. Statements were delivered by, or on behalf of, the following keynote speakers at the first plenary meeting:

(a) Mr. Syed Zahid Hussain, chair of the Nairobi chapter of the Group of 77 and China and member of the Board of the Huairou Commission;
(b) Ms. Erna Solberg, Minister for Local Government and Regional Development of Norway
(c) Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America;
(d) Mr. Sören Häggroth, co-chair of the first session of the World Urban Forum;

(e) Mr. Koos Richele, Director-General of Europe Aid, European Union. Mr. Richele’s statement was read by Mr. Franco Nicora, Head of the Relations with Donors and International Organizations Unit;

(f) Mr. Donald L. Plusquellic, President of the United States Conference of Mayors and Mayor of Akron, Ohio;

(g) Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General of UCLG;

(h) Mr. Arputham Jockin, President of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India.

12. Summaries of these speeches are provided in annex IV to the present report.

G. Reports to plenary

13. A report was given at the second meeting of plenary on the presentation made to the Forum at its second session on the results and conclusions of the dialogues organized at the Universal Forum of Cultures which were of relevance to the dialogues to be held at the second session. A copy of the report is contained in annex V to the present report.

14. A report on the proceedings of the third plenary meeting, organized in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), is contained in annex VI to the present report.

H. Partner dialogues

15. The summaries by the chairs of the partners dialogues are provided in annex I to the present report.

I. Thematic dialogues

16. The summaries by the chairs of the thematic dialogues are provided in annex II to the present report.

III. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the third session of the World Urban Forum

17. As stipulated in paragraph 11 of the objectives of, and working arrangements for, the World Urban Forum, which were adopted by the Forum at its first session, the provisional agenda for each session of the Forum is to be prepared by the secretariat in consultation with national Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, at least six months in advance of the session. Accordingly, and in accordance with the provisions of that paragraph, the secretariat will consult, prepare and circulate the provisional agenda for the third session at least six months in advance of the session.

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

IV. Closure of the session

19. A painting made by Chinese children at the World Urban Forum Youth Camp in Barcelona was presented to the Forum. The Chair, Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka, received the painting on behalf of the Forum.
At the closure of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, statements were made by, or on behalf of, the following:

(a) Mr. Nicephore Soglo, former President of Benin and current Mayor of Cotonou, Benin;

(b) Mr. John W. Ashe, chair-designate of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) Mr. Clarence Anthony, representative of local authorities;

(d) Ms. Narelle Townsend, representative of civil society organizations;

(e) Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru, representative of women’s groups;

(f) Mr. Andreas Bluthner, representative of the private sector and professionals;

(g) Mr. Shamiel Adams, representative of youth;

(h) Mr. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada;

(i) Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Deputy Minister of Construction of China. Mr. Liu’s statement was read by Ms. Zhao Wenhua, member of the Chinese delegation;

(j) Ms. Anna K. Tibajjuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

(k) Mr. Joan Clos, President of the Forum Barcelona 2004 and Mayor of Barcelona

(l) Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Chair of the second session of the World Urban Forum and Minister of Housing of Spain.
Annex I

Reports on partner dialogues

The summaries by the chairs, provided below in annexes I and II, are designed to summarize the main issues and objectives raised during the presentations and discussions. These summaries have been endorsed by the respective chairs as an accurate reflection of what transpired in the dialogues. The chairs have made it clear that these reports are not expected to reflect a consensus, merely the views of a number of speakers and partners, views not necessarily shared by all the participants.

I. Dialogue on urban cultures

Tuesday, 14 September

Panellists:

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

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

A. Issues

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

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

3. The purpose of the dialogue was to discuss how cities are responding to the globalization of cultures and how culture can be used in the planning, design and management of cities. The core message of the dialogue was the importance of urban cultural integration and inclusion.

B. Debate

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

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

6. It was also indicated that cities all over the world are using culture as a central component of urban development strategies that are designed to capitalize on the economic benefits of globalization, including the redevelopment and global branding of cities as centres of culture, cultural heritage preservation and cultural heritage tourism, as well as support for creative urban cultural industries.
7. The ways in which globalization is likely to shape urban culture in the future were highlighted, as were some of the key issues with which planners and managers of what are termed “globalizing cities” have to contend, including planning and managing “cities of difference” that can peacefully and productively integrate diverse cultures.

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

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

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

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

12. The importance of promoting urban culture that embraces new technology was also stressed. In this context, it was pointed out that the governance structure of cities should undergo certain adjustments in the light of cultural change and diversity. Also highlighted was the importance of preserving cultural heritage in the planning, design and management of cities.

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

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

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

C. Emerging issues for consideration

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

- While the subject of culture has in the past not featured in discussions on urban development, it is clear that this is no longer the case and the focus placed by UN-Habitat on this subject at the Second World Urban Forum is a welcome development;

- Values and ethics are fundamental determinants of culture and should be included in any debate on globalization and urban culture. While recent advances in information and communication technology are very seductive, the so-called “virtual cities” of today should take a journey back to the “city of virtue” in order to understand their cultural roots;

- Culture should be seen as a field of action and as a continuing process in which values and ethics are transformed into action within the city;
While placing emphasis on what unites urban residents culturally, urban governance should also recognize the importance of diversity in enhancing the participation that is vital for sustainable and inclusive urbanization;

Although there is a danger that culture within cities may become too commercialized, it should be recognized that culture does have an economic value and that this value is important in the building of cities;

Because culture involves both a sense of history and deeply felt emotions of belonging, we should recognize that the importance of culture for urban governance partly derives from its political force;

If urban planning is to be able to address the issue of diversity within cities, the profession should intensify its efforts to become more inclusive and multi-disciplinary;

Frameworks at local, national and international levels – in the fields of law or trade, for example – are very important as channels through which the diverse cultural voices of cities can be expressed and empowered. Current frameworks will need to be re-examined in this light.

II. Urban realities: outstanding policies and legislation in implementing the Habitat Agenda and attaining the Millennium Development Goals

Tuesday, 14 September and Wednesday, 15 September

Panellists:

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

A. Issues

1. This dialogue was organized to share experience in the implementation of six outstanding policies and pieces of legislation. The cases were selected to reflect geographic and thematic diversity, but were also included because of their outstanding commitment to social justice and improved governance. The six cases are set out in the following paragraphs.

2. **Morocco:** In Tetuan, Morocco, as in many developing countries, metropolitan authorities lack the appropriate instruments to link administrative decisions with physical planning and the planning of infrastructure, services and socio-economic development. Each municipality operates according to its own perceived priorities and needs. This often results in inequitable access to or provision of basic services, and general inefficiencies and lack of productivity. The metropolitan city development strategy is an innovative planning process for cities, inclusive and responsive to demand. The Tetuan Metropolitan city development strategy is a good example of how the use of instruments that link physical, social, economic and environmental planning and management within a participatory process that involves all stakeholders can be particularly effective in reducing urban poverty and stimulating local economic development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### B. Debate

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

10. The need to build the capacity of local governments to deal with an expanded mandate in many related areas was emphasized. It was pointed out that there is often a mismatch at local level between mandate on the one hand and resources and capacity on the other. Sometimes competition between national and local governments, and between large and small towns, affects the ability of local governments to retain qualified personnel. Owing to historical or other factors, there is also an unequal distribution of resources among cities. The challenge of implementing socially responsible, public-private partnerships was also highlighted. Other challenges to the implementation of good policies include: lack of political will; inadequate resources (human, financial, technological); and lack of awareness among the intended beneficiaries as to the value of certain laws and policies, and the responsibilities of citizens.

C. Lessons and conclusions

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

12. Development of modern, innovative planning instruments and methodologies based on wide-ranging participation on the part of stakeholders would help in addressing the growing urban challenges. Beneficial policies and effective legislation start with political will and vision. This has to be supported and implemented by all the stakeholders and be subject to continuous monitoring and review. Institutional responsibilities and relationships must be clearly defined. Finally, appropriate tools for implementation must be developed and continuously reviewed to keep up with changing realities. Panellists lauded the efforts of UN-Habitat to document and disseminate positive urban policies.

III. Urban governance, part I: inclusiveness – too little or too much?

Thursday, 16 September

Panellists:

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

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/4 Civil society’s contribution to local urban governance

A. Issues

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

B. Debate

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

3. A number of key statements from the floor pertained to what is termed the “opportunity cost” of public participation, especially for the poor, and particularly in situations where the process of participation is lengthy and time-consuming. The issue of cost to cities, especially those in developing countries, was also discussed. The speakers agreed that it could never be too costly to engage citizens in a process that would affect their own lives, and that it was important to educate both leaders and citizens about the mechanisms of civic participation and their importance. It was agreed that this could result in more power being given to communities, which might alter the overall balance of power with regard to local leaders and politicians, but it was felt that this would be a desirable outcome. It was also noted that inclusive decision-making in which a wide range of people participated had the potential to create greater numbers of participating activists who, in turn, could produce a new generation of government and elected officials.

4. A few speakers also raised concerns about the influence of donor agencies on the structuring and activities of civil society organizations, which increasingly focused their efforts on the growing challenges in the areas of health, education, HIV/AIDS etc., rather than the wider issue of human settlements. Another challenge identified was that of involving middle-income urban communities, the middle-classes and the rich, who were increasingly indifferent to participating in public issues.

5. The relationship between the Millennium Development Goals and processes of fostering inclusiveness was strongly emphasized by many speakers, both on the panel and in the audience. Fostering inclusiveness was viewed as a key strategy to achieving the goals, especially goal 7, target 11, which aimed to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Some panellists said that goal 7, target 11, could not be realized without some restructuring of current financing arrangements for housing and sanitation at a macroeconomic level. They advocated a review of the conditionality for debt finance and the establishment of a technically sound financial arrangement to bridge the gap between macroeconomic policy targets and Millennium Development Goal targets and commitments. This view was endorsed by a number of participants.

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

C. Emerging issues for consideration

7. The following issues for further consideration emerged from the debate:

- The question at issue is not whether there is a need for inclusiveness or how significant it is as a concept; it is generally accepted that there is too little inclusiveness, rather than too much. The real issue is how to achieve inclusiveness in the urban context;
Inclusion does not imply abdication of responsibility by formal structures of government. There is a strong connection between inclusiveness and the structural conditions within which communities and their organizations operate, and governments must work to develop conditions that are conducive to inclusiveness;

The connections between inclusion, peace and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals need to be recognized. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals depends in part on the local political environment, whether it is one in which there are opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making through formal structures of democratic participation, or whether it is one which encourages direct collective mobilization and action;

Transparent and open decision-making processes are crucial to the promotion of inclusiveness. The creation of trust is equally important;

The challenge of engaging the poorest and most marginalized communities in the process of decision-making is the most critical issue to be considered and should be accorded top priority by national and local governments, civil society organizations and the donor community;

Cities need new ways to facilitate the implementation of decentralization principles. Local governments should therefore develop new incentives for decentralization initiatives, for extending awareness and for application of the practices.

III. Urban governance, part II: Empowering communities: is there a right way?

Thursday, 16 September

Panellists

1. Mr. Davinder Lamba, Director, Mazingira Institute, Kenya (Chair)
2. Mr. Akin Mabogunje, chair, Presidential Technical Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the Presidency, Nigeria
3. Mr. Pierre Sane, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
4. Ms. Vicenta Bosch i Palanca, Mayor of Bon Repos i Mirambell, Spain
5. Ms. Arlette Lopez Trujillo, Secretary, State of Mexico, Mexico
6. Mr. Andrew Boraine, South African Cities Network, South Africa
7. Ms. Sandy Schillen, Huairou Commission
8. Ms. Dania Rifai, International Development Research Centre, Lebanon
9. Father Gerry Whelan, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Kangemi, Nairobi, Kenya

A. Issues

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

B. Debate

2. The discussion began with a quotation by George Bernard Shaw, “We don’t mind being governed as long as we are allowed to control our governors”. This set the tone of the debate, with a number of speakers underlining the importance of a vibrant civil society in holding local governments accountable. Speakers subsequently identified ways to nurture community empowerment. Structural issues identified included the role of the neighbourhood, the presence of clientelist relationships, the vibrancy of the informal sector, and the presence of organized youth, religious and women’s groups, all of which affected the potential for community empowerment. It was noted that the role of civil society
in this regard covered advocacy, mobilization, enlightenment and the delivery of services. Leaders had the key responsibility for creating a climate in which civil society can be empowered.

3. From a global perspective, empowerment was an essential prerequisite for urban policy-making through public participation. For that to succeed, however, communities needed skills and confidence. The enhancement of multi-cultural consciousness was considered to be essential in promoting inclusiveness and empowerment. Social groups, such as migrant communities, needed to be provided with a space to make their views heard and their contribution must be incorporated into the social fabric. It was observed that there were some promising examples of this but they needed to be augmented.

4. National perspectives emphasized “subsidiarity”, that is, the bringing of power and resources right down to the lowest possible level of society, as close as possible to those who were affected. Democracy demanded equality and in that respect it was essential that excluded social groups, particularly women, be empowered.

5. The process of empowerment in the area of environment was addressed, exploring the benefits of empowerment to both individuals and groups. In order to overcome the crisis of governance, which often arose where there were excluded communities, it was considered essential to bring new actors into the process of local governance. There was a need to consolidate organizational structure, to identify critical issues, and of equal importance, to install systems of self-regulation.

6. Empowerment depended on local conditions, opportunities and the local political context. The essential role of local government in inclusive governance was emphasized. The structures and processes of local government had to be conducive to inclusiveness. Local governments that were inept tended to act defensively, thus undermining and impairing the involvement of communities. It was also recognized that local and municipal governments needed to be empowered if they were to be amenable to the participation of citizens. The challenge of encouraging inclusiveness, however, tended to become complicated in a context where it was the majority, not the minority, that had to be included. Such situations generated an atmosphere of xenophobia and tension towards the minority.

7. The active involvement of women was regarded as making a significant contribution to the improved efficiency of urban governance. Work carried out by grass-roots women’s organizations had demonstrated their abilities to work in partnership with local authorities in finding solutions to address problems in cities around the world. The process of so-called “local-to-local dialogues”, particularly if given financing, could create institutional mechanisms for collaboration between local authorities and women’s groups, leading to effective solutions for shelter, basic services, work and food security. It was also recognized that that it was neighbourhood sector groups, organized women’s groups and youth groups that were best placed to establish mutual standards of accountability in the increasing access that the poor had to public goods and services.

8. It was recognized that empowerment entailed not only redistribution of power but also of resources. Various examples were given of the positive and negative impact of empowerment through different institutional arrangements. One important issue that emerged was the prevalence of a certain degree of distrust amongst the various types of governance institutions, such as between non-governmental organizations and local authorities, and between non-governmental and community-based organizations. Indeed, the tension between non-governmental organizations and local authorities was an issue that was repeatedly raised in the debate, particularly in determining whether the two spheres were competitive or complementary.

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

C. Emerging issues for consideration

10. The following issues for further consideration emerged from the debate:

- Empowerment is not only an end in itself, but also a means towards access – particularly for disadvantaged citizens and groups – to public goods such as transportation, land and basic services. It is, therefore, a means towards achieving inclusion;
Inclusiveness and empowerment require strategy formation. This strategy includes the so-called “five Ps”: multiple perspectives; proper positioning; dynamic planning; practices that work; and awareness of ploys;

The active involvement of women in the modernization process of local government bodies and decision-making provides an important contribution to the improved efficiency of city governance;

Any process of empowerment has to recognize that the city is not just a configuration of physical, economic, social, cultural and environmental units; it is also, in a significant sense, a political space;

Democracy demands equality. The increasing political participation of women, particularly at the local level, can contribute to building democratic and inclusive societies;

In the final analysis, inclusion is guaranteed when every urban citizen has what we might term a “right to the city”. This claim compels the State to ensure that citizens do not suffer exclusion with respect to accessing public goods and services and exercising fundamental freedoms. It implies that inclusion, particularly of disadvantaged citizens and groups, is inextricably linked to redistribution of resources, and cannot be relegated to market forces.

**IV. Urban renaissance: dialogue on the evolving city**

**Thursday, 16 September**

**Panellists**

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

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

**A. Issues**

1. Urbanization and globalization have become very relevant to the work of local authorities since the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. It has been noted that there is a direct link between urban renaissance – as a process of improving the quality of life in towns and cities – and the promotion of decentralization as a means of achieving these goals. The dialogue session examined this crucial issue within the context of globalization, and the UN-Habitat mandate on empowering local authorities through, among other things, the implementation of Governing Council resolution 19/12 on “Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities”. The four themes that provided the basis for the dialogue were, first, power and responsibilities of local authorities; second, administrative relations – local autonomy; third, financial resources and capacity of local authorities; and, fourth, local governance and democracy. This dialogue was prepared in a direct follow-up to the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED), which was established by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in March 2004.
2. In their presentations, the experts stressed that decentralization is not an end in itself. With reference to the work on the draft “Charter of Local Self-Government” prepared by UN-Habitat between 1998 and 2000, some experts were of the view that the newly proposed “Guidelines on Decentralization” were practical and easy to use. Others stressed that the decentralization process cannot be successfully completed without efficient implementation mechanisms to deepen the dialogue between central and local governments. The existence of good laws without the means and rules to implement them only breeds discontent and despair. Subsidiarity was seen as being one of the underlying principles of local government empowerment.

B. Debate

3. Participants highlighted the link between decentralization, democracy and participation. It was emphasized that the participation of citizens was an integral part of decentralization. Criticism was levelled against of centralized and inefficient urban governance, and the definition of subsidiarity within the local context was questioned. Questions were raised about the specific experience of African municipalities in the areas of waste management and garbage collection, disaster control and participatory approaches to urban planning. It was emphasized that decentralization could only be effective within the context of a sound and functioning legal regime.

4. During the discussion hope was expressed that the efforts currently undertaken by various countries to promote decentralization would eventually bear fruit. Some participants pointed out that the municipal leaders themselves were delaying the decentralization process, making it difficult to achieve efficient delivery of services.

5. Most presentations indicated that the enshrining of devolution in a constitution was in most cases viewed as tantamount to a reduction in the powers of central government, whereas in fact, decentralization and centralization should not be seen as opposites but rather as complementary components. It was further noted that local authorities needed to be sufficiently empowered to ensure an increase in the efficiency of the delivery of services. For decentralization to improve living conditions of local citizens, local authorities required proper and adequate financial support, ensuring that power transfer was commensurate with the transfer of funds.

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

C. Emerging issues for consideration

7. The following issues for further consideration emerged from the debate:

- Effective decentralization has the potential of helping countries to achieve sustainable development and build more just society inclusive of local communities, including the urban poor;
- The development of a local economic and financial resource base, as well as local authority capacity, are crucial components of successful decentralization;
- A true devolution of power, responsibilities and resources has major implications for all local stakeholders. Decentralization entails working in partnership with other spheres of government as well as responding to and catering for citizens’ needs. The involvement of citizens in community affairs needs to be seen as an integral part of the decentralization process;
- Countries need to examine the possibility of using not only the national budget, but funding from international donors to provide support for cities;
- More emphasis needs to be put on addressing the needs and priorities of local citizens in addition to re-empowering and re-energizing cities and local authorities. The process of strengthening local authorities should also take into consideration the need to have sufficient resources to enable ordinary citizens to make a living;
- Mechanisms for building the capacity of local authorities need to be developed and implemented;
- The concept of subsidiarity needs to be popularized and adapted to different languages and cultures;
- Systems for monitoring the implementation of legal provisions for decentralization are to be put in place, based on the experiences of different cities;
- It is necessary to finalize the AGRED guidelines on decentralization for submission to the next Governing Council of UN-Habitat;
- A database of good practices and examples of decentralization would be useful. UN-Habitat and UCLG could work together to produce such a database.
Annex II

Reports on thematic dialogues

I. Urban poor: improving the lives of slum dwellers

Tuesday, 14 September

Panellists: morning session

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

Panellists: afternoon session

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

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

A. Issues

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

2. The main aim was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in an open dialogue on this target, assess the progress made towards its achievement, identify inherent shortcomings, and explore further perspectives. It was the first time since the Millennium Summit in September 2000 that there had been a global discussion on this target. The afternoon session attempted to address the question: “Improving the lives of slum dwellers: are we on the right track?” In this session current policies and programmes were assessed and there was discussion of the challenges that the target poses for slums at global, regional and local levels, as perceived by all the groups involved.
B. Debate

1. Morning session

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Jeffrey Sachs highlighted the urgent need to identify practical, innovative solutions that worked at scale to stem the growth of slums. He stated that while there were several examples in the world of pilot projects demonstrating the impact of local policies and programmes on reducing urban poverty, the challenge facing the development community was to find solutions that worked at both national and urban levels.

4. Panellists noted that several countries had almost achieved the “Cities without Slums” target based on the scaling-up of pilot initiatives, while other countries were also making progress following the launch of major interventions. For example, in Mexico, the Ministry for Social Development was implementing a major initiative, “Programa Habitat”, targeting deprived areas in 364 cities and towns across the country. As a good example of scaling-up at city level, attention was drawn to the city of Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic, where the municipal government was developing a slum upgrading programme targeting one million residents.

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

6. Discussions at the dialogue stressed the need to go beyond the “Cities without Slums” target and to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals and targets in cities. UN-Habitat and the World Bank described their respective strategies for monitoring target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals and its progress to date. The World Bank reported on its plan to compile statistics from national censuses and incorporate them in the next round of world development indicators. It also reported on the monitoring of cities through a new research project aimed at gathering key data in 120 cities worldwide. The latest results given by UN-Habitat demonstrated how much progress countries had made on target 11 over the last decade. It was evident that countries such as Mexico, Brazil and Thailand, which have committed themselves to scaling up upgrading projects and have adopted policies beneficial to the poor, had made good progress in achieving target 11 and improving the lives of slum dwellers.

2. Afternoon session

7. The President of Slum Dwellers International stressed that governments alone cannot deliver target 11 and that the process has to be driven by the people. In the course of the discussion, some participants suggested that an acceptance of the Millennium Development Goals on slums should be a requirement for city planning to prevent the formation of new slums in the future. It was clarified that the draft final recommendation of task force 8 for the “slum target” would reflect strategies related to the goal of improving the lives of present slum dwellers as well as providing adequate recommendations to prevent new slum formation. In this connection, some participants stressed the need for affordable and appropriately located land for new settlements.

8. Statements by panellists also highlighted the importance of appropriate government policies to implement slum upgrading and housing programmes suited to the social and economic circumstances of the urban poor. Emphasis was placed on in situ upgrading while limiting the relocation of slum dwellers to exceptional cases, especially where the present locations posed a hazard.

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

10. During the discussions it was stressed that there was ample evidence to demonstrate the value of innovative approaches in harnessing the potential of local and international organizations representing the urban poor and slum dwellers. The central importance of local government cooperation with other stakeholders was also emphasized. In this regard, UCLG had committed itself to launching an active
campaign for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at local level and was looking forward to a Millennium Cities Initiative in cooperation with international and civil society partners.

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

12. In relation to the role of the State, it was observed that if State functions were to be weakened, the Millennium Development Goals could not be achieved. This is not to say that governments must get bigger; in fact, in some cases, government payrolls needed to be trimmed. What was needed was more effective governance, in which policies were legitimized by the participation of the people at all levels of government. It was further stressed that the principle of participation applied to all spheres of government action, including urban planning, which remained a crucial task. The concept of solidarity was also underlined, not only as a general principle, but also in the context of individual cities.

13. Several participants expressed concern about the persistently low level of funding by multilateral and bilateral aid agencies to the urban sector. This was compounded by the tendency in some cases to go for quick results, not giving time to the reforms needed to improve governance. The dialogue concluded that one of the greatest and most exciting challenges faced was that of scaling up successful experiments based on the involvement and participation of the urban poor themselves.

C. Emerging issues for consideration

14. The following issues for further consideration emerged from the debate:

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

Wednesday, 15 September

Panellists

1. Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary, Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America (chair)
2. Mr. Michael Cohen, Director, Graduate Programme in International Affairs, New School University, New York (facilitator)
3. Mr. Amos Kimunya, Minister for Land and Housing, Kenya
4. Mr. Nestor Eugenio Ramirez, President, Colombian Municipalities Federation
5. Mr. Amos Masiondo, Executive Mayor, Johannesburg, South Africa
6. Ms. Sheela Patel, SPARC, India, and Slum Dwellers International
7. Ms. Pamela Lamoreaux, Housing Finance Group, IFC
8. Ms. Rebecca Gaskin, Standard Bank, South Africa
9. Ms. Karen Kinsley, President, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
10. Ms. Jayshree Vyas, SEWA Bank, India

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

A. Issues

15. The background paper emphasized that the cost of meeting the internationally-agreed target on improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 was estimated to lie between $70 billion and $100 billion. It suggested that, while recognizing the urgent need for increased international aid targeted at slum upgrading, it must also be recognized that it was important to design innovative strategies to mobilize domestic capital, including strengthening housing and micro-finance institutions. The issues identified in the background paper were: affordability; risk mitigation; mortgage finance systems for the urban poor; and how strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors can be built to promote the use of private domestic capital for slum upgrading.

16. Eight prominent professionals from a range of disciplines discussed the challenges of mobilizing resources in developing countries to meet the shelter needs of a world that is becoming rapidly more urbanized. The session chair, Mr. Dennis Shea, and the session moderator, Mr. Michael Cohen, managed to create an environment conducive to genuine dialogue with an interested audience, including several ministers and youth representatives who developed and challenged the ideas and policies of those institutions represented on the panel. Presentations covering the experiences of slum dwellers, of governments in the developing and developed world, of the private sector, and of international institutions shared conclusions and attempted to answer similar questions.

B. Debate

17. Moderator Michael Cohen neatly summed up the discussion in a simple question: “How do we set interest rates in new markets?”

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

19. The discussion that took place is summarized below:

• The establishment of property rights, transparency and public accountability are essential to urban development and revitalization;
These conditions are essential to creating an environment where information can be reliably exchanged between lenders and creditors, confidence can be developed, and agreements (contracts) made and kept;

Slum dwellers constitute a group whose organizational and technical capabilities are not often exploited in existing lending frameworks – in other words, are not monetized;

Community-based organizations can provide the resources (financial and other), energy, and organizational coherence needed for urban revitalization. Women’s micro-credit groups, in particular, have excellent credit histories with financial institutions, proving that the urban poor can be reliable in their dealings with banks. Development agencies and financial institutions should support their continued capacity-building.

Fostering community-based organizations can be considered not only as an exercise in democracy-building, but as a long-term investment designed to expand markets and formalize economic activity among slum dwellers;

Technical assistance (like that provided by the International Finance Corporation) is needed to bridge the gap between, on the one hand, communities and municipalities wishing to invest in urban infrastructure and housing, and, on the other hand, between the private sector and international lenders;

Drawing citizens into the formal economy, particularly through home ownership, contributes both to economic productivity and to responsible citizenship;

Effective solutions to the problem of shelter are developed locally through a process that develops trust between partners over a substantial period of time;

Donors, international institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, national and local governments, community organizations, and slum dwellers are often at loggerheads because they interact very infrequently;

Bringing all these groups together as a body, while avoiding duplication of efforts, provides a daunting challenge that is central to the whole issue of financing.

C. Emerging issues for consideration

20. The following issues for further consideration emerged from the debate:

- Activities in the area of innovative finance should focus on mobilizing domestic private capital, with the clear goal of minimizing or eliminating the financial role of international or governmental support;
- The Good Governance and Secure Tenure campaigns of UN-Habitat should continue to be supported as they address key prerequisites to the effective mobilization of capital;
- Governments should engage in a continuing effort to set conditions that stimulate the private sector to operate in a way that benefits the maximum number of citizens, and extract the maximum leverage from private sector resources and skills in meeting the needs of poorer citizens. This would allow governments to provide generous direct assistance to whose who are in most need of it;
- All development partners should consider endorsing the recommendations contained in the report to the United Nations Secretary-General by the Commission on the Private Sector and Development, which outlines a series of positive actions that governments, international institutions and the private sector can take to foster sustainable growth that will benefit the poor;
- UN-Habitat and the World Urban Forum promote efforts to improve understanding between financiers and slum dwellers. They offer mechanisms which challenge partners to come up with new ideas and provide specific examples of best practices that show how lenders can reach out to slum dwellers and enable them to gain access to new resources. These efforts should be continued as they offer an opportunity for learning, informal discussion and the creation of new ideas;
There should be more systematic documentation of innovative experiments and cases where private capital is mobilized for slum upgrading and these should be incorporated into existing databases of best practices. Greater effort should be made to identify and stimulate communication among the institutions involved in these innovations.

III. Urban sustainability

Wednesday 15, September

Panellists

1. Mr. Steve Bradshaw, Director, BBC Panorama, U.K. (Chair/Moderator)
2. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor of Lagos, Nigeria
3. Mr. Han Verschure, Professor, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
4. Mr. Tariq Kabbage, Mayor of Agadir, Morocco
5. Mr. Kees van der Ree, Ag. Director, ILO
6. Ms. Stela Goldenstein, Advisory Committee, SEMA/IDRC, Latin America
7. Mr. Rolf Lindell, Director, Ministry of Environment, Sweden
8. Ms. Inthan Azoor, National Training Coordinator, Colombo Municipality, Sri Lanka
9. Ms. Liliana Miranda, Executive Secretary, Foro Ciudades para la Vida, Peru
10. Mr. Bakary Kante, Director, DPDL, UNEP
11. Mr. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI
12. Mr. Luc-Marie Constant Gnacadja, Minister of Environment, Housing and Urban Development, Benin


A. Issues

21. This session, jointly organized by UN-Habitat and UNEP, built on the concept developed by UN-Habitat and its partners for achieving sustainable urbanization. It focused on the increased commitment of all partners to support a coalition of joint efforts, particularly in the area of the urban environment, including support from United Nations agencies. The session was organized into three segments, discussing the issue at local, national and global levels with a group of panellists representing a wide range of key actors from Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Participants on the floor participated actively in the discussion, making more than 30 contributions. The main issue debated was how a culture of partnership could help bring about sustainable urban development and how it could contribute to making this ideal attainable through action, the deployment of more resources, more efficient implementation and stronger impact. There was discussion on sustainable urbanization as a process of challenges and responses, including the relationship between strategic sustainable development and master planning, which could be considered within the wider context of improving urban governance.

B. Debate

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

23. In the discussion about partnerships on environmental planning and management at the local level, there was a heated exchange of views over the suggestion that there had been an undue focus on environmental sustainability. In reply, speakers pointed out that without drinking water and air to breathe there could be no economic development, and that local environmental issues were the key to social and economic progress. Civil society could play an important role in achieving this, but such issues must not become the monopoly of politically-motivated “green” activists. Participants also
observed that there was a close relationship between the strategic plan for sustainable development and the master plan for city development.

24. It was also pointed out by a number of speakers that political sustainability and good governance were essential to implementing appropriate urban environmental policies. One speaker suggested that civil society groups could give a voice to local environmental issues in such a way as to enable them to deal with food security and job creation and ensure successful partnerships and good results from local action. It was agreed that successful partnerships should lead to enhanced awareness, improved decision-making and more efficient action. There was significant support for the idea that for services to improve, the quality of jobs must be improved, and basic dignity should be given to what is sometimes seen as menial labour.

25. The discussion highlighted the need for partnership on up-scaling local Agenda 21 demonstrations at the national level. Many participants agreed on the importance of a mechanism for national Governments to raise awareness of city authorities to the implementation of Agenda 21 – and in supporting them in developing local Agenda 21 initiatives. In return, many local experiences could be upscaled from city level to enrich the national policy agenda. There were even certain grass-roots activities that could offer real solutions to complex national challenges. Attention was drawn to some of the obstacles currently impeding such partnerships. These included the absence of a culture of cooperation among the different actors and groupings, which could be rectified by the creation of greater mutual trust. In addition, it was felt that there was a need for more capacity-building, using demonstration projects to show the value of such trust. Emphasis was placed on the need for decentralization and the involvement of city mayors in national budgeting processes.

26. At the global level, the session discussed the idea of partnership built on local capacities to support the global agenda. There was general recognition that cities should be part of the solution to dealing with global environmental problems such as global warming, air and water pollution, and the degradation of coastal ecosystems. Such solutions needed to link global agreements with local initiatives – including sustainable transportation, the use of renewable energies, and recycling. Cities working together in organizations such as Cities for Climate Protection, which had more than 500 member cities worldwide, had proved that they could make a difference. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the Sustainable Cities Programme were other initiatives that demonstrated the potential of such partnerships. While there was concern about the growth of megacities, it was accepted that people would continue to move to such large conurbations. The imperative was to find ways to provide and manage basic services for all those who had chosen to live in such locations.

C. Emerging issues for consideration

27. The following issues for further consideration emerged from the debate:

- The problem is not too much focus on environmental sustainability, but too little on political and social issues;
- At the city level, eco-budgeting can be a vital instrument enabling local authorities to manage the environment as a resource for sustainable development in a transparent way;
- Local Agenda 21 initiatives can be a mechanism for enhancing partnerships at all levels;
- Making partnerships work requires skills, understanding and a cooperative attitude at all levels – which together should be the focus of capacity-building;
- Mayors should be involved in national budgetary processes;
- Attempts to limit the growth of megacities are not likely to succeed. The challenge instead is to plan, develop and manage cities in the interest of those who live there. This will also help improve the environmental sustainability of the planet.
IV. Urban services: water and sanitation – getting the private sector to work for the urban poor

Wednesday, 15 September

Chair: Mr. John W. Ashe, Chair, thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Panellists: Opening segment

1. Ms. Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water, Uganda
2. Mr. Loic Fauchon, President Director General, Eau de Marseille, Vice President, World Water Council
3. Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Executive Director, WaterAid,
4. Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibajjuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Segment 1: Pro-poor urban water governance: myth or reality?

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

Segment 2: Getting the domestic private sector to serve the poor: is this possible?

1. Mr. Gordon McGranahan, Director, Human Settlements Programme, IIED
2. Mr. William Muhairwe, National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Uganda
3. Mr. Assane Guene, General Manager, Grands Travaux d’Hydraulique et d’Equipement, Senegal
4. Mr. Dominique Héron, Special Adviser to the Senior Executive, Veolia Environment

Segment 3: Informal water markets: how can we make it work?

1. Ms. Mukami Kariuki, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank
2. Mr. Antonio de Costa Miranda Neto, Head of Municipal Water and Sanitation City of Recife, Brazil
3. Mr. Malick Gaye, Programme Officer, ENDA Tiers Monde, Senegal
4. Ms. Prema Gopalan, Director, Swayam Shikshan Prayog and Coordinating Council Member, Huairou Commission

Briefing on the status of the World Water Development Report: Mr. Gordon Young, Coordinator, World Water Assessment Programme

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/9 Urban services: Making the private sector work for the urban poor; Water and Sanitation in Cities report (UN-Habitat 2003), Getting the private sector to work for the urban poor (draft, UN-Habitat 2004)
A. Issues

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

(a) Urban water and sanitation governance that is geared to the needs of the poor;
(b) Domestic private sector participation in serving the poor; and
(c) The role of informal sector water supply and sanitation service delivery.

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

B. Debate

30. The discussion in the dialogue revolved around six broad themes:

(a) Investment in the water and sanitation sector;
(b) Pro-poor policies;
(c) Regulations and tariff structure;
(d) Bottom-up approach to include communities in the decision making process;
(e) Information; and
(f) Human values in improving urban water governance

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

32. It was pointed out that, because of the diversity of public and private actors involved in water provision – from the small water vendor to the large multinational company – and because of the diverse needs of users, policies needed to be based on a real understanding of the local context so that they truly contributed to meeting the basic needs of the poor. This might require more detailed assessments of the needs of poor communities, and recognition and involvement of a wider range of actors and service delivery arrangements. The overall context of pro-poor policies needed to be addressed under a pro-poor governance framework. Panellists also cited certain principles of good governance and tools, such as appropriate regulatory and tariff structures, which could extend water and sanitation services to poor communities by either a public or private sector provider.

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

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

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

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

C. Emerging issues for consideration

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

38. Several participating delegations showed interest in taking the key issues emerging from this
dialogue to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session, which will focus on
water, sanitation and human settlements.

V. Urban disasters and reconstruction

Thursday, 16 September

Panellists

1. Mr. Robert Sullivan, journalist (moderator)
   (represented by Mr. Hussein Sinjari)
3. Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, United Nations International Strategy for
   Disaster Reduction
4. Mr. Brock Carlton, Director, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, International Centre
   for Municipal Development
5. Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director, Disaster Mitigation Institute
6. Mr. Dennis McNamara, Director, Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division, UN-OCHA
7. Ms. Grace Okonji, UNIFEM

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

A. Issues

39. In his remarks at the opening of the Forum, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari emphasized the precariousness of global security. He said that the world today faced unprecedented challenges in securing the safety and lives of its citizens. Conflicts and catastrophes in places such as Darfur, Afghanistan and Iraq had shown that the impact of disasters was no longer confined to local communities but spread out to neighbouring towns, regions, states, and in some cases, the rest of the planet.

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

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

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

B. Debate

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

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

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

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

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

48. Active participation of civil society was highlighted as crucial to sustainable disaster mitigation, as well as recovery from a crisis. When disaster struck, the most vulnerable segments of society were the ones most affected. Unless the poor were involved in efforts to reduce their own vulnerability, unless governments at all levels stood behind their commitments to minimize risks, and until the international aid community engaged with their development counterparts to ensure sustainability, disasters would continue to have a negative impact on the world’s most vulnerable citizens. Joint efforts of the communities, private sector, financial institutions and academia would strengthen the voices of the civil society towards more inclusive and comprehensive disaster management strategies.

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

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

51. The issues of decentralization and the empowerment of local authorities were extensively debated. It was observed that, when human settlements fell into crisis, through conflict, or because of disasters, institutions across the board suffered. Peace-building and recovery in post-crisis environs represented a process in which the roles and responsibilities of various actors at all levels needed to be clearly defined. Social inclusion, transparency and accountability formed the basis for building trust and a sense of ownership in society as a whole. The starting point was the legal and policy framework, followed by strategic leadership and planning, operational management, and service delivery within local authorities, and so-called “governance links” to the community. But, as stated by one of the speakers, decentralization was not just about shifting power and resources from the centre to the governorate and municipal levels; it was about the public interest, which was particularly important in the peace-building and post-crisis reconstruction process.

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

53. The dialogue was the culminating point of a series of dialogues on the subject, on which UN-Habitat has demonstrated vast experience in the field. As stated by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat in her concluding remarks to this dialogue, “the discussions and debate on urban disasters and reconstruction encompasses huge dimensions; from exploring the roles of various institutions at civic, municipal, national and international levels to assisting in the sustainable reconstruction of settlements following disaster".
54. These dimensions were explored during the discussions and the inputs made at the dialogue will inform UN-Habitat understanding and provide a basis for further enriching the organization’s work in the field of disaster mitigation and reconstruction. The set of principles integrated in the concept of “sustainable relief”, which was the subject of scrutiny at the debates, will form the basis for the UN-Habitat approach to humanitarianism, and will be the foundation of its chapeau for programme formulation.

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

C. Emerging issues for consideration

56. Applying a set of 12 guiding principles underpinning the concept document entitled “Sustainable relief: transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable development in human settlements”, participants in three networking sessions shared personal and institutional experience as a basis for illustrating or suggesting modifications to the concept of sustainable relief, which were presented and further debated in the dialogue entitled “Urban disasters and reconstruction”. Lessons learned include the following:

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

Summaries of statements made at the opening session

A. Opening remarks by outgoing Chair, Ms. Sankie D. Mthembi-Mahanyele, former Minister of Housing of South Africa.

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

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

3. She then introduced the new Chair of the second session of the World Urban Forum, Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing of Spain.

B. Statement by Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities

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

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

6. He noted that in many countries, local governments were not elected, lacked financial independence, were unable to raise their own taxes and thus unable to make full use of their authority. The new UCLG would develop local administrative autonomy around the world. Citing a European Charter providing local authorities with necessary independence, and also adopted in Canada, he said that UCLG now sought a respective international treaty recognized by the United Nations.

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

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

8. Urban poverty, he added, was, however, not affecting cities alone. Rapid urban expansion was putting more pressure on the countryside and on ecosystems – causing deforestation, flooding, and other problems.
9. Cities were engines of growth and responsible for a major proportion of national Gross Domestic Product. To ensure that resources were not exhausted, he said, efforts to encourage decentralization in conjunction with civil society and the private sector had to be stepped up.

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

11. With about two billion people in the developing world lacking access to energy, it was the ideal time to discuss Millennium Development Goal 7 and its targets on environmental sustainability. Accordingly, he said that, in its role at the helm of the European Union, the Netherlands would take the outcomes of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum to the forefront of the international debate.

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

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

13. The biggest challenge was to provide services to slum dwellers on a sustainable basis. She also stressed the importance of good urban governance and decentralization. India had instituted the 74th constitutional amendment to assist local governments and was one of the first countries to launch the UN-Habitat Global Campaign on Urban Governance. On 26 June 2004, the Prime Minister of India had highlighted the importance of good urban governance and inclusiveness and stressed that economic growth and development must be equitable and environmentally sustainable, and should empower women and the poor.

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

14. Mr. Olivio Dutra said that he felt honoured to co-chair the second session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona. He said that the central issues for the Forum were urbanization of poverty and social exclusion. Some 80 per cent of the world’s urban population lived in developing countries, of which one billion were poor and lived in informal settlements. That showed that urbanization of poverty was now a key issue.

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

16. That challenge, he said, required a new inclusive and democratic paradigm. The concept of cost recovery should be thought of in terms of economic return and social responsibility. New international pacts and alliances were necessary so that costs of housing and sanitation would not be included in foreign debt. Markets would not provide the resources needed and recourse must therefore be had to State subsidies, controlled by democratic systems that promoted the participation of poor segments of society.

18. Rather than competing among them, he said, cities and municipalities will have to strengthen their own cooperation and their links with governments. New concepts of urban planning should centre on poor people’s access to urban land. Finally, creativity and new strategies are necessary to meet the Millennium Development Goals. He called on the World Urban Forum to embrace this challenge.
F. Statement by Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals.

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

20. He expressed his regret that the world was not on track in achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and in large parts of Asia and Latin America. In all, 174 world leaders and 191 Governments had made pledges towards those goals, which were all achievable. According to the Monterrey Consensus in March 2002, the rich countries had promised 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) as development assistance in order to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals but had stopped at 0.23 per cent, with the United States of America committing only 0.14 per cent of its GDP. That, he said, amounted to $60 billion, equal to what the country was spending in Iraq.

21. The year 2005 would be crucial, he said, to review the Millennium Development Goals, being five years after the declaration of the goals and ten years before their target year of 2015. The current world order could only hold together if all countries, especially the largest and richest, followed on the commitments that they had made. The 2005 summit in New York would be the last chance to put the Millennium Development Goals on track. In that context he noted that France and the United Kingdom had promised to double their overseas development assistance (ODA).

22. In conclusion, he also expressed appreciation of UCLG, already mentioned by the Mayor of Barcelona, Mr. Joan Clos, and noted that for the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved, more action would be required at the local level, in cities and towns. He appealed to mayors and local authorities to commit themselves to the Millennium Development Goals.

G. Statement by Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

23. Mr. Töpfer pointed out that UNEP and UN-Habitat were located in Africa, in the middle of the development challenge and that they shared a vision for sustainable development. It was, he said, particularly appropriate that, just a few months ago, World Environment Day had been celebrated in Barcelona, a city which stood out as a unique example of sustainable urban development.

24. He said that cities were the places where sustainable development was concentrated and where economic and social development, culture, regional integration and environment were at the centre of attention. Integration was a precondition for sustainable development, which had to incorporate the requests of citizens. That was the essence of the joint work of UNEP and UN-Habitat.

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

26. The last crucial issue, he said, was the environment within cities and the fight against air pollution. To overcome that problem, there must be recycling as well as changes in consumption and production patterns. Cities would be part of the solutions to all those development challenges, and in that context he welcomed the UCLG initiative.
H. Message from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by Ms. Mervat Tallawy, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

27. In his statement, Mr. Annan said that rapid urbanization was fast becoming one of the major challenges facing the international community, and the World Urban Forum offered an opportunity to discuss both the problems and the possible solutions of the phenomenon. In a world beset by conflict and intolerance, the theme of the second session of the World Urban Forum could not be more relevant.

28. Today, he said, our cities were facing the challenges of a highly mobile world. Globalization was bringing us closer together in many ways. Nowhere was this more apparent than in our cities where we now crossed paths and rubbed elbows with people from many other cultural backgrounds.

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

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

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

32. He praised the contribution and leadership of Mr. Rafic Hariri of Lebanon, recipient of the Special Citation for the 2004 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour. He congratulated Mr. Hariri for his outstanding and visionary leadership in the post-conflict reconstruction of Lebanon. Through successful internal diplomacy, Mr. Hariri had helped his people regenerate and revive the city of Beirut and heal its social and economic wounds.

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

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

34. He further stressed that crises called first and foremost for political solutions that needed to be combined with practical action. The international community could assist with proper training and interventions that strengthened capacities. In many operations, the people coming to the rescue of crisis victims became victims of the crisis themselves. The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), which he chaired, aimed to help develop communication systems that could prevent such pitfalls. He concluded by wishing participants at the second session of the World Urban Forum every success in their deliberations.

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

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

36. He noted that, according to UN-Habitat studies, the world’s urban population would soon exceed the rural population. He said that we would not be able to solve problems of urbanization based on old approaches. Cities needed the joint efforts of international organizations, mayors and local governments, and mayors were thinking in the right direction by uniting. He expressed his appreciation that more than 600 mayors had come to attend the World Urban Forum.

37. Problems confronting the twenty-first century, he said, could only be overcome if we joined forces. On behalf of Green Cross International, an non-governmental organization which he chaired, he spoke of three interconnected challenges: security; poverty; and the environment.

38. Four years ago when the Millennium Development Goals had been adopted, the world had unanimously recognized the urgency of those problems. Now, all were concerned that there was not enough political will to address those goals and achieve their targets and that leaders had failed to discharge the obligations which they had assumed.

40. We have to be frank, he said, and state that we disagreed with broken commitments and lame excuses. We could not allow the Millennium Development Goals to suffer the same fate as the commitments made in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. He accordingly welcomed Mr. Kofi Annan’s decision to review the Millennium Development Goals in 2005 and said that the review would need the support of Governments and civil society. Otherwise, we could get bogged down in a routine and the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved.

41. In his view, the world needed a new global “glasnost” (awareness) as an important lever to realize the Millennium Development Goals. Green Cross International was launching an initiative for access to clean water, advocating the adoption of a legally binding international treaty for the right to water. Green Cross International, he said, was to sign a memorandum of understanding with UN-Habitat calling for specific joint actions.

42. He said that we were living in a world in which problems did not have simple solutions. He agreed with Mr. Jeffrey Sachs that the roots of terrorism were complex and could not be solved by the use of force. The way forward lay in uniting the efforts of political leaders, civil society and the United Nations, based on principles such as peace, democracy, tolerance and transparency. We could not afford panic or confusion, and if we acted together and remained optimistic, we would be able to cope with the challenges of the twenty-first century.

K. Statement by Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

43. Ms. Tibaijuka stated that the theme of the second session of the World Urban Forum placed the city at the very crossroads of cultures. She noted that, despite some outstanding examples of cultural pluralism in cities, we still did not have agreement on how to approach the fundamental issues of multiethnic and multicultural societies in an increasingly globalizing and urbanizing world. That was because so many of us were complacent in the political use of cultural difference to maintain our economic and social advantage, which, in turn, led to our failure even to recognize many of the problems, thereby making them intractable.

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

45. She also said that the World Urban Forum was greatly honoured by the presence of two truly distinguished world leaders and former presidents – Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev of the former Soviet Union and Mr. Martti Ahtisaari of Finland. She said that the contribution of President Gorbachev in promoting a culture of democracy and individual freedom was familiar to all. We as the world community all owed him a debt of gratitude for the historical contribution that he had made in bringing the world’s peoples and cultures together.
46. She then presented the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation to Mr. Rafic Hariri, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon.

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

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

48. Lebanon had taken the decision to rebuild the entire country at the same time, starting with the first stage of political reconciliation, followed by the second stage of comprehensive reconstruction. Balanced development, he said, was crucial, as was winning the confidence of the private sector, international partners and citizens.

49. Currently, he said, the Middle East was a source of grave concern in terms of stability. Freedom and stability were needed for reconstruction and democracy, especially peace for Palestine and Iraq, so that confidence instead of suspicion could dominate international relations.

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

50. Ms. Trujillo conveyed Spain’s congratulations to Lebanon and expressed her appreciation for being appointed Co-chair of the second session of the World Urban Forum together with Mr. Olivio Dutra from Brazil.

51. She said that the theme of “cities as crossroads” could be take as the leitmotif for the diversity of cultures and inclusion. Cities were the centre of attention for all policies. Sustainable development in cities was the basic challenge of the Millennium Development Goals.

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

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

54. Spain’s had pursued active cooperation with UN-Habitat ever since the Istanbul conference in 1996. Spain was now attaching greater importance to best practices and a new commitment to UN-Habitat through its collaboration in the World Urban Forum. She concluded with an appeal to the World Urban Forum, which she hoped would aim at providing policy guidelines to all countries.

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

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

56. He proceeded with the official inauguration of the second session of the World Urban Forum.
Annex IV

Summary of statements at the first plenary session

A. Statement by Mr. Syed Zahid Hussain, Chair of the Group of 77 and China (Nairobi chapter)

1. Mr. Hussain said that the Group of 77 and China, representing the largest grouping of countries in the United Nations and articulating the interests of four fifths of the world population residing in developing countries, recognized the challenges posed to the World Urban Forum. He also stressed that the Group of 77 and China supported the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and continued to play a vital role in strengthening UN-Habitat as a fully-fledged United Nations programme.

2. The second session of the World Urban Forum, he said, offered a good opportunity to discuss social and economic development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable human settlement development.

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

4. Poverty and the failure of the international community to check its unabated spread were the main causes underlying the multiplicity of problems faced by cities, whose most vivid manifestation was urban poverty and sprawling slum areas. The Millennium Development Goals, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Habitat Agenda all reflected the concern of the international community to eradicate poverty and, he concluded, it was only through coordinated and action oriented strategies that we could hope for tangible results.

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

5. Ms. Solberg said that cities had at all times been multiethnic and multicultural meeting places, engines of growth, the origins of scientific achievements, cultural advancements and social progress. But in an urbanizing world, where poverty was also urbanizing, most slum dwellers were excluded from the so-called “good city life”.

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

7. Good governance and decentralization of authority and resources were prerequisites for sustainable urban development, and Norway was honouring the efforts of UN-Habitat on this issue. She added that the complexity of human settlements development could well be one of the reasons why it had been difficult to recognize sustainable urbanization as a critical factor for sustainable development in general, and noted that the most important outcome of the last session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York – its twelfth session – was the recognition that target 11 of Millennium Development Goal 7, on improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, was patently inadequate. The Commission on Sustainable Development highlighted, among other things, security of tenure, legal recognition of women’s rights, empowerment of the poor, support to local economic activities and new sources of finance as essential elements in the way forward.

8. She concluded that the World Urban Forum could be seen as a first step towards the summit meeting for a five-year review of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and onwards, in our effort to achieve a sustainable and multicultural urbanization and reduction of urban poverty.
C. Statement by Mr. Dennis Shea, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America

9. Mr. Shea extended the best wishes of Secretary Alphonso Jackson of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and thanked the City of Barcelona, UN-Habitat and the Government of Spain for making the second session of the World Urban Forum possible.

10. The United States believed, he said, that an enduring commitment to the creation of an enabling environment was key to sustainable growth and eradication of slums. That meant continually striving to improve governance, establish the rule of law, maintain transparency, secure property rights, combat corruption and open markets.

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

D. Statement by Mr. Sören Häggroth, co-chair of the first session of the World Urban Forum

12. Mr. Häggroth said that the World Urban Forum provided a more informal way to focus on urban challenges, where the key word was dialogue. Some 1,200 people had foragethered in Nairobi at the first session of the World Urban Forum, and now nearly 5,000 people had registered for the second session of the Forum, demonstrating that the problems and possibilities of urbanization were gaining an ever increasing attention on the global agenda.

13. He added that he had summarized the discussion at the first session of the World Urban Forum by focusing on three fundamental issues relating to sustainable urbanization, namely, poverty alleviation, gender balance, and good governance. The second session of the World Urban Forum was focused on issues related to inclusiveness and integration, which were equally important.

14. There was, he said, no more important task facing a globalizing world than to prepare for living in a multicultural society. Finding ways to live together was key to the successful functioning of cities. Unfortunately, unemployment and poverty, intolerance and violence were all too often the signature of big cities.

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

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

16. Cities around the world were characterized by increased poverty and exclusion. They were all concerned with finding ways of living together. That was why target 7 of Millennium Development Goal 7 was so important.

17. The European Commission would soon join the Cities Alliance and increase its financial commitments, particularly to countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. He added that UN-Habitat was a natural partner in efforts to achieve sustainable human settlements and that slum upgrading initiatives were to be discussed between the European Commission and UN-Habitat. An agreement between UN-Habitat and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States secretariat would be signed in Brussels. He affirmed the support of the European Commission for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly its water initiative and said that a joint European Union/UN-Habitat research initiative on human environment would be launched during the second session of the World Urban Forum.
F. Statement by Mr. Donald L. Plusquellic, President of the United States Conference of Mayors and Mayor of Akron, Ohio

18. Mr. Plusquellic said that his organization worked on policies and strategies for cities, focusing on advocacy for urban areas with national Governments. The organization had also taken positions that were of international importance and had achieved outreach to other cities and mayors. In 2000, a meeting with African mayors had been organized. Another activity under way involved systematic research on urban areas, which could be used by other actors around the world.

19. The 318 metropolitan areas of the United States contributed 85 per cent of national employment, income, production and services. In other words, urban areas were the engines of economic growth. It was, therefore, important to find ways to manage conflicts between cities and suburbs, and there were now new arrangements in place for joint economic development in larger zones, where services and taxes were shared. The call of the day was regional cooperation.

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

20. Speaking on behalf of UCLG, Ms. Gateau stressed the key messages on behalf of the 600 mayors who were in Istanbul in 1996. The key messages that were important for sustainable urbanization were to unite cities, support decentralization, attack social exclusion and lack of human rights, and fight for the right to shelter. UCLG, she said, would be in the very front line of defence of local democracy.

21. Cities were the centres of development and led the world, with the result that local governments found themselves with more and more responsibilities, as cities could no longer sit on the sidelines.

22. A policy simply would not work at the local level, she said, without the backing of national Governments and international bodies like UN-Habitat. Mayors of the world had to be involved throughout that process.

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

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

24. He urged all those involved to produce tangible results in such areas as water and sanitation, housing, and capacity-building and to focus on people-centred processes that must become the target of all related efforts towards sustainable urban development.
Annex V

Summary of the second plenary meeting

Report of the Universal Forum of Cultures
Monday 13 September

Speakers
1. Ms. Mireia Belil, Universal Forum of Cultures 2004
2. Mr. Jordi Borja, Urban Technology Consulting
3. Ms. Margarita Gutman, University of Buenos Aires and New School University, New York
4. Mr. Gianni Longo, ACP-Visioning and Planning
5. Mr. Bernardo Dujovne, University of Buenos Aires
6. Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Urban Programmes Office, Ministry of Urban Development, Brazil

Documentation: None


A. Overview

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

2. The main issue discussed had been the urban challenge and the need to look at the future of an urban world. The just concluded Universal Forum on Urban Cultures had brought together people from diverse backgrounds. The main thrust of the dialogue supported by side cultural events was the urban future of the world: the implications of rapid urbanization, conurbation and regionalization of urbanization for the delivery of services, quality of human life and peaceful coexistence in diversity by the world’s peoples. Discussions at the Forum had centred on the sustainable use of critical resources like water, land, air and energy. Participants were generally pessimistic about the urban future, noting that there was no single model city as each city had its own peculiarities. The real challenge, however, was to have proper institutions to promote democratic governance, drawing on available human and technological resources within the locality. The discussions at the Forum had been centred on two main themes: first, overcoming urban poverty; and, second, ensuring a sustainable urban future. Three slide presentations had been made on the Barcelona 2050, Buenos Aires 2050 and New York 2050 projects, to demonstrate how each of the cities were envisaging the future, and making it happen.

B. Overcoming urban poverty

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

4. Cities needed to be compact and not dispersed to facilitate more efficient service delivery, but that should be based on a well-defined public policy. The questions were asked: What are the expectations? What does society need? How do we arrive at an acceptable answer for all? It was noted that there was a high level of bystander apathy fuelled by citizens' ignorance of their neighbours. Their perceptions, which were driven by fear, frequently blurred reality. There was a need to build cities that promoted citizenship by building community spaces, simple but workable community information systems and community recreation and public spaces.
5. To achieve effective urban service delivery for poverty reduction, the activities of three high impact groups – scientists, politicians and media – needed to be well coordinated and already a number of models and policies were being put forward to that end. One of the main outcomes of the discussions on water supply was the memorandum of understanding signed between UN-Habitat and Green Cross International.

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

7. To realize the Barcelona, Buenos Aires and New York 2050 projects, intensive interactive forums, visioning processes, dissemination of information, and mobilization of political resources had followed public debates. All three cities had realized the potentials of the 2050 projects as opportunities to understand what citizens wanted, what they desired and demanded for the future, to identify critical issues and matters, to share experiences and inspire leaders, as it were, to “think big” to change the way decisions were made, and to expand the horizons of planning.

C. Ensuring a sustainable urban future

8. A sound public policy to sustain an urban future must be centred on the principle that the people’s right to the city was alienable. At the core of that principle were the critical resources of land, water, air and energy. Those elements must jointly belong to the people and should be removed from private control. To prepare for lack of natural resources for the future, the resources had to be made an integral part of social policy and legislation.

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

10. Cities must not be allowed to drift rudderless. The twenty-first century must be devoted to metropolitan areas, local participatory spaces and global development strategies. The concept of a super municipality, which had set in with decentralization, had given identity and individuality to cities as bastions of autonomy. Accordingly, the challenge for professionals was to understand what people wanted at that level and to translate that vision to sustainable plans. To achieve this, it was necessary to have a desirable mix of experts, knowledge, and citizens. Information to the people was where the power lay. If people were well informed, they could stop almost any project that did not fit into their vision for their city.

11. The session concluded by posing questions on some unresolved issues. Given that the vision of the urban future was independent of political office, how was it possible to ensure that elected officials with limited terms understood and accepted that long-term approach? Where urban geography did not agree with the political geography of councils and States, there was a need to study processes by which we might not have to produce more of the same. This could be achieved through the education and socialization process by which values were transmitted to the next generation even in meeting simple and daily needs such as health, education, and shelter.
Annex VI

Summary of the third plenary meeting

“Local governments, partners for development”: Programme organized in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments

Friday, 17 September 2004

Speakers

1. Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, Founding President of UCLG
2. Mr. Clarence Anthony, Treasurer of United Cities and Local Governments
3. Mr. Daniel Biau, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat
4. Mr. Yves Ducharme, Mayor of Gatineau, Canada
5. Mr. Pierre Schapira, Deputy Mayor of Paris, France
6. Mr. Ji Bin, Director of International Affairs, CPAFFC, China
7. Mr. Musikari Kombo, Minister of Local Government of Kenya.
8. Mr. Jesse Robredo, Mayor of Naga City, Philippines
9. Mr. Pierre Amondji Djedji, Governor of Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
10. Mr. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey
11. Mr. Olivio Dutra, Minister for Cities, Brazil
12. Mr. Ramirez Cardona, Mayor of Manizales, Colombia, and Vice President of FLACMA
13. Mr. Pierre Mauroy, Former Prime Minister, France
14. Mr. Naokazu Takemoto, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
15. Mr. Aly Lo, President, Union des Associations d’Elus Locaux du Sénégal, on behalf of Ms. Aminata Tall, State Minister, Senegal

Documentation: Agreement of cooperation between UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments

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

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

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

A. Segment 1: Improving governance through municipal international cooperation
15. The first segment was devoted to the involvement of cities in international policy, city-to-city cooperation and exchange between cities and local governments on the achievements of sustainable urban development through municipal cooperation. The segment addressed the needs and priorities of local authorities, the roles and experiences of national and international associations of local authorities, and the complementarities and synergies among the activities of support programmes and organizations.

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

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

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

B. Segment 2: Localizing the Millennium Development Goals to cities

19. The second segment discussed the Millennium Development Goals, which have become the organizing framework for national and international development programmes. Questions were raised as to whether the current framework of monitoring and implementation of the goals takes cognizance of the urban and the local dimensions, or whether it should focus on global, regional, national and local levels. What, it was asked, are the advantages and dangers of a target-based approach, taking into account that the urban population in developing countries is predicted to double in the next 30 years? What approaches can be suggested successfully to meet the Millennium Development Goals and their targets? How do participants consider the proposed “urban millennium partnership”?

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

21. They noted that other means of addressing the Millennium Development Goals at the local level included micro-credit to women and young people and that the local Agenda 21 was the vehicle for achieving the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

22. It was pointed out that social inclusion was not going to happen unless governments at all levels intervened. What was required was a multidimensional intervention in cities ensuring that people were involved in the process. Urban planning had to focus on the urban poor because ignoring the increase in poverty amounted to violence against the people. Local governments had the necessary tools for developing proper inclusiveness for their people. The limits of such inclusiveness had to be defined, however. Macroeconomic policies could not be contrary to social policies. Urban funding had to focus on satisfying the needs of the poorest of the poor.

C. Segment 3: Promoting local democracy and decentralization

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

24. Speakers cautioned local governments to ensure that decentralization was not stifled under the guise of fighting terrorism. They argued that decentralization needed to be accompanied by tax autonomy and the requisite changes in national policy framework. That should fall within the context of fighting corruption and promoting cultural dynamism.

25. It was observed that cross-border movements of people had increased owing to the uneven benefits of globalization. Urban issues would be best addressed if UN-Habitat was supported in strengthening the roles of local governments. In addition, private sector involvement in housing delivery should be encouraged as a tool of poverty reduction. Disaster management was an important activity of local governments, and experience showed that communities with strong local management networks suffered the least loss of human life during disasters.

26. It was stressed that gender equality needed to be encouraged and women’s role in local development to be promoted. There were too few women mayors. Their numbers should be increased and participation through digital technology and information management should be strengthened.

27. The segment concluded with the signing of an agreement of cooperation between UN-Habitat, as the focal point for local authorities within the United Nations system, and UCLG, as a main partner of the United Nations in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. The agreement was signed by Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and six mayors representing the various regions of UCLG.
Annex VII

Summaries of statements made at the closing session

A. Statement by Mr. Nicephore Soglo, former president of Benin and current Mayor of Cotonou, Benin

1. Mr. Nicephore Soglo, Mayor of Cotonou, Benin, said that the world’s urban population was approaching the characteristics of a time bomb, which must be disarmed immediately. The challenges of Africa were even more acute because they were double those of other regions.

2. Africa’s difficulties must be addressed. He said that it must never be forgotten how Africa had undergone four centuries of deportation, slave trade, followed by colonization, and now it was afflicted by unviable States and governance problems, conflict and HIV/AIDS.

B. Statement by Mr. John W Ashe, chair-designate of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

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

4. Within rapidly expanding cities in developing countries, the demand for land exceeded supply. Government intervention should encourage the private sector to provide low-cost housing. Stronger political will was needed on the part of national Governments to lead to the strengthening of local participation in decision-making and strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders remained a continuing challenge.

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

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

5. He said that global challenges in a rapidly changing world were first felt locally, and they needed to be dealt with first at the local level. He called for an increase in the monies allocated to local governments by international financial institutions. Local authorities could not resolve the issues of AIDS, poverty, the environment, and housing by themselves. They should enter into partnerships with national institutions and Governments, the international community and the private sector.

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

6. Ms. Narelle Townsend, representing the non-governmental and community-based organizations, said that her group was calling for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on slums by 2015 instead of 2020 and that all stakeholders should work towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

E. Statement by Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru, representative of women’s groups

7. Speaking on behalf of women’s groups and for the Huairou Commission, Ms. Esther Mwaura-Mwiru said that there should be a stronger linking of local grass-roots women’s groups with local authorities. She called on local authorities to strengthen women’s networks that were working on issues of governance, peace, water, sanitation, trade, employment security and violence against women. Her group called on the authorities to draw up action plans for housing for all. In that context she recommended strongly that the next session of the World Urban Forum should have one
dialogue specifically focusing on women and human settlements issues, building on solutions that
grass-roots women and non-governmental organizations had already developed. Women should also be
given a strategic physical location, to enable them to form an effective caucus during the next session of
the Forum.

8. All dialogues should bring out people’s voices by including a reasonable number of
non-governmental organizations and grass-roots groups on panels.

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

9. Representing the private sector and professionals, Mr. Andreas Bluthner said that, after having
for so long regarded the private sector as part of the problem it was now time to turn around and see it
private sector as part of the solution. We must find ways, he said, to move from dialogue to specific
projects, to work towards common goals, most prominent among them being the Millennium
Development Goals.

G. Statement by Mr. Shamiel Adams, youth representative

10. Speaking for young people, Mr. Shamiel Adams asked whether peace was possible without
respect. Peace, he said, was not possible in an environment where there were no family ties and where
materialism ruled. He thanked participants at the Forum who were working to change these conditions.

H. Statement by Mr. Joe Fontana, Minister for Labour and Housing of Canada

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

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

13. Canada was pleased to be hosting the next World Urban Forum in 2006 in the award-winning
city of Vancouver. The third session of the World Urban Forum would mark the thirtieth anniversary of
the first Habitat conference, which led to the creation of UN-Habitat. It would build on the successes of
Nairobi and Barcelona and would be inclusive of all countries, cultures and people of the world. Most
importantly, the next forum in Vancouver would showcase a range of different challenges and
meaningful solutions while recognizing the diversity of our situations.

I. Statement by Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Vice-Minister of Construction of China, read by Ms.
Zaho Wen Hua, member of the Chinese delegation

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

15. He said that the World Urban Forum had demonstrated, among other things, the
interconnectedness of urban issues facing all stakeholders and he expressed the hope that the
participants’ enthusiastic collective efforts in producing inputs would prove useful to the Executive
Director of UN-Habitat when she presented the results of the World Urban Forum to the Governing
Council.
J. Statement by Ms. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

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

17. She further acknowledged the reliability and high quality of the advice received from the Advisory Group during the course of the second session and also thanked her colleagues from the United Nations system, as well as delegates from a range of agencies, including UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the Economic Commission for Europe.

18. She first acknowledged the contribution of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, under its dynamic chair, Mayor Joan Clos, and thanked the members for their continuing substantive contribution to UN-Habitat. She noted that one of the benefits of holding the World Urban Forum in Barcelona was that it was now the home and the headquarters of UCLG. She expressed deep appreciation for the close working relationship that had already been established between UN-Habitat, the United Nations focal point for local authorities, and UCLG.

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

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

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

22. She emphasized the importance that she attached to the deliberations of the World Urban Forum, which provided advice to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat who, in turn, could advise the Governing Council. Accordingly, she would report on the proceedings and recommendations of the current second session of the World Urban Forum to the Governing Council at its forthcoming twentieth session, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, early in 2005. It was appropriate at this point, she said, to acknowledge that a great deal of preparatory work for the current Forum had been carried out with the active involvement and support of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi.

23. In conclusion, she said that the focus would now shift to Vancouver and Canada, site of the third World Urban Forum in 2006, and thanked the Government of Canada for inviting everybody to return to Vancouver, where UN-Habitat had been conceived in 1976.
K. Statement by Mr. Joan Clos, President of the Forum Barcelona 2004 and Mayor of Barcelona

24. In his statement, Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, said that the voice of the cities was finally being heard. Cities were being recognized as instruments for the development of civil society. Previously cities had been seen as a problem, but were now major players at all levels. At the same time, cities such as Madrid, New York and Gaza were also victims of terror and aggression.

25. He conveyed his deep conviction that local, non-corrupt governments formed a small but very important part of the puzzle to establish the conditions for peace and development.

L. Statement by Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, chair of the second session of the World Urban Forum and Minister of Housing of Spain

26. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minister for Housing of Spain, said that the World Urban Forum was truly the jewel in the crown of the Universal Forum of Cultures at Barcelona. She stated her view that we were starting to march to a rhythm which would take us to Canada, where the third session of the World Urban Forum will take place.

27. In conclusion, she said she was pleased that there was now a road map to achieve our goals and that we must all commit ourselves to achieving those goals.
Annex VIII

List of documents before the World Urban Forum at its second session

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

List of networking events

A. City Management

**Affordable and Accessible GIS for Local Governance**
Mr. Alven Lam  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
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**Awards Systems Roundtable**
Mr. Nicholas You  
UN-Habitat  
nicholas.you@unhabitat.org

**Building Bridges with the Grassroots**
Mr. Theo Schilderman  
Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG)  
Theos@itdg.org.uk

**Campaigning to Reform International Institutions**
Ms. Núria Molina  
ubuntu@ubuntu.upc.edu

**Development and Management in African Cities**
Mr. Eric Makokha  
Shelter Forum  
ericm@shelterforum.or.ke

**Global Networks for Local Government Capacity-Building**
Ms. Hawa M. Diallo  
Training and Capacity Building Branch  
UN-Habitat  
Hawa.Diallo@unhabitat.org

**Iberoamerican and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices (LAC Forum)**
Mr. Stephen Walsh  
UN-Habitat / Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme  
walsh@habitat-lac.org

**Launch of the Urban Millennium Partnership**
Dinesh Mehta  
Coordinator, Urban Management Programme (UMP)  
UN- Habitat  
dinesh.mehta@unhabitat.org

**Local Economic Development**
Mr. Gulelat Kebede  
Training and Capacity Building  
UN-Habitat  
Gulelat.Kebede@unhabitat.org

**Localizing the Habitat Agenda for Urban Poverty Reduction**
Mr. Budhi Mulyawan
S.B.Mulyawan@westminster.ac.uk

Medcities Seminar on Air Quality and Mobility
Joan Parpal, Medcities General Secretary
email: desurb@amb.es

Participatory Budgeting, Urban Governance and Democracy
Mr. Eduardo Mancuso
Municipality of Porto Alegre
Emancusso@gp.prefpoa.com.br

Spanish Best Practices – Bilbao facing the new Millennium – Forum Barcelona
Mr. Jose Luis Nicolas, Ministry of Housing, e-mail: jlnicolas@mfom.es
2. Mr. Ibon Areso, Bilbao City Hall, e-mail: iareso@ayto.bilbao.net
3. Mr. Jaume Castellvi Egea, Managing Director of Infrastructures del Llevant de Barcelona, e-mail: xcasinos@infraesl.com

Urban Inequities and GIS – Putting the Poor on the Map
Mr. Martin Raithelhuber
UN-Habitat
Martin.Raitthelhuber@unhabitat.org

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Urban Sector Profile Study for Policy Inputs for Urban Poverty Reduction
Mr. Alioune Badiane
UN-Habitat
alioune.badiane@unhabitat.org

B. Finance

Financing Urban Housing and Infrastructure
Mr. Alven Lam
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
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Micro-Credit and Financing of Urban Agriculture
Ms. Marielle Dubbeling
IPES/Urban Management Program – Latin America and the Caribbean
Marid@pgu-ecu.org
Public-Private Partnership in Urban Revitalization
Mr. Alven Lam,
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Alven_H._Lam@HUD.Gov

Slum Upgrading: How Public Finances Leverage Household and Commercial Finance
Mr. Ronald Carlson, USAID
rcarlson@usaid.gov
Mr. Dinesh Mehta
UN-Habitat
dinesh.mehta@unhabitat.org
Mr. Charles J. Billand, TCG International LLN
billand@tcgillac.com

Challenges of City Financing: Habitat’s Professionals Forum
Dr. Don C. I. Okpala
UN-Habitat
don.okpala@unhabitat.org
Ms. Elsbeth van Hylckama Vlieg
C. Housing and Infrastructure

Access to Basic Services for All
Mr. Andre Dzikus
UN-Habitat
andre.dzikus@unhabitat.org
Mr. Christophe Nuttal
UNITAR
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Challenges Facing South African Local Government and Policy Responses
Ms. Mosa Molapo
Deputy Director General: Urban & Rural Development
Dept. Provincial & Local Government (dplg)
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ComHabitat – City-community partnerships in the Commonwealth
Ms. Ruth McLeod, Homeless International
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Ms. Kim Mullard, Homeless International
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Countrywide Slum Upgrading
Mr. William Cobbett
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Fighting Forced Evictions
Ms. Sandra Baffoe-Bonnie
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sandra.baffoe-bonnie@unhabitat.org

Housing for All in the New Millennium: Toward Vancouver 2006
Ms. Jane Katz
Director of International Programs, Washington Office, Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)
jkatz@hfhi.org

Housing for the Poor in Developing Countries
Mr. Michel Lachambre
Reseau Habitat et Francophonie
Rhf@union-habitat.org
Mr. Philippe Biongolo
Sonacotra
Philippe.biongolo@sonacotra.fr

Planning Practice in an Urbanizing World
Mr. Michel Frojmovic
International Program Manager, Canadian Institute of Planners
international@cip-icu.ca
Rental Housing: An Essential Option for the Poor
Mr. Selman Ergüden
UN-Habitat
selman.erguden@unhabitat.org

Sanitation: the Most Difficult Millennium Development Goal to Meet
Mr. Graham Alabaster
UN-Habitat
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Role of Cities in an Information Age
Mr. Neville S. Arachchige Don
President/CEO
IRFD
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Zero Eviction Campaign: Results and Perspectives
Mr. Cesare Ottolini
International Alliance of Inhabitants
cesare.ottolini@libero.it

Urban Planning Revisited
Mr. Paul Taylor, UN-Habitat
paul.taylor@unhabitat.org

Urban Structure, Transport and Local Economy (part 1)
Ms. Louise Nyström
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Urban Structure, Transport and Local Economy (part 2)
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Mr. Peter Elmlund
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Values-Based Water Education
Mr. Pireh Otieno
UN-Habitat
Email: pireh.otieno@unhabitat.org

D. Sustainability

Cities as Drivers of Sustainable Development
Dr. Peter Marcotullio
UNU-IAS
pjmarc@ias.unu.edu
Clarice Wilson
UNU-IAS
wilson@ias.unu.edu

Communicating Urban Water: Preconditions for a Sustainable Everyday Life
Mr. Per-Arne Malmqvist/ Ms. Henriette Söderberg
Urban Water
Chalmers University of Technology
Cultural Heritage: A Tool for Urban Development
Ms. Linda Camara
Sida coordinator WUF
linda.camara@sida.se

Indigenous Foods and Local Food Security
Mr. Francis Mwaura
Chairman, COASAD Council
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Knowledge for Urban Development
Mr. Henrik Nolmark
Formas
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Land and Urban Poverty
Mr. Ulrik Westman
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Linkages between UN-Habitat and the Commission for Sustainable Development
Mr. Jan-Gustav Strødenaes, Senior Policy Advisor
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Managing Information for Local Environments (MILES)
Mr. Bernd Decker
Rupprecht Consult GmbH
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Planning for Long-Term Urban Sustainability
Ms. Jane McRae
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Property Rights and Sustainable Urban Development
Mr. Alven Lam
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
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Sustainable Cities and Villages: International Training for Local Authorities
Mr. Christophe Nuttall
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Ms. May East-
Global Ecovillage Network
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Sustainable Communities and the Future Shape of Cities
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