

MANIFESTO FOR CITIES
THE URBAN FUTURE WE WANT

MANIFESTE POUR LA VILLE
L'AVENIR URBAIN QUE NOUS VOULONS

MANIFESTO POR LAS CIUDADES
EL FUTURO URBANO QUE QUEREMOS

城市宣言

我们所期待的城市未来

بيان عام بشأن المدن:
المستقبل الحضري الذي نريده

МАНИФЕСТ ГОРОДОВ
КАКИМИ МЫ ХОТИМ ВИДЕТЬ ГОРОДА БУДУЩЕГО

MANIFESTO PER LE CITTA'
IL FUTURO URBANO CHE VOGLIAMO



The Manifesto for Cities is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign.

The World Urban Campaign was launched in March 2010 at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, endorsed by member states and a large number of international partners, recognized as an instrumental platform for promoting outstanding practices of all Habitat Agenda partners.

The World Urban Campaign is the partners platform for the preparation of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in 2016, twenty years after the Habitat II Conference (Istanbul, 1996).

It is also a global partnership designed to promote a positive vision of sustainable urbanization and place the urban agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is meant to build catalytic and transformative alliances by engaging the civil society, the business sector, the research community and governments in a global movement of converging interests, providing a knowledge and action-oriented platform to address urban challenges.

The Manifesto for Cities was prepared by the World Urban Campaign in June 2012 and represents the consensus of all partners engaged in the global coalition.

MANIFESTO FOR CITIES KEY MESSAGES

MANIFESTO FOR CITIES: The Urban Future We Want

Cities are the world's greatest assets for pursuing sustainable development. How we plan, build and manage our cities today will determine our future. Harnessing the city as an asset requires the commitment of all.

We declare ourselves City Changers. We commit to take action and change cities for a better urban world.

We invite all Habitat Agenda partners to join forces and participate as equal partners in the Global Urban Agenda. The battle for a sustainable future will be won or lost in cities.

MANIFESTO FOR CITIES

We, representatives of the Habitat Agenda Partners, having met at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, call upon the international community and all public, private and social actors to commit to a Global Urban Agenda so as to ensure our sustainable future. This urban agenda will be our contribution to and one of the outcomes of the Third Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III).

PREAMBLE

The urban world we want will bring the promise of a better future. Our cities are up to the challenge to deliver a sustainable future. The city will be a humanizing experience which generates justice, knowledge and happiness. It will rely on the power of intelligence, audacity, wise decision-makers, men and women, from youth to elders, while based on a better understanding of our landscape and eco-systems, history and culture. Decisions taken today in cities across the world will shape not only their own destinies but the social and environmental future of humankind.

We affirm that urbanization is inevitable. The world has entered an urban era where cities have taken the center stage, inevitably shaping our future. More people are choosing cities as the context for preferred lifestyles and stronger livelihood opportunities for their future well-being. Urbanization is driving our development and cities are back at the heart of our civilization.

We acknowledge the increasing dominance of urban space. While the world's urban population grew from 220 million to 2.8 billion over the 20th century, the 21st century will experience even more urban growth. By 2050, eight out of ten people in the world will be living in cities. This rapid urbanization is radically changing the economic, financial, social, and ecological landscape of our planet. It is the single greatest development challenge and opportunity for the 21st century.

We recognize that the current models of urbanization are socially, economically and environmentally unsustainable. Today's urban patterns simultaneously provide steep challenges. The city has lost its human scale; the urban space has often been designed and built with the metrics of the car and not that of the human. City dwellers use more than two third of the planet's natural resources. Rapid and unmanaged urbanization leads to the proliferation of slums and informality, increasing poverty and vulnerability to human-caused and natural hazards. These conditions threaten the safety, security and social cohesion of individuals, their neighborhoods, cities and nations.

We assert that urbanization is a positive force to be harnessed in support of social equality, cultural vitality, economic prosperity and ecological security. Urbanization poses tremendous and complex opportunities for a shared, sustainable future. Cities are the world's greatest asset for pursuing sustainable development as they can be the driving force behind the solutions to meet global challenges. Cities have the potential for inclusive community building, support of diverse cultures, economies of scale and energy-efficient development.

We further recognize the ever-changing dynamics and the diversity of cities that requires a combination of interdependent skills,

investment, technology and well-informed decision making to harness the development potential of urbanization.

We believe that the battle for a more sustainable future will be won or lost in cities. How we plan, build and manage our cities now will determine the outcome of our efforts to achieve a sustainable and harmonious development tomorrow. Harnessing the city as an asset requires the commitment of all as city changers and innovators for a better urban future.

We advocate a Global Urban Agenda to position sustainable cities at the heart of 21st century development. We call for a Global Urban Agenda to be premised on the assumption that failure to address contemporary urban challenges will reduce the ability to take advantage of urban opportunities.

We promote a Global Urban Agenda that envisions equitable, resilient, livable, creative and productive cities. A robust and adaptable Global Urban Agenda will incorporate measures for poverty reduction, environmental preservation, economic growth and good governance, cohesion among territories and metropolitan management. It will provide for the reduction of the ecological footprint of cities through integrated and holistic urban development policies, effective and participatory planning and management, green architecture and construction, and the use of methodologies and tools to track urban sustainable development. It should be an integral part of any development agenda.

We call for strong partnerships, Habitat Agenda Partners, to craft and implement a Global Urban Agenda. The creation of sustainable cities through crafting and implementing a Global Urban

Agenda requires collaborative approaches based on strong partnerships. Such partnerships foster innovative ways of thinking, new levels of understanding and knowledge. The Habitat Agenda Partners (national governments, parliamentarians, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, grass-root organizations, academia, women's groups, human settlements professionals, the private sector and youth groups) have been key participants in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). These Partners are well placed to elaborate and build together the Global Urban Agenda and to contribute to Habitat III.

We know that strong partnerships involve City Changers

Individuals who have the courage to effect change with its requirements for commitment and bold action, humanism and reconciliation with our civilization, territories and the nature are the basic material of strong partnerships. They are City Changers. They will work to make cities more respectful of the environment and the future generations, more beautiful and convivial and become the pride of their communities.

We declare ourselves City Changers. We commit to take action and change cities for a better urban world. We will help craft a new Global Urban Agenda according to the following principles^{1,2} that will serve as its building blocks:

- Accessible land, infrastructure, services, mobility and housing;
- Socially inclusive, gender sensitive, healthy and safe development;
- Environmentally sound and carbon-efficient built environment;
- Participatory planning and decision making;
- Vibrant, creative and competitive local economies promoting decent work and livelihoods;

- Assurance of non-discrimination and equal rights to the city;
- Empowering cities and communities to plan for and effectively manage adversity and change.

We invite all Habitat Agenda partners to join forces and participate as equal partners in the formulation and adoption of a new Global Urban Agenda based on the above principles to be adopted on the occasion of Habitat III in 2016 as a blueprint and a global action plan in support of our common quest for more sustainable cities and communities.

We call upon national and local governments to work together in the creation of planning frameworks for a sustainable, equitable urban future.

We call upon the international community to build upon The Future We Want commitments adopted in Rio de Janeiro³ and to include targets for sustainable urban development as part of future global development goals.

We call upon the international community to build upon the positive experience of the Habitat II Conference and adopt an open and inclusive Habitat III Conference, including its preparatory process.

1 *World Urban Campaign Principles approved by the WUC Steering Committee at its second session in Paris, Dec. 2009.*

2 *The principles are also supported by those of the Manifesto of the City for 2030 ratified at the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders (Mexico, 16-20 November 2010), inter alia: inclusive cities of participation assuring equal rights to the city; cities with a vision for their future; livable cities, accessible, vibrant competitive; creative cities, a cities of culture; secure cities, cities of peace; cities fit for work, promoting decent work; cities with pride in their public services; cities without slums.*

3 *Adopted at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, 20-22 June 2012. Section on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements, paragraphs 134 to 137.*

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to promote a positive vision of sustainable urbanization.



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