



# World Urban Forum Bulletin

**A Daily Report of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum**

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)  
in collaboration with the Globe Foundation and UN-HABITAT



**IISD Reporting Services**

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## THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM: 19-23 JUNE 2006

The third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) opens today in Vancouver, Canada, and will continue until Friday, 23 June 2006. Held every two years, the Forum examines rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies.

WUF3 is jointly organized by the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Government of Canada.

This five-day event is expected to bring together some 15,000 participants from over 150 countries, representing governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, urban professionals, local authorities and academia.

Convening under the overarching theme “Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action,” WUF3 has organized its work into three sub-themes: urban growth and the environment; partnership and finance; and social inclusion and cohesion. Participants will meet in plenary, dialogue and special sessions, as well as 13 roundtables, including the Ministers’ roundtable. Some 160 networking events are also scheduled to take place during the Forum.

WUF3 marks the 30th anniversary of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements, which was also held in Vancouver and led to the creation of UN-HABITAT.

While the WUF does not follow formal rules of procedure that usually govern official UN meetings, its reports and recommendations will be submitted by the Executive Director to the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT for consideration and appropriate action.

### *A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ISSUES*

As a result of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements, which took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May-11 June 1976, the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements officially established the UN Centre for Human Settlements as the major UN agency mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of the world’s population will be living in towns and cities.

Designated by the UN General Assembly as an advisory body, the World Urban Forum (WUF) is an open-ended think tank designed to encourage debate and discussion about the challenges of urbanization. In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the UN General Assembly decided that the WUF 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.” The General Assembly also decided, in the

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same resolution, to transform the UN Centre for Human Settlements into the UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT.

**HABITAT II:** The second Habitat Conference convened from 3-14 June 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, adopted by 171 governments during the Conference, outlined over 100 commitments and strategies to address shelter and sustainable human settlements, emphasizing the themes of partnership and local action. The Habitat Agenda set the twin goals of achieving adequate shelter for all and the sustainable development of human settlements. After much debate, the Conference also reaffirmed the commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

**ISTANBUL+5:** The 25th Special Session of the UN General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat II outcomes took place from 6-8 June 2001 at UN headquarters in New York. At the special session, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, which consists of: a political declaration reaffirming the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda; a review and assessment of implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and proposals for further actions for achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable development of human settlements.

**WUF1:** The First World Urban Forum was held from 29 April-3 May 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya. The overall theme was sustainable urbanization. Discussions also focused on: the effect of HIV/AIDS on human settlements; violence against women; basic services and infrastructure, including provision of water and sanitation; and the need for secure tenure.

**WSSD:** The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August-4 September 2002, calls for achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. It also urges action at all levels to: improve access to land and property, adequate shelter and basic services for the urban and rural poor; increase decent employment, credit and income; remove unnecessary regulation

and other obstacles for microenterprises and the informal sector; and support slum upgrading programmes within the framework of urban development plans.

#### 19TH SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT GOVERNING

**COUNCIL:** Convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5-9 May 2003,

this session focused on urban development and sheltering strategies favoring the poor, and the rural dimension of sustainable urban development. The session reviewed activities of UN-HABITAT, and adopted its work programme and budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, its medium-term plan for 2006-2009, and 18 resolutions covering topics including



UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka

women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, water and sanitation, and decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.

**WUF2:** The Second World Urban Forum took place in Barcelona, Spain, from 13-17 September 2004. Participants discussed progress in achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on environmental sustainability, including Target 10 on water and sanitation, and Target 11 on slums. Participants also addressed gender equality, urban culture, poverty, safety, disaster preparedness and reconstruction.

#### *DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE SECOND WORLD URBAN FORUM*

**AMCHUD-1:** The First African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) took place in Durban, South Africa, from 31 January-4 February 2005. The ministers adopted a Declaration on the establishment of the AMCHUD as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of human settlements in Africa. They also adopted an Enhanced Framework of Implementation and Related Outputs for more effective African urban development

policies and strategies, with a special focus on poverty as a crosscutting issue applying to water, sanitation and human settlements.

**20TH SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT GOVERNING COUNCIL:** Attended by nearly 1000 participants, the session took place from 4-8 April 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The session reviewed activities of UN-HABITAT and adopted its work programme and budget for 2006-2007. Twenty-two resolutions were adopted, including on: post-conflict, natural and human-made disasters assessment and reconstruction; establishment of the AMCHUD; and strengthening the Slum Upgrading Facility. The session could not reach consensus on the proposal to reset the MDG target on improving the lives of slum dwellers from a specific number to a proportion of the world's population.

**CSD-13:** At its thirteenth session, held from 11-22 April 2005 in New York, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) focused on policies and options to expedite the implementation of international commitments in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements. Two areas of contention emerged with regard to human settlements: the extent of decentralization in their planning and management; and illegal settlements. The CSD-13 outcome document calls on governments and UN agencies to mobilize means of implementation and provide an enabling environment for sustainable human settlements development.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BUILT ENVIRONMENT ISSUES IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES:** Held from 14-19 August 2005 in Kingston, Jamaica, the conference addressed the special circumstances of small island developing States, and the role of academic institutions.

**INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT:** This multistakeholder platform convened from 11-13 October 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland with the objective of presenting solutions in the fields of technology, governance, civil society and enterprises from urban areas across the globe.

**HABITAT JAM:** Organized by UN-HABITAT, this global internet discussion on urban problems took place from 1-3 December 2005 and sought to bring ideas from the public to

leaders and experts preparing for WUF3. According to UN-HABITAT, slum dwellers in poor countries were most active in this online forum.

**WORLD YOUTH FORUM:** The Forum took place in Vancouver, Canada from 16-18 June 2006, immediately prior to WUF3. Over 400 youth delegates from 46 countries came together to discuss issues of concern to young people around the world, discuss youth-led projects, and have the chance to meet with high-level UN representatives and Canadian leaders.

Forum participants heard keynote speeches and presentations by Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT; Joachim Chissano, United Nations Youth Ambassador; Anantha Krishnan, UN-HABITAT Chief, Partners and Youth Section; the Mathare Youth Sports Association Singers; Hassan Abdikadir and Kevina Power, World Urban Forum Youth Representatives; Ida Chong, British Columbia Minister of Community Development and Women's Issues; and Charles Kelly, WUF3 Commissioner General.

Throughout the weekend, participants divided into "pod" groups to address seven main themes: Health Care: On the Frontline with HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases; Environment: Creating Healthy and Sustainable Communities; Youth as Leaders: Locally, Nationally, Internationally; Safety and Non-Violence: Youth as Peace-Builders; Gender: Achieving Balance and Equity; Indigenous Issues: Redefining the MDGs; and Making a Living: Sustainable Economy.



World Youth Forum delegate Christine Luza presented recommendations on behalf of the indigenous issues pod



Third World Urban Forum takes place in Vancouver, Canada

The goal of the pod discussions was to share current best practices in youth-led development, and to produce text that will form the basis of a World Youth Forum Declaration, which will be officially presented to WUF3 participants on Friday, 23 June. The youth delegates also developed a strategy to influence WUF3 deliberations over the next five days through policy discussions, media and networking events, and alternative modes of expression.

The World Youth Forum culminated in a celebration evening with a reception held at the Aboriginal Friendship Center, followed by a Jam Session and World Urban Forum pre-party.

#### **STATE OF THE WORLD'S CITIES REPORT 2006/7**

In conjunction with WUF3, UN-HABITAT released *State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7*, a new study of urbanization. The report demonstrates that slum dwellers in developing countries are as badly, if not worse, off than their rural counterparts. The report provides concrete data that the world's

one billion slum dwellers are likely to die earlier, experience more hunger and disease, attain less education and have fewer chances of employment than those urban residents that do not reside in slums. The study further documents trends in: growth of megacities; population dynamics, including increasing numbers of slum dwellers; access to basic services such as water and sanitation; secure land and property tenure; and environmental degradation.



#### **THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY**

Networking event "The Sustainable City: A Swedish-Chinese Partnership," originally scheduled for Thursday, 22 June, will now be held on Monday, 19 June from 16:30-18:30 in Oceanview 7/8, Pan Pacific Hotel.

Side Event "Regional Programme of Social Housing and Human Settlements. Review of the Regional Action Plan" will be taking place in Room MR18 from 16:30-18:30.

## **International Institute for Sustainable Development Reporting Services Division (IISD RS)**

IISD RS will generate daily reports in English and French at the Third World Urban Forum (WUF3), starting Monday, 19 June 2006.

As part of our vision and the WUF3's efforts to reduce its ecological footprint and to contribute to positive social and economic development, we are encouraging participants to:

- 1) Subscribe to the online version of our daily reports and receive them by e-mail each morning before 8.00AM; or
- 2) Read our reports online on our dedicated website at: <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/wuf3/>

This approach will allow IISD RS and the WUF3 organization to print fewer documents that are otherwise free and easily accessible on the internet.

To join this initiative, please visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/email/wufsub.htm>



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## THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM HIGHLIGHTS: MONDAY, 19 JUNE 2006

The third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) opened in Vancouver, Canada with a traditional song and dance welcome on behalf of the First Nations of Canada. In the morning, delegates heard opening statements and adopted the WUF3 agenda and organization of work. In the afternoon, Forum participants convened in six roundtable discussions and numerous networking sessions. *Note: due to a large number of overlapping sessions, IISD coverage focused on roundtable discussions.*



The WUF3 opened with a welcoming ceremony followed by statements from dignitaries and key stakeholders

## OPENING CEREMONY AND PLENARY

Eric Falt, Director of the Division of Communications and Public Information, United Nations Environment Programme and Master of Ceremonies, welcomed participants to Vancouver, noting that WUF3 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat Conference), also held in this city.

Charles Kelly, WUF3 Commissioner General, noted that WUF3 is one step towards realizing sustainability principles, and expressed hope that participants would leave with “actionable” ideas to make a difference for urban development.

Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver, welcomed delegates and thanked the Prime Minister of Canada for “putting cities first” and attending WUF3. He said the first Habitat Conference had changed the way urban development decisions were made in Vancouver. Urging delegates to work and learn together, he highlighted the need to embrace environmentally responsible urban “eco-structures” to decrease cities’ ecological footprint.

Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia, emphasized WUF3’s theme of turning ideas into action to address urban sustainability challenges, adding that innovations and new technologies give cause for hope. He noted that citizen involvement in Vancouver has resulted in public waterfront access, the maintenance of urban green space, enhanced public transit, and the successful integration of office and living space within the downtown area.

Inga Klevby, UN-HABITAT Deputy Executive Director, delivered a message from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stating that over the past three decades the world has become more urbanized, congested and polluted, and less equitable. He stressed that poverty and deprivation are significant, with more than half of the developing world’s urban population living in slums. Highlighting links between opportunities and deprivation, UN Secretary-General Annan called for scaling up efforts to make our planet more just, equitable and sustainable for all its inhabitants.

**Opening address:** Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, emphasized that, as half the world’s population now lives in urban areas, sustainable city planning will determine our future. While welcoming the Habitat Agenda’s successes, she suggested that the failure to achieve urban sustainability is due to a lack of political support for proper urban planning. She underscored WUF’s central role in the engagement of civil society in the UN-HABITAT process, urged participants to share ideas, and said she will deliver the WUF3 report to the 2007 Governing Council session of UN-HABITAT. Tibaijuka also requested a minute’s silence in memory of Jane Jacobs and Rafic Hariri, champions of sustainable urban community development.

**Keynote address:** Underscoring the vision of successful, sustainable and safe cities, Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, noted that urbanization is a powerful phenomenon

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Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, stressed the concept of “enlightened urban statecraft”

gaining momentum in the developing world. He outlined Canada’s history of settlement, exploration and urbanization, and highlighted that Canadian cities rank among the world’s best.

Prime Minister Harper further stressed the concept of “enlightened urban statecraft” with particular emphasis on: achieving fiscal and jurisdictional balance; addressing infrastructure deficit; ensuring environmental sustainability; curbing urban crime; providing affordable housing; averting terrorism; and promoting cultural diversity.

Noting that most population growth in the next 25 years will take place in the cities of the developing world, Noli de Castro, Vice-President of the Philippines, highlighted connections between urban poverty and the struggle for democracy, and prioritized concerted action in establishing development paths consistent with democratic ideals. He underscored the role of WUF3 in addressing slum upgrading, housing finance, gender issues and realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice-President of Tanzania, addressed sustainable urbanization in Africa and other parts of the developing world. He noted Tanzania’s progress in implementing MDG Goal 7 Target 11 on slum upgrading through housing and land legislation.

#### **OPENING PLENARY: Social inclusion and cohesion:**

María Antonia Trujillo, Spain’s Minister of Housing and WUF2 Chair, opened the plenary session by stating that, while past WUFs identified problems, WUF3 should explore how to go from ideas to actions. She stressed learning from positive experiences as WUF3’s central theme.

Diane Finley, Canada’s Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and WUF3 Chair, invited delegates to assess progress and respond to challenges posed by cities. She said WUF offers a unique opportunity to serve as a medium for global exchange, focusing on pragmatic and innovative ways to deal with cities. She stated that while cities play a pivotal role in economic development, preserving a healthy rural environment is also important to a balanced economy and social wellbeing. She urged participants to make WUF3 outcomes practical and action-oriented to forge meaningful networks.

**Adoption of agenda and organization of work:** WUF3 Chair Finley introduced, and delegates adopted, the provisional agenda proposed by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT (HSP/WUF/3/1) and organization of work for WUF3 (HSP/WUF/3/INF/1 and 2) without amendment. They also approved the establishment of a WUF3 advisory group (HSP/WUF/3/INF/6) that will assist the UN-HABITAT Executive Director in the organization and conduct of the Forum.

Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, stressed that home ownership can make cities stronger, safer and more prosperous. He explained the goal of establishing an ownership society in the US with a special focus on minorities and the poor. He stated that home ownership is essential for accumulating wealth, financial independence, stability and social benefits, and that housing has been the key to the growth of the American economy.

Kumari Selja, India’s Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, highlighted the global consensus that has emerged in the past 30 years on the need to base global initiatives on local solutions for human settlement management. She outlined India’s actions towards sustainable urban development and noted the emergence of the private sector as a partner in this agenda. She urged the promotion of cities to ensure local economic development and service rural communities.

Naokazu Takemoto, Japan’s Senior Vice-Minister of Finance, noted Japan’s longstanding interest and engagement with UN-HABITAT, and remarked on the importance of civil society engagement. He recalled the commitment that world leaders made at the Millennium Review Summit in September 2005 to sustainable growth and poverty reduction, noted the importance of strong governance and social stability, and described Japan’s involvement in the UN Panel on System-wide Coherence. He concluded by highlighting Japan’s relief efforts in Iraq and areas of Asia affected by the 2004 tsunami.

Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), addressed WUF3 on behalf of the UCLG presidency, noting that his organization represents over half of the world’s population. He highlighted the completion by UCLG of the guidelines on the framework for decentralization,



Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), highlighted his organization’s guidelines on the framework for decentralization, discussed at the recent UN-HABITAT Governing Council

discussed at the recent UN-HABITAT Governing Council, which emphasize community involvement in addressing the challenges of urbanization.

Enrique Ortiz, President of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), outlined developments since the first Habitat Conference, which he said represented a milestone for global awareness of urbanization. He lamented that the lack of political commitment and market policies have undermined realization of the Habitat Agenda principles in the past, and urged a new approach to address global urban challenges. He called for public-private partnerships to be participatory and productive and include people's perspectives.

During the opening plenary session, a World Youth Forum participant delivered a message to WUF3, calling on governments to take action on sustainable human settlements development.

## ROUNDTABLES

Convened in the afternoon, roundtable discussions sought to provide stakeholders' perspectives on the WUF3 agenda and, more broadly, human settlements development.

**Ministers' roundtable:** Held under the theme "Vancouver + 30: The Changing Role of Cities and Global Sustainable Development," this roundtable was organized in cooperation with the Government of Canada.

Moderator Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International and Chancellor, University of Ottawa, opened the roundtable, noting the presence of ministers from over 50 countries, and introduced three themes: the role of governments in urban sustainability; the potential for partnerships; and linking national governments' international agendas to the local level. In her introductory remarks, Tibaijuka emphasized the importance of governments and strong regulatory and legal frameworks in delivering the MDGs.

**The role of governments in urban sustainability:** Co-Chair John Pombe Magufuli, Tanzania's Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, introduced the theme and described his government's support for human settlement development. Ministers highlighted measures and policies taken to meet urban sustainability challenges within their



John Pombe Magufuli, Tanzania's Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, co-chaired the Ministers' roundtable



L-R: Co-Chair Ted Menzies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation of Canada; Moderator Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International and Chancellor, University of Ottawa; Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director; and Co-Chair Magufuli

respective countries. Many participants expressed support for decentralization, civil society engagement, and the development of a common language and system of metrics that can be used in discussing sustainability, poverty and urbanization. Participants identified high land costs and an aging population as obstacles to urban sustainability. It was generally agreed that government has a strong role to play in providing guidance, funding and capacity building for local authorities in their sustainability efforts, and that social housing and education should be viewed as investments. Several ministers called for UN-HABITAT to pass a resolution supporting the development of infrastructure for the poor.

**Partnership between national governments and other jurisdictions in support of urban sustainability:** Co-Chair Ted Menzies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation of Canada, emphasized the importance of fully respecting local governments and enhancing national-local governmental partnerships. Ministers from several countries outlined their experiences in handling the relationship between national and local governments in achieving urban sustainability. It was generally agreed that urban sustainability requires a multi-disciplinary approach, particularly regarding health and education. Several participants noted that lack of funding and access to information is impeding implementation of urban sustainability initiatives.

**Linking national governments' international agendas to the local level:** Co-Chair Menzies stressed the advantages of administrative decentralization in achieving the MDGs. Noting lack of finances and capacity can hinder these efforts, he queried what capacity needs to be developed. Some delegates noted that housing is among the most important issues in post-conflict countries. Several others stressed the importance of private investment, providing loans and mortgages and international assistance. Others stressed cooperation between the central government and local governments in achieving international agendas in water and air pollution control, and energy efficiency.

Summarizing the roundtable discussion, Co-Chair Magufuli pointed out that countries have different problems as well as common challenges and that they should find common solutions.



L-R: Adrian Alanis, Senator, Mexico; John Reynolds, Former Member of Parliament, Canada; and Lee Richardson, Member of Parliament, Canada

Moderator Labelle summarized the major points raised at the roundtable, including: housing equity; regulation and planning; secure tenure; lack of water and sanitation; capacity building; decentralizing resources; enhanced public transportation; privatization in housing development; job creation and education; and provision of free land for social housing.

**Parliamentarian roundtable:** Titled “Vancouver +30 – Parliamentarians Guiding Change for Sustainable Urbanization,” the roundtable provided parliamentarians with the opportunity to discuss legislative initiatives surrounding human settlements, urban development and affordable housing. The session was co-chaired by Adrian Alanis, Senator, Mexico, and Lee Richardson, Member of Parliament, Canada. It was moderated by John Reynolds, former Member of Parliament, Canada. The discussion was divided into two segments: a retrospective of the past 20 years regarding urban legislation, and emerging priorities and future policies in support of urban sustainability.

In her introductory remarks, Klevby described the history and activities of UN-HABITAT. Noting dire conditions in urban slums, Klevby highlighted MDG commitments on improved water and sanitation and slum upgrading. She called for the adoption of pro-urban poor policies and stressed the importance of lawmakers in translating development objectives into action.

Parliamentarians from Germany and the Netherlands drew attention to results from a study of urban policies in Europe over the last ten years, stressing differences among countries in the utilization of various tools, including centers of expertise for regional development, the consolidation of municipal self-government, waste management and environmental assessment.

In sharing experiences from their own countries, delegates emphasized: family planning; national legislation to provide metropolitan planning instruments; an integrated approach among cities with overlapping spheres of influence; and criteria for the success of urban policies. Some participants cautioned that slums and shantytowns have the potential to deepen segregation and generate extremism. Others lamented the fact that sustainable habitats have not become a global priority, and stated that the responsibility for improvement rests on the shoulders of legislators.

In looking to the future, participants explained the importance of putting urban poverty on the political agenda and taking an integrated multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach, and suggested that financial resources directed toward slums and squatters should accompany foreign aid packages. The creation of a fund, similar to the Marshall Fund for post-World War II reconstruction, was also proposed to support housing and urban development in African countries.

Tibaijuka invited delegates to present the Habitat Agenda to their own parliaments.

**Private sector roundtable:** The roundtable was chaired by John Wiebe, President and CEO, GLOBE Foundation of Canada. Chris Henderson, CEO of The Delphi Group, moderated the discussion.

Michael Mutter, UN-HABITAT’s Slum Upgrading Facility, noted that the private sector can contribute management expertise and cost control mechanisms.

Kim Jawanda and Stuart Thomas, Terra Housing Consulting, described their experience in providing social housing in the Philippines and South Africa.

Mazyar Mortazavi, TAS Design Build, noted that communication and education were key for successful partnerships. Discussion also addressed: policy and legal environments; returns on investment; providing neutral ground for partnerships, such as the UN Global Compact; the importance of community and political support; and the need to recognize cultural differences.

On market opportunities, Scott Chubbs, Living Steel Limited, described his company’s program to better understand housing markets and noted developers were more interested in middle- and high-income housing than in low-income. Participants explored how market mechanisms can help increase the scale of successful programs, agreeing that a huge potential market exists, but requires engagement at the policy level.

On strengthening the enabling environment, V. Suresh, CEO, Aerens Goldsok International, addressed the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in low-income housing and legal and regulatory frameworks. Discussion explored factors for success, including: relationships with decision-makers; inclusive processes; self-help initiatives; and transparency.



L-R: Madhumita Ganguli, Housing Finance Development Corporation of India; Chris Henderson, CEO of The Delphi Group; and John Wiebe, President and CEO, GLOBE Foundation of Canada





Participants at the Women's roundtable

On strategies for international community support, Maleye Diop, United Nations Development Programme, noted the need for a transparent tendering process and effective dialogue structures.

Madhumita Ganguli, Housing Finance Development Corporation of India, stressed the importance of infrastructure in spurring international investment.

Klevby closed the session by noting a steady increase in private sector engagement and the challenge of putting the right policies in place.

**Women's roundtable:** Chaired by Erna Witoelar, UN Ambassador for the MDGs for South Asia and the Pacific, this roundtable focused on the theme "Empowering the Millennium Development Goals: Grassroots Women Meet the Challenge – Women's Lives, Women's Decisions."

Jan Petersen, Hairo, opened the session, noting that the draft recommendations emerging from the Grassroots Academy in Vancouver held prior to WUF3 will be presented to plenary later in the week.

Highlighting maternal health and HIV/AIDS initiatives in Kenya, Violet Shivutse, GROOTS Kenya, pointed out that many grassroots women are already working on initiatives in line with the MDG outcomes without being aware of the existence of the MDGs themselves.

Andrea Laux, Stuttgart Mothers Centers, Germany, shared initiatives ranging from dialogue with local authorities to a national anti-poverty campaign on Mother's Day 2006 called "Move the pram, move the world."

Arlene Bailey, Fletchers Land Parenting Association and Sistren Theatre Collective, Jamaica, emphasized proper parenting as an important tool against crime and violence and said the Association's initiatives have been replicated in four inner cities.

Noting that aboriginal women in Canada are forced to relocate from traditional lands, and face violence and other obstacles such as lack of property rights, Penny Irons, Aboriginal Mothers Centers, called for meaningful engagement of aboriginal women in policy development and implementation.

Kasturi Chandrasekaran, Covenant Centre for Development, described activities in four provinces of India to address migration, livelihoods and food security challenges. She

highlighted the Herbal Gardens Project as an example of a community-owned enterprise that sustains local livelihoods and improves community health.

Marlene Rodriguez, Cooperativa Las Brumas, Nicaragua, described her NGO's project to create opportunities for ex-combatants by engaging them in grassroots organic coffee production. She also called for support to rural women to be enshrined in national policies.

In response to the presentations, Srilatha Batliwala, The Houser Center for Nonprofit Organizations, noted the need to assess the value of uncompensated contributions made by women in poor communities.

Jeanine Haddad, UCLG, said grassroots experiences should be shared so that they can be transformed into public policies, and Lisa Jordan, Ford Foundation, noted that grassroots activities have touched upon every MDG.

Ardath Paxton-Mann, Deputy Minister of Western Diversification, Canada, presented the Vancouver Agreement, an initiative to revitalize the city's downtown and address hunger, homelessness and encourage female empowerment.

Noting that UN-HABITAT is responsible for monitoring MDG Goal 7 Target 11 on slum upgrading but also addresses Target 10 on improved water and sanitation, Lucia Kiwala, UN-HABITAT, also elaborated on gender implications of sanitation.

**NGOs roundtable:** Co-chairs Evaniza Rodrigues, Latin American Secretariat for Popular Housing, and Michael Shapcott, Wellesley Institute, opened this roundtable titled "Assets and Struggles: 30 Years After Vancouver Habitat Forum – Realizing the Right to Adequate Housing, Sustainable Habitat and Inclusive Cities." Shapcott noted that the roundtable's recommendations to UN-HABITAT will be based on five themes: ending forced evictions that violate human rights; supporting community-based values and initiatives; confronting the negative effects of habitat privatization; protection, rights and durable solutions for displaced people; and involving local people in all aspects of post-disaster reconstruction.

Ortiz called for innovative instruments and policies to confront habitat problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



L-R: Ana Sugranyes, Habitat International Coalition, Co-chairs Evaniza Rodrigues, Latin American Secretariat for Popular Housing, and Michael Shapcott, Wellesley Institute



L-R: Barbra Kohlo and Loveness Mlambo, Housing People of Zimbabwe, discussed issues related to forced eviction, stressed the importance of gender perspective in habitat policy initiatives

On forced eviction, Barbra Kohlo, Executive Director, Housing People of Zimbabwe, noted the importance of NGO work to support community-based initiatives to strengthen monitoring and increase security of land tenure. She called for a gender perspective in habitat policy initiatives.

On supporting community-based values and initiatives, Jockim Arpurtham, President of Shack Slum Dwellers International, called for local solidarity and action to end forced eviction.

On habitat privatization, Knut Unger, HIC, said that the past three decades were characterized by the commercialization of many spheres of city life, yet market responses to housing were part of the problem and not the solution.

On protection, rights and durable solutions for displaced people, Joe Schechla, HIC, said that civil society should demand good governance with respect to displaced people, an issue that was largely neglected in the course of WUF discussions.

On involving local people in all aspects of post-disaster reconstruction, Wade Rathke, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, US, said that governments must be held accountable in the financing of disaster relief.

Noting housing and land rights challenges, Miloon Kothari, Special UN Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, said governments had lost control of the housing sector, which had come into the hands of private developers and land cartels. He advocated a human rights-based approach to housing, and holding governments accountable through civil society networks.

**Researchers' roundtable:** Convened under the theme of "Planning and Managing Sustainable Cities: From Research to Practice," this roundtable was chaired by Paula Juron, Housing Institute at the University of Chile. She set the goal of the roundtable as developing the means to link research and action, and said that presenters' cases should focus on research on environmentally sustainable cities. The session was moderated by Patrick Wakeley, University College of London.

Vinay Lail, Director of the Society for Development Studies, New Delhi, spoke about good governance of cities as an outcome of research, and Monika Zimmermann, Director of the International Training Centre for the International Council for Local Government Initiatives, reported on EU research initiatives and their impact on urban policies.

Huang Dingjian, People's Government of Nanjing City, listed a number of projects in which research supported reconstruction of the city. Mark Roseland, Director of the Center for Sustainable Community Development, Simon Fraser University, called for more education and community mobilization of sustainable communities.

Martha Schteingart, Center for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies, called for tailored action-oriented research and described a bus rapid transit planning initiative in Mexico City.

Frauke Kraas, on behalf of International Human Dimensions Program and the Urbanization and Global and Environmental Change networks, stressed the need to scale research to a global level, for example, relating urban heat islands, urban hydrology and migration of diseases to climate change.

Jean Lebel, International Development Research Center of Canada, spoke about application of research to good governance, particularly management of sustainable cities with transparency and fairness.

Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, UN-HABITAT, called for a global exchange of information and publication of research results.

Discussion focused on whether policy exigencies and funding constraints could distort research, with participants noting that reduced funding of urban research tends to narrow down commissioned projects.



L-R: Patrick Wakeley, Development Planning Unit, University College of London; Paula Juron, Housing Institute at the University of Chile; and Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, UN-HABITAT

### THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

The site tour "Restoring nature in the city: A look at efforts in Vancouver's Jericho Park" originally scheduled for Tuesday, will now be taking place on Wednesday, 21 June from 16:00-18:00.

Women's Reception will be held in Ballroom C, Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, from 19:00-22:00 on Tuesday, 20 June.



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# World Urban Forum Bulletin

## A Daily Report of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum

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### THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM HIGHLIGHTS: TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2006

Participants at the third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) convened in the morning plenary, followed by four dialogues and special sessions on: achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on slum upgrading and affordable housing; public engagement; assets-based development of urbanizing regions; and a dialogue on water, sanitation and human settlements. Forty concurrent networking events were held in the afternoon, offering an opportunity to share experiences on various aspects of sustainable urban development.



Jockin Arputham, President, National Slum Dwellers Federation of India



Lindiwe Sisulu, South Africa's Minister of Housing

### PLENARY

The plenary was held under the theme of "Social Inclusion and Cohesion."

Alphonso Jackson, Secretary, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), advocated home ownership for strength and safety of cities, saying it is key to financial security, social engagement and higher education. Conversely, he said, homelessness has a devastating effect on urban areas. Jackson explained that HUD's mission is to increase home ownership and noted that the US is eager to share its experiences with the role of government, rule of law, property rights and eradication of corruption, and to work in partnership with other countries on home ownership issues.

Jockin Arputham, President, National Slum Dwellers Federation of India, outlined actions taken by slum dwellers to improve their situation, such as building credit worthiness. He cautioned that as the number of conferences, papers and seminars is increasing, so is poverty in developing countries. He called for stopping forced evictions, and advocated community-based development and genuine cooperation between the developed world and slum dwellers.

Lindiwe Sisulu, South Africa's Minister of Housing, said poverty should be addressed directly and noted that: many of the poor are excluded from services they need; poverty affects 80 percent of the urban population in the developing world; the urban poor are marginalized by unemployment and illiteracy;

and that urbanization of the poor is accelerating at a rate most governments cannot manage.

During the ensuing discussion, Jackson said the US worked with South Africa to enhance housing markets. He agreed with Arputham that governments need to respond quickly to community-based initiatives. Sisulu added that these initiatives should complement national ones. She welcomed the idea of savings schemes for slum dwellers, which enable the poor to help themselves out of the poverty trap. She argued that while government is not the only player responsible for the provision of housing, it plays a role in ensuring security of tenure.

### DIALOGUES AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

**ACHIEVING THE MDGs: Slum upgrading and affordable housing:** Moderator Jacques Bensimon, Commissioner, National Film Board of Canada, invited panelists to address the question of secure tenure.

Noli de Castro, Vice-President of the Philippines, stated that, despite advances in tackling urban poverty, a growing population and lack of natural resources have increased the number of the country's poor. He detailed his government's strategies, including regularization of the tenure of informal settlements and relocation of 80,000 families.

Arputham emphasized that until permanent solutions are found for housing, evicted people will rebuild slums elsewhere.

The *World Urban Forum Bulletin* is a publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) <info@iisd.ca>, publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was written and edited by Xenya Cherny, Leonie Gordon, Sarah Stewart Johnson, William McPherson, Ph.D., Laurel A. Neme, Ph.D., Sabrina Shaw, Peter Wood, and Kunbao Xia. The Photographer is Leila Mead. The Digital Editors are Bo-Alex Fredvik and Diego Noguera. The Editor is Pia M. Kohler, Ph.D. <pia@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. Funding for coverage of this meeting has been provided by the Globe Foundation of Canada. IISD can be contacted at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0Y4, Canada; tel: +1-204-958-7700; fax: +1-204-958-7710. The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in other publications with appropriate academic citation. Electronic versions of the *Bulletin* are sent to e-mail distribution lists (HTML and PDF format) and can be found on the IISD RS Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/>. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 212 East 47th St. #21F, New York, NY 10017, USA. The IISD team at the Third World Urban Forum can be contacted by e-mail at <xenya@iisd.org>.



Miloon Kothari, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing

Miloon Kothari, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, stated that despite 30 years of standard development and progress in achieving adequate housing, there is increased land-grabbing, forced eviction, homelessness, and property speculation. He said the scale of this dispossession undermines the MDGs and called for a pledge from governments to stop forced evictions.

Luz Maria Sanchez Hurtado, Director, Estrategia NGO, discussed the impact of unlawful evictions on the urban poor in Peru. She noted that self-organization within slums was critical in creating survival programs for displaced families. Many delegates stressed that women's rights must improve with regard to land, property, inheritance, housing, and protection from domestic and other forms of violence.

Participants then discussed involvement of the urban poor in slum upgrading. Rose Molokoane, Chairperson, South African Homeless People's Federation, said numerous commitments to slum upgrading remain little more than words on paper.

Alfredo Stein, former Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) consultant, emphasized the creation of support systems by strengthening NGOs, the capacity of local governments to work together with the community and commitments from international donor agencies.

Delegates called for more aggressive ways to ensure that human rights and housing are incorporated into national laws to allow the urban poor to realize their rights. Some also drew attention to addressing homelessness following eviction.

On securing adequate funds for slum upgrading, Jerry Trenas, Mayor of Metro Iloilo, Philippines, stated that if given greater responsibilities and power, local governments could address urban poverty more effectively.

Arif Hassan, Chairman, Urban Resource Centre, Pakistan, discussed types of financing schemes for slum upgrading. He stressed that foreign loans may be a poor option for affordable and sustainable funding, not only because of their conditionalities, but also because overhead expenses can lead to significant increases in the cost of materials. He underscored that

partnerships between local governments and people would allow communities to manage indigenous funds, acquire skills and implement essential infrastructure.

Elio Codato, World Bank, discussed how the necessary funds might be mobilized to achieve the MDG target on slum upgrading. He commented that lending for slum upgrading is only part of the answer, and emphasized: a role for the international donor community; targeted national government subsidies; and enabling local governments to respond to local challenges. Discussion focused on the role of the private sector in slum upgrading, with a particular focus on microfinance.

In closing, David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), called for a new model of cooperation between large funding agencies and slum dwellers to "replace 30 years of professionals' failure to upgrade slums."

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: The inclusive approach:**

Facilitator Zain Verjee, CNN Anchor, opened the dialogue on public engagement to a standing-room-only audience.

Peter Oberlander, Centre for Human Settlements of the University of British Columbia (UBC), noted a gradual move toward the inclusive, transparent and participatory discussion necessary for livable cities.

Marcello Balbo, University of Venice, advocated tolerance, cultural diversity, and an equitable environment, and noted that governments, while playing a central role, cannot achieve sustainable urbanization by themselves.

Kay Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, UK, noted that local communities need to be empowered to address the "toxic mixture" of urban hopelessness and desperation.

Mary Balikungery, Rwanda Women's Network, stated that communities require substantive partnerships, and that they must set goals for themselves and decide how to dialogue with central governments.

Jean-Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments Africa, noted the important role of local governments, which must deliver services without adequate resources.



Mary Balikungery, Rwanda Women's Network

Naokazu Takemoto, Japan's Vice-Minister of Finance, emphasized the need to ensure the effectiveness of official development assistance, and noted that increased participation leads to more effective results.

Akin Mabogunje, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, said current structures of engagement pose a barrier to societal involvement and described the "mixed blessings" of representative democracy, free market economy, and information technology in Africa.

Participants further discussed: interaction between government and NGOs; government leadership and commitment; and reconciling conflict between traditional and modern land ownership. They also debated the role of professional associations such as planners and architects.

One participant remarked that the media has been negligent in its role of holding elected officials accountable. There was widespread agreement that women need to be further engaged in meaningful ways. Many called for greater transparency in policy and project decisions, with one panelist arguing that although this is difficult to achieve, once accepted as a norm it is difficult to rescind.

Some questioned the inevitability of urbanization, and called for policies that will strengthen the viability of rural living. One participant remarked that the needs of people with disabilities are closely linked with the MDGs and need to be better acknowledged. Several delegates urged greater youth involvement, and called for funding targeted at youth-led initiatives.

**THE WEALTH OF CITIES: Towards an assets-based development of urbanizing regions:** This special session was chaired by Richard Stren, Chair, Global Research Network on Human Settlements, and consisted of the inaugural UN-HABITAT lecture and a panel discussion.

Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director UN-HABITAT, presented the 2006 UN-HABITAT Award of US\$10,000 to John Friedmann, Honorary Professor, UBC School of Community and Regional



John Friedmann, Honorary Professor, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, Canada, presented the inaugural UN-HABITAT lecture

Planning, Canada. She noted that the Award recipient is required to deliver a lecture, provoking new thinking and practice in the field of human settlements.

Friedmann's lecture, titled "The Wealth of Cities: Towards an Assets-Based Development of Newly Urbanizing Regions," analyzed regional assets found in most urban areas: human resources, including housing, education and health; civil society – the organizing activities of citizens; cultural heritage and traditions; intellectual and creative assets such as universities; natural assets such as lakes and land; environmental qualities; and urban infrastructure such as transportation and utilities. He argued that the true wealth of cities is found in the progressive development of these assets endogenously rather than marketing themselves and soliciting outside capital, and that the role of government is to facilitate self-motivated development and establish, in consultation with citizens, priorities for managing asset development.

Carole Rakodi, University of Birmingham, noted that currently the Gross Domestic Product index only measures financial aspects. She questioned whether Friedmann's model reflects the reality of community conflicts and rivalries and whether economic revitalization is possible even for declining cities. Om Prakash Mathur, India's National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, said it is important to consider how to reconcile cities' short-term requirements with long-term sustainable development aims. Peter Ngau, University of Nairobi, welcomed Friedmann's model of constructing sustainable cities and the nature of true prosperity.

Ensuing discussions covered: the role of public space; the optimum size of government and cities; women's property rights; the value of financial capital, in particular for low-income households; and how to prevent the exportation of assets from developing regions such as "brain drain."

**TRIALOGUE ON WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:** Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair, Global Water Partnership, moderated this special session.



Richard Stren, Chair, Global Research Network on Human Settlements, moderated the panel discussion during the special session on assets-based urban development



The Triologue on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements was chaired by Margaret Catley-Carlson

Noting that India has over 60 million slum dwellers, Kumari Selja, India's Minister for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, highlighted a government initiative on urban infrastructure development and governance, and provision of basic services to the poor.

Ana Teresa Aranda Orozco, Mexico's Minister of Social Development, outlined cooperation between government agencies and municipalities to provide financial and other incentives to prevent the sprawl of illegal settlements and ensure access to water and sanitation services.

Anne Stenhammer, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, underscored the need to fully involve women in urban development planning and implementation, while Prabha Khosla, Gender and Water Alliance, and Selja advocated "gender budgeting" in the water and sanitation sector.

Tibaijuka recalled the centrality of access to safe water and basic sanitation to tackling poverty, addressing child mortality and empowering women. She said it is necessary to promote pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing countries' cities. She recalled that in order to meet the challenges of providing water to the poor, UN-HABITAT has set up the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund for pro-poor investment in developing country cities to support implementation of relevant MDGs in Africa and Asia.

Noting the huge gap between the demand for and supply of water and sanitation finance, Arjun Thapan, Asian Development Bank, emphasized: financial health of local governments; direct reforms; small-scale private sector projects; zonal approaches in urban areas; and improved governance.

Moderator Catley-Carlson invited comments on public and private sector involvement, noting that 95 percent of water worldwide is delivered by the public sector.

Ronald Carlson, US Agency for International Development, stressed the importance of private sector involvement, citing the Global Development Alliance and Development Credit Authority as tools to leverage private sector investments.

André Juneau, Deputy Head, Infrastructure and Communities, Canada, said the challenge for governments is to find ways to measure progress in water management.

Timeyin Uwejamomere, WaterAid, emphasized the role of local cooperatives and the need to empower public utilities, and Khosla underscored local accountability.

Arcot Ramachandran, Chairman, TERI, urged care with regard to public-private partnerships to ensure equity and meet the sanitation needs of the poor, and that if rural areas are to attract investment, access to water and sanitation is essential. Juneau pointed out that public-private partnerships offer management expertise and delivery capacity not always available in the public sector.

On governance, Selja, Malik Gaye, ENDA Tiers Monde, and Albert Wright, UN Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation, called for local community involvement to ensure equity and access to water and sanitation. Aranda Orozco highlighted the need for local and federal government partnerships to manage water in an integrated and sustainable manner.

On strategies for sustainability, Ramachandran emphasized water storage capacity development. Uwejamomere and Wright said providing water and basic sanitation to those suffering from HIV/AIDS is key to treating the disease. Gaye and Thapan noted youth's role in raising awareness.

## NETWORKING EVENTS

### PLANNING SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE CITIES:

**Case study of Vancouver, Canada:** Judie Rogers, Vancouver City Manager, discussed challenges associated with rapid growth within the city's geographical constraints. She described the governance paradigm within which Vancouver functions, and noted that many services such as transportation and utilities are more efficiently delivered on a regional basis. She said that collaboration benefits citizens at multiple levels, noting the examples of the Neighborhood Integrated Services Team, and the Vancouver Agreement, which seeks to improve the lives of drug users and sex workers in the downtown eastside. In closing, she noted that Vancouver's 2010 Olympic bid is built on the concept of partnerships.



The network event on planning successful sustainable discussed challenges and breakthroughs associated with managing Vancouver's growth

Ann McAfee, Co-Director of Planning, City of Vancouver, noted unique aspects of Vancouver, including higher density housing and the absence of highways. She noted that consensus-based decision-making promotes greater compliance than imposed regulations, and described efforts to diversify the economy with information technology and creative industries. On transportation, she described developments in land-use planning and public transit, and challenges associated with suburbs. She urged greater equity in policy-making and delivery of social services, and described efforts to gain acceptance for higher density housing, emphasizing citizen involvement.

Larry Beasley, Co-Director of Planning, City of Vancouver, remarked that Vancouver's downtown core has shifted to a residential focus with the help of enabling regulations, infrastructure and community services. He emphasized green building practices and transportation alternatives, particularly walking. He cautioned that success brings its problems, such as displacement of low-income residents, and emphasized the need to balance residential and commercial space in the face of market pressures. He emphasized the need to ensure that the private sector serves the public's needs.

Peter Judd, Deputy City Engineer, City of Vancouver, said averting the creation of a highway through Vancouver signaled a turning point, and described initiatives that have been designed to favor cyclists and pedestrians, including traffic calming measures. He presented the Green Streets initiative, which encourages volunteerism in the creation of public gardens. He described support for sustainable construction, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified buildings.

Participants discussed a range of issues, including how to strike the right balance between residential and commercial space, and how Vancouver has been able to reduce car use.

**HOW TO INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS IN CITY LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Nola-Kate Seymour, President, International Centre for Sustainable Cities, moderated this networking event, organized by UNEP, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and Cities Alliance.



Kilaparti Ramakrishna, UNEP

Kilaparti Ramakrishna, UNEP, noted a joint initiative with UN-HABITAT and the Government of Italy to strengthen environmental aspects in city planning, and emphasized that environment is an asset in city development.

Jeremy Harris, former Mayor of Honolulu, said sustainability is the single biggest challenge facing our society, especially cities. He also highlighted: sustainable communities; capacity building; good environmental policies; life-cycle costing; transformation of land-use patterns; reducing transportation demand; and improving energy efficiency.

Osman Asmal, Director of the Environmental Resources Management Department, Cape Town, South Africa, stressed the need for a new urban paradigm. He suggested that cities should be designed and managed using natural ecosystems as models.

Monika Zimmermann, ICLEI, presenting on behalf of T. Krishna Reddy, Mayor of Hyderabad, shared experiences of one of India's largest and the world's fastest growing cities in addressing the gap in urban services delivery. She said privatizing solid waste management and sub-contracting services to local small enterprises and community groups helped increase the serviced area by 25 percent, reduce costs, and generate income in the community.

Ewa Ciuk, ICLEI, outlined the findings of a study on appropriate tools for city strategic planning, emphasized the "eco-city" and participatory approaches.

During the discussion, participants focused on: harnessing political leadership; measuring the value of environmental investments; investing in people; long-term planning and immediate action; nuclear energy; and communication with grassroots organizations.

Ramakrishna summarized the session, stating it had produced meaningful options for incorporating environmental dimensions into city planning.

#### **ADDRESSING CONFLICT IN WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES FOR THE URBAN POOR:**

Moderator Boniface Gondwe, Ministry of Water Development, Malawi, opened this networking event by noting that conflict can be an agent of change.



L-R: Osman Asmal, Director of the Environmental Resources Management Department, Cape Town, South Africa; Jeremy Harris, former Mayor of Honolulu; Kilaparti Ramakrishna, UNEP; and Monika Zimmermann, ICLEI



Panelists listen to Bekithemba Gumbo, Waternet, present Zimbabwe's Pungwe Water Supply Scheme

Srinivasan Janakarajan, Madras Institute of Development Studies, India, discussed multistakeholder dialogues to reduce conflicts and the impact of water extraction from peri-urban areas to serve the City of Chennai, India. He described positive outcomes of increased supply through tank renovation and waste reduction.

Refilwe Pitso, local government and water consultant, described conflicts that occurred in the large informal peri-urban settlement of Winterveldt, South Africa, following water provision and land expropriation.

Bekithemba Gumbo, Waternet, described the Pungwe Water Supply Scheme in Mutare, Zimbabwe, noting how conflict manifested itself in vandalism, waste of water and reluctance to pay. He suggested less adversarial approaches and more involvement of the urban poor.

Ranjith Perera, Asian Institute of Technology, described the problem of waste disposal and water pollution in urban fringe communities in Hanoi, Vietnam, and noted the "silent conflict" between those who use land and water to generate livelihoods and those who dump waste there.

Discussion focused on: organization of the landless; the importance of inter-sectoral planning; beneficiaries of increased land value from new services; user fees; coordination; and different water uses. Participants observed the importance of being neutral, knowledgeable and sensitive in building confidence among all parties, and noted that conflict sometimes is triggered by lack of information. It was also noted that the poor cannot always afford to be involved in consultative processes.

#### LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCES AND

**DECENTRALIZATION:** This networking group, organized by the Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF), concentrated on mobilization of revenue for municipal governments in developing countries. Simon Compaore, Mayor of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, moderated the session.

Lamine Mbassa, Director of Financial Affairs, Douala, Cameroon, discussed the creation of bonds as a financial

instrument to utilize funding from the private sector to pay for public projects. He underscored the importance of stable tax laws and benefits of increased credibility for the financial sector.

Jean-Marie Renno, presenting on behalf of Amadou Souley, Director of the Address Issuing Authority, Niamey, Niger, reported on an AIMF project that increased Niamey's fiscal base by assigning addresses in the downtown area, thereby allowing for more efficient tax collection.

Fayol Tall, Former Director of Le Crédit Municipal de Dakar, Senegal, reflected on fiscal inclusion and equality of financial services with regard to microfinance. She drew attention to her country's encouragement of female entrepreneurs through national laws and the creation of a special ministry for microfinance. She highlighted that her bank provides the urban poor with access to credit at low interest rates.

Discussion focused on tax incentives, empowering local governments to adopt geographic information systems and the potential for connections between large funding bodies and microfinance networks.

Moderator Compaore stressed the need for competent executives and the importance of establishing links among mayors and international organizations. He called for the World Bank to fund city governments directly. Closing remarks by Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal, emphasized technology transfer, public-private partnerships and the possibilities for exchange programs for municipal employees in rich and poor cities.

**LOCALIZING THE MDGs: Building competencies in Africa local governments to mainstream gender and empower women:** This networking session was organized by the African Women Local Governance Program (ALGP), and followed the launch of the ALGP African Women in Local Governance Network initiative earlier in the afternoon.

Urging gender mainstreaming, Chair, Beatrice Boateng, National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana, said that, while the Ghanaian government has made some progress towards empowerment of women, they are still under-represented in local governments.



L-R: Beatrice Boateng, National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana, Fatoumata Doumbia Konté, Association of Municipalities of Mali, discussed localizing the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on building competencies in Africa local governments to mainstream gender and empower women





Participants of the network session on localizing the MDGs discussed the African Local Governance Program's draft guide to Local Government Authorities on gender equality

Fatoumata Doumbia Konté, Secretary General, Association of Municipalities of Mali, noted that, although there are no legislative obstacles to women participating in local governments, other barriers include restrictions caused by cultural beliefs and tradition, poverty and disease.

On the African Women in Local Governance Network, Konté explained that its purpose is to link women within and between participating countries to share knowledge, experience and skills on issues of mutual interest, and to foster increased participation of women in local governance. She said its partners include representatives of continental, regional and national associations, central governments and technical organizations, and stressed the importance of women's voices in local government activities.

Carole Kardish, Regional Manager, Africa and the Middle East, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, introduced an interactive exercise soliciting input on a draft guide called "Looking Through the Gender Lens – Five Steps to Building Local Government Competencies and Capacities to Promote Gender Equality" being developed for presentation to the AfriCities conference in September 2006. She said the Guide has been designed by local government stakeholders to provide a practical tool to assess where municipalities currently stand on gender equality and suggest steps for local government authorities (LGAs) and stakeholders in promoting gender equality in their operations. Participants broke into groups to consider the Guide's five stages: knowledge acquisition to address gender issues; building support for gender equality; implementation of gender policy and planning and allocation of resources; promotion of gender equality beyond the LGA; and achievement of gender equality.

Feedback included: avoiding assumptions of homogeneity amongst LGAs; avoiding being chauvinistic about issues of women at the risk of alienating men; and promoting the consideration of gender issues as a national, and not political, agenda. In closing statements, participants emphasized that women's empowerment will lead to success in localizing MDGs.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND CITIES IN THE SOUTH:  
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing urban risk  
in a warming world:** The networking event was organized by IIED and Sida.

Satterthwaite encouraged "shaming northern nations into accepting their responsibility regarding greenhouse gases and climate change," and emphasized the importance of good governance and planning within cities. He noted that climate change poses the greatest threat for the poor, who are the most vulnerable. He then introduced case studies from Senegal, Bangladesh and Kenya.

Khady Diagne, African Risk Analysis Network, presented the case of Saint Louis, Senegal, noting natural and anthropogenic factors exacerbated risks caused by flooding. She described efforts to mitigate risks caused by flood-related sanitary problems.

Mozaharul Alam, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, described how certain sectors within Dhaka are particularly vulnerable to climate change, including housing, transport and utilities. He noted that rapid population growth within the region has resulted in a large part of the city being vulnerable to flooding despite the creation of a levee.

Victor Orindi, African Centre for Technology Studies, presented the case of Mombassa, Kenya, noting that as a coastal city, it is vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. He discussed risks associated with saltwater contamination of freshwater resources due to depleted coastal aquifers, and drew attention to the need to give people incentives to move away from vulnerable areas. He suggested that building standards be changed to accommodate future climatic conditions, including increased temperatures and humidity, and urged a transition to low-tech renewable energy sources.

Participants discussed: the potential for bicycles to be part of the solution; the need for investment in sustainable innovations; the potential for railways to decrease transport-related emissions, the value of upgrading housing in areas known to be prone to flooding; and the social justice aspect of climate change.



L-R: Khady Diagne, African Risk Analysis Network, presented the case of Saint Louis, Senegal and David Satterthwaite, IIED, introduced three case studies that highlight the impacts of climate change on cities in developing countries



Audience at the network session on climate change and cities in the South

Saleem Huq, IIED, concluded by noting that instead of viewing climate change as a problem that can only be addressed by global leaders, it should be framed as a local problem that every citizen can tackle.

**DEVELOPING A TEMPLATE: Partnership Models for Big Cities:** This networking event was organized by Women in Cities International and its partners. It focused on gender equity and participation of women in policymaking.

Ellen Woodsworth, Vancouver City Councilor, outlined the work of the City Council with women in urban communities.

Magdalena Garcia Hernandez, Millennium Feminist Network, talked about the problems faced by women in Mexico City with regard to transportation and sanitation.

Proserpina Tapales, Deputy Director, Center for Women's Studies at the University of the Philippines, discussed the role of cities in implementing legislation for gender equality.

Nicole Boily, Women's Council of Montreal, said that the women's movement in the Canadian Province of Quebec is very active and that women are transforming Montreal into a more secure and sustainable city. She introduced the role of the Council and highlighted the importance of political will, action plans and accountability.

Marina Leite, Refazendo Vinculos, and Claudia Barbieri, UN Development Fund for Women, described activities implemented by their organizations, including training and educational programs for poor girls to provide them with working skills and the ability to protect themselves against abuse and violence.

Vu Thi Vinh, Associations of Cities of Vietnam, University of Hanoi, briefed the participants on the Vietnamese urban system and the role of the Vietnamese Women's Union.

**INTEGRATING GLOBAL CONCERNS INTO URBAN MANAGEMENT IN ASIA:** The networking event was organized by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and moderated by Xuemei Bai, IGES.

Harris outlined the role of cities in meeting the challenge of sustainability, noting that cities have contributed to sustainability

problems, but also have the potential to provide solutions. He said cities need assistance with best practices in the areas of land use, transportation, energy, environmental and economic planning to leapfrog the past mistakes of industrialization.

Banasopit Melkvichai, Deputy Governor of Bangkok, said rapid population and economic growth was resulting in mass material consumption and unsustainable development. She said Bangkok was pursuing a "sufficiency economy" strategy for urban life to build a firm foundation for growth following the 1997 economic crisis.

Michie Kishigami, Director, ICLEI, spoke on the experience of Kawagoe, Japan, in electricity saving. Manraj Guliani, Energy and Resources Institute, noted the challenges of urban transport in India and measures taken to increase sustainability.

Peter Newton, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, said Australia's ecological footprint is the second biggest in the world, and that to reverse this situation, a transition to greener buildings and infrastructure, integrated urban water systems, distributed renewable energy systems, improved urban density, integrated waste stream management and increased awareness of environmental problems are required.

Bai delivered a speech on behalf of Li Zhaoqian, Mayor of Rizhao City, on solar energy use in China.



Canadian and UN flags flying high outside the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, WUF3 venue

### THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

The Dialogue "Urban Safety and Security: Taking Responsibility" will now be taking place in Exhibit Hall A from 10:00-12:00.

The Special Session "Role of Local Government: Leadership in Sustainability" will be held in Ballrooms A and B from 10:00-12:00.

Side Event "Regional Vancouver Urban Observatory Book Launch" originally scheduled for 18:00-20:00 has been cancelled.



# World Urban Forum Bulletin

**A Daily Report of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum**

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)  
in collaboration with the Globe Foundation and UN-HABITAT



**IISD Reporting Services**

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## THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM HIGHLIGHTS: WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 2006

Participants at the third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) convened in plenary, dialogues and special sessions in the morning, followed by seven roundtable discussions and numerous networking events in the afternoon. The inaugural HABITAT Alumni Breakfast took place in the morning, which brought together nearly 100 delegates from the 1976 UN Conference on Human Settlements.



HABITAT Alumni from the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, 1972, Habitat I in Vancouver, 1976, and Habitat II in Istanbul, 1996 attended a special breakfast to celebrate achievements in sustainable human settlements development

## PLENARY

The morning plenary session convened under the theme of “Partnership and Finance.” Moderator Katherine Sierra, Vice-President, World Bank, acknowledged the tenth anniversary of National Aboriginal Day in Canada and outlined key public goods for which sustainable urban policies are necessary. Noting the projected growth of the urban population from two to four billion over the next 30 years, she said that, to be effective, urban development strategies in developing countries will need to take account of economic forces, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. She called for an open and frank dialogue on the impact of cities as engines of growth in developing countries, and for accentuating the positive role of urbanization. She emphasized the role of partnerships and the need for innovative and timely financing.

Mohammad Yousaf Pashtun, Afghanistan’s Minister of Urban Development, outlined the challenges and opportunities after 25 years of war in his country. He identified as challenges: lack of financial resources; security issues; rising poverty; urban population growth; immigration and repatriation; 65 percent of the population in informal settlements; and a 70 percent illiteracy rate. He noted a Compact agreed in London and adopted by the UN General Assembly to support his country’s reconstruction, with the World Bank providing funds mainly for infrastructure, but said resources are still inadequate. He underscored that cities have a central role to play in Afghanistan’s transition from a post-conflict emergency

situation to stability, and called for the achievement of sustainable peace and development in his country through partnerships with the international community.

Pat Jacobsen, Chief Executive Officer, TransLink, Canada, briefed WUF3 participants on the funding mechanisms for the development of transportation infrastructure in Vancouver, including: partnerships with the federal government; revenue from users; and private sector financing in cooperation with public funding. She highlighted the importance of involving stakeholders in infrastructure development planning processes.

Robert Williams, Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana, said cities cannot be vibrant unless there is engagement at all levels. Emphasizing that it is no longer possible to operate in isolation in this technological era, he said partnerships are not an option but a requirement for the development of cities. He noted the need to move away from traditional sources of financing to meet the increasing costs of urban management. He called for the UN to urge governments to agree to direct negotiations between international financial institutions and municipalities to fast-track loans and grants for urban development.

## DIALOGUES AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

### URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY: Taking

**Responsibility:** Anna Maria Tremonti, host of CBC’s “The Current” programme, opened the dialogue session, which focused on two main topics: disaster planning and risk reduction, and crime and violence prevention.

The *World Urban Forum Bulletin* is a publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) <info@iisd.ca>, publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was written and edited by Xenya Cherny, Leonie Gordon, Sarah Stewart Johnson, William McPherson, Ph.D., Laurel A. Neme, Ph.D., Sabrina Shaw, Peter Wood, and Kunbao Xia. The Photographer is Leila Mead. The Digital Editors are Bo-Alex Fredvik and Diego Noguera. The Editor is Pia M. Kohler, Ph.D. <pia@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James “Kimo” Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. Funding for coverage of this meeting has been provided by the Globe Foundation of Canada. IISD can be contacted at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0Y4, Canada; tel: +1-204-958-7700; fax: +1-204-958-7710. The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in other publications with appropriate academic citation. Electronic versions of the *Bulletin* are sent to e-mail distribution lists (HTML and PDF format) and can be found on the IISD RS Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/>. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 212 East 47th St. #21F, New York, NY 10017, USA. The IISD team at the Third World Urban Forum can be contacted by e-mail at <xenya@iisd.org>.



Robert Williams, Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana

Ian Davis, Cranfield University, urged distinguishing between natural hazards and disasters due to human-caused vulnerability, and noted that shareholders can pressure companies towards high environmental and social standards.

Mark Pelling, Kings College London, highlighted that disaster planning is often based on media-filtered information rather than solid evidence.

Pushpa Pathak, on behalf of Ghulam Sakhi Noorzad, Mayor of Kabul, noted the double challenge of civil unrest and natural disasters in Afghanistan.

Yoshinobu Fukasawa, Director for Planning, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan, discussed lessons learned following the Kobe earthquake, underscoring the importance of simple tools as well as geographical information systems in reconstruction efforts.

Elina Palm, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, highlighted progress achieved through the Kobe Framework Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Participants raised many issues, including: the role of women's grassroots information networks in crisis situations; the need for greater dialogue with faith-based organizations; the need for donors to consider local needs; and addressing social problems that follow disasters, such as the exploitation of children. One delegate noted that hazards only become disasters due to vulnerability, remarking that earthquakes don't kill people, poorly designed buildings do. Another questioned the merit of aiding resettlement in regions known to be at risk.

Franz Vanderschueren, UN-HABITAT, suggested that central governments are reluctant to delegate responsibility to local authorities. Juan Manuel Ospina Restrepo, Secretary of Government, Bogotá, Colombia, emphasized targeted solutions.

Caroline Kidu, Minister of Community Development, Papua New Guinea, urged moving beyond short-lived political cycles. Yasmin Bacus, Minister of Community Safety and Liason, Province of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, noted that a unique public engagement process holds the South African government accountable, and Prema Gopalan, Huairou Commission, stated

that involving communities in disaster risk reduction planning gives rise to a sense of ownership.

Participants also discussed the rise of gangs within aboriginal communities, the dynamics of security post-9/11, and the need to engage youth in urban planning. Delegates called for legal access for slum dwellers, minimizing displacements following armed conflict, and translating international obligations into local policies. The merits of a more integrated approach between hazard risk management and crime programmes were also considered.

Closing remarks by Thomas Melin, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, highlighted the vulnerability of girls to sexual violence in Africa, noted the success of female police stations in Nicaragua, and stressed the importance of strong mayoral initiatives.

**MUNICIPAL FINANCE: Innovation and Collaboration:** Moderator Anwar Versi, Editor, *African Business*, opened the dialogue on municipal finance by noting municipalities' constant need for finance.

On enhancing resources, Jacqueline Schafer, USAID, described building credit worthiness to help municipalities access market-oriented finance and said utilities must be financially viable.

Lamine Mbassa, Director of Economic and Financial Affairs, Urban Community of Douala, Cameroon, described using Douala's stock exchange to raise funds for infrastructure rehabilitation and noted the importance of establishing credit worthiness.

Zenaida Moya, Mayor of Belize, described the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's work and noted local governments must have the responsibility, power, funding, equitable approaches and technical capacity to undertake their tasks.

During the discussion that followed, participants emphasized: the need to address individual and household debt; youth involvement in decision-making; enabling mechanisms for municipalities to manage resources; and access to capital markets.

The dialogue then focused on innovative approaches to provision of infrastructure and related services.

Anwar Versi, Editor, *African Business*, moderates the dialogue on municipal finance



L-R: Zenaida Moya, Mayor of Belize, and Michael Lippe, Transparency International, listen at the dialogue on municipal finance

Jawaid Akhtar, Managing Director, Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation, described an innovative scheme to raise funds from capital markets for infrastructure development in Bangalore, India, which blended establishment of a pool fund trust, with the issuance of bonds, access of government funds, international loans and contributions by direct beneficiaries.

Julio Pines, Secretary of Planning, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, presented his city's experience with participatory budgeting in the areas of sanitation, healthcare, education, and environment. He highlighted the efficiency of this approach as a combination of direct democracy and technical expertise that can support such participation.

Noting that his bank is a large source of funding for municipalities, Brian Field, European Investment Bank, outlined criteria for successful leveraging of funding by municipalities, including: an integrated medium-term plan coupled with a long-term vision, public involvement, and leadership at all levels.

Ensuing discussion focused on: ensuring sound financial management; improving expenditure; using ISO 9000 for certification; public participation in raising funds; constraints limiting municipal borrowing; participatory budgeting; using natural resources as a revenue source; and expenditure management.

Participants also heard an address by Sagira Tayab Ansari, a former pavement dweller in Mumbai, India, who successfully worked through a community network with the municipality to stop demolition of dwellings and to build new homes. Ansari said she has just moved into her new home and is now working to provide affordable housing for 15,000 homeless families.

Michael Lippe, Transparency International, stressed the importance of transparency and explained how leadership, oversight, and fair penalties ensure accountability.

Lin Guoqiang, Mayor of Nanning, China, spoke of lowering taxes to attract investors and described channels, including land management reform, for raising revenue.

Sierra closed the session by noting consensus on: a framework where local governments have borrowing authority; credit

worthiness, meaning raising revenues in ways affordable to the poor and linked to users' needs and desires and avoiding unsustainable local debt; and increased reliance of municipalities on domestic markets rather than on international finance.

**ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Leadership in Sustainability:** This session was chaired by Elizabeth Gateau, General Secretary, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Wim Deetman, Mayor of The Hague and President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, said that there are three major local government themes: decentralization, which ensures accountability, equity, transparency and the rule of law; basic services for all, a precondition of the commitment of citizens; and financial autonomy, essential for sound decision-making.

David Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary, Canada, described a survey of 18,000 citizens to address questions such as why people live there, what they expect in the next 100 years, and how to make change work for Calgary. The results will be used for reallocation of resources and decisions on policy, which will be taken to the rest of the population.

João Avamileno, Executive Secretary of Mercociudades and Mayor of Santo André, Brazil, described the network of Mercosur Cities, a league of cities in the southern cone of South America including Paraguay, Chile, Argentina and Brazil, along with associates in Peru, Chile and Bolivia.

Sybilla Dekker, Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands, noted that partnership goes beyond cooperation and collaboration and emphasized national/local government financial partnership. She described a neighbourhood renewal project in the Netherlands where national government has been successfully engaged along with private sector financing.

Simon Compaore, Mayor of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, emphasized the role of partnerships in providing financing for decentralisation, and the value of consultations with citizens and establishing new relationships and fostering partnerships to deliver essential public services. He described some of the current



Sybilla Dekker, Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands, was described as a "rose amongst thorns" for her efforts to promote sustainable urban development

projects underway in Ouagadougou including a partnership with the International Association of French-speaking Mayors (IMAF) and a local youth organization to carry out work on HIV/AIDS.

Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, welcomed the establishment of the UCLG as a mechanism for locally elected officials to engage at the international level and said that the UN General Assembly has now established a rule permitting representatives of local governments to participate in UN-HABITAT Governing Council meetings, although without the right to vote. In response to a question about whether the Kenyan girls' quartet in the opening session was singing about "de-urbanization," she said they were depicting problems of youth in a big city, and their need to acquire land.

In response to questions, Avamileo said that in Santo André participatory funding processes have promoted more inclusive public policy and forced the city to be more responsive to citizens. Deetman mentioned UCLG efforts, Bronconnier described Calgary programs, and Compaore outlined Ougadougou programmes to involve minorities and youth in city decision-making.

## ROUNDTABLES

**GENDERING LAND TOOLS:** This roundtable was chaired by Lindiwe Sisulu, South Africa's Minister of Housing.

Dekker stressed that secure tenure of land and property for women is not a question of affordability, but of accessibility. She highlighted the findings of a study in Sub-Saharan Africa, which showed that an overwhelming majority of women cannot inherit land or property in their own right and are entirely dependent on men, and that obstacles are both legal and cultural. She called for global action to address insecurity of tenure and expressed support for UN-HABITAT activities in this regard.

Noting that women's land and property rights are hampered by lack of gendered land tools, Anne Stenhammer, Norway's Minister for International Development, called for policies that reflect women's experiences and realities.

Tibaijuka lamented that while women's rights on paper have increased over the last decades, in reality their access to land and property has declined. She welcomed the launch of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), noting that it seeks to identify



Angie Balata, Habitat International Coalition, drew attention to faith-based land tools, in particular property inheritance rights in Islamic law appropriate tools, ensure that they are gendered, replicate existing successes, and close existing gaps.

Siraj Sait, GLTN, presented the network's concept, structure and stages. Clarissa Augustinus, GLTN, supported by many, proposed to review the progress in gendering land tools at WUF4.

Several speakers highlighted cases of discrimination against women associated with land and property tenure.

Raquel Rolnik, Secretary, Brazil's National Secretariat of Urban Programmes, urged continued stakeholder pressure to secure land tenure for women.

Agnes Kallibala, Chair, G77 and China – Nairobi Chapter, said the main objective of gendering land tools is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on women's empowerment and slum upgrading.

Angie Balata, Habitat International Coalition, drew attention to faith-based land tools, in particular property inheritance rights in Islamic law, and Birte Scholz, Center for Housing Rights and Evictions, to human rights instruments.

Jennifer Whittal, University of Cape Town, South Africa, called for efforts to increase the number of female land professionals.

Jan Peterson, Chair, Huairou Commission, pointed to opportunities for societal change brought about by conflicts and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Shivani Bhardwaj called for a "women's resource right agenda," which includes redistribution of land and putting resources under legal control of women.

Summarizing the roundtable discussions, Mona Serageldin, Harvard University, noted that: increasing scarcity and value of land decreases women's access to it; strength of customs and traditions is diminished by changing technology and governance frameworks as well as civil strife and conflict. She also noted that women often refrain from pressing rights that jeopardize family cohesion or could lead to harassment or abuse, stressing that gendering land tools is a multistakeholder process, which first involves family and community leaders. In closing, Serageldin stressed that culture and faith create both impediments and opportunities for gendering land tools.

**YOUTH ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable, moderated by Avi Lewis, Canadian award-winning documentary filmmaker



Elisabeth Gateau, UCLG General Secretary, moderated the Special Session on Local Government



Avi Lewis, Canadian award-winning documentary filmmaker and television journalist, addressed the Youth Roundtable

and television journalist, and Doug Ragan, Environmental Youth Alliance and Manager, WUF and Youth Organizing Committee, led a highly charged session that built on the momentum generated at the World Youth Forum held from 16-18 June 2006 in Vancouver. Noting that half of the world's population is under 25, Lewis underscored the importance of understanding how to unleash the power, curiosity and impatience of youth to contribute to solving urgent global problems.

Participants identified a range of barriers to youth leading and overcoming these problems through informal exchanges with input from experts and youth from all regions of the world. Participants voiced their ideas concerning: the need to engage in partnerships with youth to transform societal norms; the importance of building youth partnerships between North and South; the value of art, culture and sports as avenues to engage youth; the need to change the representation of youth in the media; the value of education and training; the need to involve youth in decision-making; the value of youth participation in politics; and the importance of fostering local youth initiatives.

Noting the dire realities for youth in developing countries with respect to education, health, employment, drugs, HIV/AIDS, violence, home eviction, and child labor, several developing country participants called for more opportunities to share experiences and for youth in the North to support hope and effect change in the South. Muratha Kinuthia, NEPAD Kenya Secretariat, called for a broader perspective on youth issues that focuses on development and goes beyond representation.

On barriers to youth participation, Jamil Bundalli, Canadian Urban Institute, called for strengthening the ethic of investing in youth. Several participants said it was imperative to go beyond tokenism with respect to youth engagement and to harness youth's power of numbers. Kelly L'Hirondelle, World Youth Forum, said the message should be kept simple to garner the political will to push forward a positive youth agenda.

On the value of networking and developing personal relationships at meetings such as WUF3, Stoney McCart, Director, Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement of Canada, noted the similarities in the experiences of youth around the world. Several youth called on participants to go to the substantive roundtables

to send a message on the need to mainstream youth in municipal government and urban policy-making.

In a dramatic finale to the roundtable, Lewis led the participants out of the venue to show solidarity and defend the rights of Brazilian youth participants who had been evicted from the conference for unconfirmed reasons.

**UNIVERSITIES ROUNDTABLE:** The roundtable focused on two themes: guiding principles for partnering, and learning and diffusion initiatives.

Co-Chair Tony Dorsey, University of British Columbia (UBC), invited participants to discuss how universities can absorb and diffuse good ideas and lessons learned.

Lars Reutersward, UN-HABITAT, identified the need to link centers of learning and urged an applied, field-based research focus. Erminia Maricato, University of São Paulo, cautioned that decentralization might lead to policy fragmentation and urged tailoring poverty reduction to local realities. Peter Boothroyd, UBC, stated the case for universities being engaged with development, noting that they can contribute to project continuity, and the role of students as service providers.

Peter Ngau, University of Nairobi, noted challenges associated with resisting slum formation and cautioned that partnerships often bring together divergent interests. Martin Smolka, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, said an improved understanding of land markets is desperately needed. Michael M'Gonigle, University of Victoria, noted the need to view universities as real-world actors which should be held to the same sustainability principles they espouse, and identified the potential for harnessing the power of students.

In the lively debate that followed, participants discussed: the importance of trust and equity in partnerships; building alliances between universities and practitioners; support for practical grassroots planning efforts; and using an interdisciplinary approach to avoid compartmentalization. Several participants noted that universities can play a role in independent monitoring of MDG implementation.

Pietro Garau, University of Rome, emphasized the need to listen to the South. Jean Wolfe, McGill University, emphasized inter-university collaboration and combining theory with field-based learning.



During the Roundtable on universities and urban sustainability, Marcello Balbo (left), University of Venice, conferred with Chair Pietro Garau, University of Rome



During the Environment Roundtable, participants identified common problems and developed project ideas for partnerships for achieving sustainable cities

Boothroyd identified the untapped potential for universities to be development partners. Marcello Balbo, University of Venice, urged universities to challenge the development agenda set by the North. Margo Fryer, UBC, suggested that students can play a leadership role in liaising with communities, and urged long-term sustained partnerships.

Many participants recommended that South-South partnerships should play a greater role. One participant called for the use of the internet to advance collaborative efforts, highlighting the Global Urban Sustainability Services Exchange. Many participants agreed that universities need to become “service engines” while delivering education. One delegate suggested that universities should play a role in holding governments accountable for progress achieved between WUF events, and that they should develop indicators by which to measure the gap between rhetoric and implementation.

**ENVIRONMENT ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable was organized by UN-HABITAT in cooperation with the Canadian Environment Network (CEN). It was co-chaired by Arciris Garay, Coordinator, Youth for Social Justice Network, and Hayat Redi, Deputy Director, EVERYONE, and moderated by Amelia Clarke, former President, Sierra Club of Canada. Moderator Clarke outlined the purposes of the session, including identification of common problems and development of project ideas for partnerships. The discussion was first held in five sub-groups, which reported back to the roundtable.

**Youth and Education Group:** The group identified lack of funding, staff and time as the major problems they have encountered. They suggested creating opportunities and space for youth to collaborate across borders, for example through the establishment of an informal youth forum in Africa.

**Community Capacity Building Group:** The group also identified lack of human and financial resources as the major obstacle. They suggested that the solution is to mobilize all

sectors of the community to develop and implement community-based sustainable projects, which should be global, but have local impact.

**Food Group:** The problems identified by the group included food tariff subsidies and trade barriers, which are obstacles for achieving food security. They proposed a short-term project on food security in Canada, holding a conference in October in Vancouver, and a long-term project on the issue with Ethiopia. To address the problem, they suggested developing partnerships and making use of the Internet.

**Safe environment group:** Problems identified by this group included the lack of: political will; capacity, information and experiences; use of traditional knowledge; adequate policies, laws and regulations; monitoring; and appropriate science and technology. Potential solutions identified included: partnership; development of a shared vision; communication; and resource-sharing.

**Energy and resource group:** The group suggested: developing renewable energy; building capacity; creating partnerships; promoting social equity; engaging local people as well as international players and academia.

Co-Chair Garay summarized the discussion saying the CEN will continue to support this dialogue process to further develop the five partnerships formed today. She expressed enthusiasm for the roundtable’s willingness to work together with all partners in building healthy communities, achieving food security, and strengthening capacity.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND MEDIA ROUNDTABLE:** Moderator Monika Ille, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Canada (APTN), welcomed participants, noting it was National Aboriginal Day. Co-Chair Tom Perlmutter, National Film Board of Canada (NFB), noted that the session was an important example of government agency cooperation and said NFB pioneers the empowerment of aboriginal filmmakers. Co-Chair, Fred Caron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, saw WUF3 as a means of exchanging best practices and said he hoped to achieve some permanent partnerships.



Kamala Todd, Project Director, presented “Our City, Our Voices,” which encourages aboriginal communities to record and share the stories of Vancouver





L-R: Namrata Bali, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Co-Chairs, Fred Caron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians, INAC, and Tom Perlmutter, Director General, English Program, NFB and Moderator, Monika Ille, APTN, Canada

Manon Barbeau, Corporation Designer-Producer, and Melanie Kistabish, Coordinator-Director, presented the first case study which concerned Wapikoni Mobile, a mobile studio for filmmaker training that has been touring Aboriginal communities in Quebec for more than two years.

Kamala Todd, Project Director, presented "Our City, Our Voices," a videostream from Storyscapes, a community arts project that supports Aboriginal people in telling their stories of Vancouver.

Marilena Corrèa, Workshop Coordinator, presented on "Video in the Villages," an initiative from Brazil to train indigenous peoples in filmmaking so that they can portray themselves and the world around them.

In a heated dialogue session, discussions focused on indigenous participation in WUF3. While panelist Roger Maaka, University of Saskatchewan, suggested that the inclusion of an indigenous session in WUF3 challenges the stereotype that they do not belong in the city, and one participant noted an improvement since WUF2, many criticized the lack on inclusion of youth and indigenous people.

Many pointed out that WUF3 had missed the opportunity to provide training on key issues such as ensuring adequate housing; had neglected nomadic peoples' rights; and had not provided Spanish interpretation throughout the conference, while others urged action rather than words.

Noting the significant impact of mainstream media, participants also spoke of indigenous media projects and berated the lack of and misrepresentation of indigenous people in mass media. While many acknowledged panelists' work, one participant stressed the need to frame indigenous people's portrayal within indigenous culture and language. Panelists Jean LaRose, APTN, and Ray Gerow, Talking Rocks, urged indigenous people to take ownership of their fight for representation and an Indigenous Peoples Party representative called for support for an indigenous declaration being presented to WUF3 plenary.

**SPIRITUALITY ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable was convened under the theme "Bridging the Gap: Spirituality and Sustainability in the Urban Context." Following a First Nations

welcome and prayer, Chair Angela Hryniuk, Executive Director, Interspiritual Center of Vancouver Society, offered introductory remarks and urged participants to "walk the spiritual path with practical shoes" with regard to sustainability.

Michael Hryniuk, Vancouver School of Theology, remarked that the source of vision driving WUF3 extends beyond technical rationality and political agendas. Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, stated that solving urban problems involves not only financial resources but also changing our way of life. He underscored that citizen happiness is the true measure of whether cities are succeeding.

Drawing attention to promiscuity and the spread of HIV/AIDS in Kampala, Uganda, Sam Luboga, Makerere University, discussed how faith-based initiatives can address sustainability, inclusion and social cohesion in urban areas. Moderator Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director, Global Community Initiatives, raised the question of whether relocating people's needs outside the material realm might improve our cities and societies.

Discussion focused on: finding contentment and connection to other human beings; the types of examples set for young people; the need for global peace in creating sustainability; the "spiritual shock" of not being able to spend time in nature; and the role of urban spaces in hosting spiritual festivals, allowing reflection and rekindling a sense of awe. Delegates also called for cooperation among people identifying with spirituality at large, organized faith traditions, and humanist perspectives.

Surinder Kumar, General Manager, Management Services Group, Sahara India Pariwar, India, discussed how sustainability projects can integrate spiritual directives. Before highlighting the importance of happiness and which aspects of human nature may hinder sustainability, Mae-Chee Sunsanee Sthirasuta, Buddhist nun and spiritual leader, invited the roundtable participants to stand in a large circle and share back massages with one another.

Closing remarks by Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr., CEO, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, described a vision of urban wellbeing that is informed by a spiritual understanding of human community. Moderator Hallsmith remarked that



Mae-Chee Sunsanee Sthirasuta, Buddhist nun and spiritual leader, underscored the importance of happiness for sustainable living



Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, stressed that the driving question of "how do we want to live?" is informed by spirituality

spiritual needs are real needs. She emphasized that civic leaders should systematically consider how the meaning, purpose and connectedness that drive spiritual growth are being met in the community. Chair Hryniuk called for a formal recommendation to include spirituality on the agenda at every future UN-HABITAT conference.

**MAYORS ROUNDTABLE:** With a theme of "Local Governments at the Crossroads: Approaching the Millennium Development Goals through Practical Innovation and Local Action," this roundtable was co-chaired by Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Councillor of Tshwane, South Africa and UCLG Co-President, and Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal and UCLG Vice-President. In their opening statements, they noted improvements in human rights and local autonomy of cities but lamented the financial crisis that prevents cities from achieving the MDGs.

Moderator Dominique Dennery, President, Dennery Resources, polled the mayors on implementation of the MDGs. While admitting general lack of public awareness about the MDGs, 75 percent of the 130 mayors present said the MDGs are priorities in their cities and only half said they had been involved in a dialogue with national governments on this issue. The panelists suggested that the mayors need to communicate their plans more effectively to both citizens and national governments.

Four mayors presented case studies. Gloria Kovach, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Councillor of Guelph, Ontario, presented research indicating that citizen awareness generates greater support for the MDGs.

Mary Jane Ortega, Mayor of San Fernando, the Philippines, said city associations enable communities to address MDGs by providing technical assistance.

Kastharina Tarras-Walberg, Deputy Mayor of Stockholm, described Stockholm as a "city of sustainability," with a commitment to environmental goals such as sustainable energy, waste and water recycling, and reduction of traffic.

Abdel Minim Al-Avys, Mayor of Beirut, said Beirut has set goals for its reconstruction after years of war, namely: rebuilding

its sewerage, water, sanitation and communication infrastructure, and investing in employment and development.

During the ensuing discussion, mayors from twenty cities presented examples of programmes for implementing MDGs and targets, particularly upgrading slums and improving water and other services. Petr Kopriva, President, UN-HABITAT Governing Council (GC), asked mayors to help the Committee of Permanent Representatives prepare the agenda for GC-21. Sierra urged the mayors to engage in dialogues with their national governments to facilitate applications for programme funds.

In closing, Co-Chairs Tremblay and Mkhathshwa called for the mobilization of networks of stakeholders and donors such as the World Bank to secure funding for implementing MDGs. Mkhathshwa noted that the MDGs are "doable," and proposed that mayors report on their implementation at WUF4 in 2008.



Mayors of over 20 major cities around the world convened to discuss programmes for implementing MDGs and targets, particularly upgrading slums and improving water and other services

### THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

Habitat JAM Networking Session

13:30 - 15:30

Moved to Ballroom C

Shape of Cities Dialogue

10:00 - 12:00

Moved to Ballrooms B & C

Energy: Local Action, Global Impact Dialogue

10:00 - 12:00

Moved to Exhibition Hall A



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# World Urban Forum Bulletin

**A Daily Report of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum**

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in collaboration with the Globe Foundation and UN-HABITAT

ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.IISD.CA/YWB/WUF3/](http://www.iisd.ca/ywb/wuf3/)  
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## THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM HIGHLIGHTS: THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2006

On Thursday, participants at the third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) addressed the theme of urban growth and the environment during the morning plenary, followed by two dialogue sessions. Over 40 networking events were held in the afternoon addressing various aspects of sustainable human settlements development. In the evening, WUF3 participants attended the Global Hip-Hop Mainstage concert featuring international hip-hop and world music artists who raised awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through music and other artistic expressions.



Anna Tibajuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, with Curtis Clearsky, UN-HABITAT Messenger of Truth, during the Global Hip Hop Mainstage held on Thursday evening

## PLENARY

With a theme of "Urban Grown and Environment," the session was chaired by Chris Leach, President, Canadian Institute of Planners. In his opening address, he discussed planning for sustainable urbanization in Canada, including the need for networks of stakeholders to address sanitation, transportation, "smart" growth, water and environment. He reported on the World Planning Congress held earlier in the week, with 17 members pledging to form a network to address poverty, climate change and natural disasters.

Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator, UN Millennium Campaign, recalled former UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer's statement that poverty is the biggest polluter, and stated that it is essential to attack the roots of poverty in working towards sustainable development. Emphasizing sustainable and participatory pro-poor growth, Herfkens said the MDGs represent a global deal that needs to be implemented at the local level and that the past mistake of the donor community was to view the poor only as clients of development, as opposed to partners. Noting that this was the first generation with the knowledge and resources to put an end to poverty, Herfkens called for keeping the promises made at the highest political level and holding leaders accountable for building a more sustainable world.

Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogota, Colombia, mentioned that the number of urban inhabitants in developing

countries will grow by more than two billion over the next few years, and that they need to learn from the land-use planning experience of developed countries. He argued that, to achieve sustainability, developing countries must find a different model of growth. Referring to Bogota's experience, where car use had been reduced and greenways, bikeways and bus lanes added, he said this had resulted in major social justice improvements, in addition to providing environmental benefits.

Participants raised comments on cities being at the forefront of the major health and nutrition challenges, and on the fact that Colombian cities are faced with more severe problems such as violence, sanitation, and unemployment. Participants encouraged a focus on the MDG target on slum upgrading.

On the scale of change required to achieve sustainable development, Herfkens urged participants not to be intimidated by the need for revolutionary change. Peñalosa said that while resources were often available, political will was required to implement sustainable policies, and called for small steps that will lead to big changes.

Noting the lacuna in WUF3 to recognize the strong commitments made at the first Habitat Conference, one participant made an impassioned plea to realize historian Barbara Ward's vision that no one would be left without safe drinking water. It was noted that such a visionary future cannot be achieved through incremental change.

The *World Urban Forum Bulletin* is a publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) <[info@iisd.ca](mailto:info@iisd.ca)>, publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* <[enb@iisd.org](mailto:enb@iisd.org)>. This issue was written and edited by Xenya Cherny, Leonie Gordon, Sarah Stewart Johnson, William McPherson, Ph.D., Laurel A. Neme, Ph.D., Sabrina Shaw, Peter Wood, and Kunbao Xia. The Photographer is Leila Mead. The Digital Editors are Bo-Alex Fredvik and Diego Noguera. The Editor is Pia M. Kohler, Ph.D. <[pia@iisd.org](mailto:pia@iisd.org)>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <[kimo@iisd.org](mailto:kimo@iisd.org)>. Funding for coverage of this meeting has been provided by the Globe Foundation of Canada. IISD can be contacted at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0Y4, Canada; tel: +1-204-958-7700; fax: +1-204-958-7710. The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in other publications with appropriate academic citation. Electronic versions of the *Bulletin* are sent to e-mail distribution lists (HTML and PDF format) and can be found on the IISD RS Linkages WWW-server at <<http://www.iisd.ca/>>. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <[kimo@iisd.org](mailto:kimo@iisd.org)>, +1-646-536-7556 or 212 East 47th St. #21F, New York, NY 10017, USA. The IISD team at the Third World Urban Forum can be contacted by e-mail at <[xenya@iisd.org](mailto:xenya@iisd.org)>.

## DIALOGUES

### THE SHAPE OF CITIES: Urban planning and

**management:** This dialogue was facilitated by Steve Bradshaw, Producer of the BBC Panorama programme. Tracing the history of North American urban planning from the 1950s to date, John Friedmann, University of British Columbia, suggested that technocratic planning is now obsolete. He noted the growing urban rich-poor divide and that planning tools have not been able to contain growth in sustainable ways.

On linking “green” and “brown” agendas, Ossama Salem, Capacity Building International, Egypt, discussed how global and local environmental issues can be reconciled in the context of a city government. On differences between the environmental agenda in developing and developed countries, Tasneem Essop, Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Provincial Government of the Western Cape, South Africa, said the poor bear the brunt of the environmental degradation caused by over-consumption of the rich and urged a multi-faceted approach to urban development.

Charles Choguill, Editor, Habitat International, noted planning has not fully incorporated the relatively new concept of sustainability. He highlighted the difficulties in adapting best practices in the North, like compact and “smart” cities, to municipalities in the South.

Herbert Girardet, Environmental Consultant and Senior Adviser to Dontang Eco-city, presented a model of planning in China that places ecology at the center of development. He described plans for the construction of the island city of Dontang, off the coast of Shanghai, which will eventually be home to 500,000 or more people. Dontang will be characterized by 60 percent green space, limited use of automobiles and the utilization of renewable energy. He said the first residents will be drawn from a mixture of socio-economic levels and mentioned plans for additional eco-cities.

Dritan Shutina, Executive Director, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, discussed the features of sustainability in



Herbert Girardet, Environmental Consultant and Senior Adviser to Dontang Eco-city

transition countries such as Albania, highlighting the tragedy of the commons and the importance of decentralization.

Cliff Hague, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners, noted how development plans often start promisingly and then break down. He elaborated on ten basic sustainability principles, including integrated planning, recognizing diversity, pro-poor strategies and transparency.

David Siegal, President, American Planning Association, praised the role of the WUF in exposing urban planners from the North to the severe poverty and environmental crises triggered by unsustainable development in the South. He closed by underscoring the objectives of a Summary Action Plan developed by the Global Planners Network.

Discussion focused on: the gap between rhetoric and action; problems of over-consumption and the need for lifestyle changes; the need for greater participation of the poor and youth; the need for universities to incorporate new ways of thinking in their curricula; responsibility of the media; and the role of the financial and private sectors.

**ENERGY: Local action, global impact:** Moderator Kevin Newman, News Anchor, Global National, Canada, opened the dialogue by noting how technology is helping solve the problem of finite resources.

On the most significant energy problems, Vijay Modi, Columbia University, said energy for cooking is insignificant in the global realm but a necessity for the poor, and suggested focusing on proven technologies to address the problem.

Harriette Amissah-Arthur, Director, Kumasi Institute of Technology and Environment, said lack of leadership at every level in Ghana was a major problem, noting the need for long-term planning and government leadership.

Anumita Roychoudhury, Centre for Science and Environment, said technical solutions will not fix environmental problems from traffic and that fiscal policy should support comprehensive planning.



Steve Bradshaw, Producer, BBC-Panorama, UK

Mark Jaccard, Simon Fraser University, said some proposed solutions could create greater future problems and said we must make intelligent decisions to trade off risks. Modi said subsidies should be kept “in the mix” as long as they are targeted to the poor and not captured by wealthier people. Peñalosa described successful cross-subsidization in Colombia. Mary Jane Ortega, Mayor of San Fernando, the Philippines, said local initiatives on transport have broader impact and described how education and advocacy have encouraged city tricycle operators to switch to less polluting models.

Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute, noted that current planning practices bias decisions toward vehicles and advocated for correcting market distortions to support “smart” growth. Jaccard stated that we are running out of “easy oil” and proposed using cleaner fossil fuel technology for the near future while developing renewable energy sources. In response to questions, he said these clean fuels can reduce or eliminate pollutants, including carbon dioxide, and disseminate energy to developing countries.

In the ensuing discussion, Peñalosa said taxes should be shifted to infrastructure users and Litman urged changing fixed costs of vehicle ownership into variable costs based on driving frequency, and suggested market reforms that discourage sprawl. Modi said charcoal cooking contributes less than one percent of atmospheric carbon loading. On dissemination of energy to the poor, Peñalosa said structural subsidies for poor, and reduction of use of private cars, will provide more equity.

Roychowdhury noted that the poor suffer greater health costs from pollution and that in India, taxes often penalize public transit and cycling. Peñalosa said instead of traffic congestion, the focus should be on the creation of parks and other public spaces. Ortega noted that Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels has led an effort by 300 US mayors to meet the targets of the Kyoto Protocol, demonstrating that local governments can take on



Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute

issues not addressed by the national government. On the World Youth Forum’s proposal to make cities pedestrian-friendly, Roychowdhury mentioned the Indian government’s efforts to build overpasses and sidewalks to accommodate walkers.

In response to a question of regional and national governments overruling local governments, Ortega noted that UN-HABITAT supports the principle of decentralization and local autonomy. Regarding high-density neighborhoods for families, Litman said there is a need for older city neighborhoods to absorb new suburbs, and to make mixed land use more attractive to families.

## NETWORKING EVENTS

**HABITAT JAM:** This session included the inaugural screening of the Habitat JAM film. Moderator Charles Kelly, WUF3 Commissioner General, explained that the Habitat JAM was a WUF3 outreach programme, supported by IBM technology, in which 39,000 participants from 158 countries came together for a three-day Internet networking session to share ideas on how to solve some of the world’s most critical urban issues.

Noting emergent WUF3 themes of stakeholder inclusion and actionable ideas, Chris Gibbon, Vice President, Global Social Services and Social Security, IBM, shared examples of how technology can support these, including the IBM World Community Grid, which redistributes unused power from over 300,000 individual and business computers to power research on HIV/AIDS and other global problems.

Highlighting the digital divide, Jockin Apurtham, President, National Slum Dwellers Federation, pointed out that he and many slum dwellers are computer illiterate but acknowledged that the JAM had given the urban poor a voice.

In a video message, Lars Reuterswärd, UN-HABITAT, explained that Habitat JAM aims to reach new target groups through informal media such as blogs to inform them about the Habitat Agenda.

Mike Wing, Vice President of Strategic Communications, IBM, was introduced as the “father of jamming.” Explaining that jams emerged from IBM intranet technology, he welcomed the use of the technology for something truly consequential.

Jan Peterson, Founder and Chair of the Secretariat of the Huairou Commission, lauded Canada’s commitment to democracy



Hayette Amissah-Arthur, Kumassi Institute of Technology and Environment



Charles Kelly, Commissioner General WUF3, describing Habitat JAM

evident in the Habitat JAM initiative and urged its continued inclusion in WUF4.

Robert Neuwirth, author of “Shadow Cities” and Habitat JAM moderator, stated that solutions are found in the street, not online, and noted technical problems he had experienced in participating in the JAM. In response, Wing emphasized the experimental nature of the software and method. Neuwirth stressed the value of including a Habitat JAM in WUF4 as a means of democratizing the censored online world in China.

Kevina Power, World Urban Cafés Manager, Nairobi, Kenya, said the Habitat JAM and associated World Urban Cafés were an example of mainstreaming youth voices into UN-HABITAT.

Vasudevan Suresh, CEO, Aerens Goldsouk, and Habitat JAM moderator, emphasized the democratic nature of the JAM, called for it to be an annual or bi-annual event with focused topics and target groups, and suggested that it could eventually progress to a global video conferencing event.

Delegates highlighted financial support for community JAM participation and provided numerous suggestions for ensuring the initiative’s sustainability, noting the challenge was to find the means to connect the words of the urban poor expressed during the JAM to the actions of decision-makers. On holding a Habitat JAM for WUF4, Kelly said preliminary discussions are underway and the Canadian Government and others are considering providing assistance.

**CULTIVATING INCLUSIVE CITIES:** This networking event explored the topic of urban agriculture through the presentation of four case studies.

Moderator Dinesh Mehta, UN-HABITAT, noted the potential for urban poor to attain food security through agriculture. Henk de Zeeuw, Director, Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF), delivered a message on behalf of Sybilla Dekker, Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment of the Netherlands, cautioning against viewing rural and urban as separate entities, and urging a participatory approach to encourage adoption of political plans.

De Zeeuw then presented the RUAF programme, noting that urban agriculture is an integral yet unrecognized part of cities, adding that it produces 15-20 percent of the world’s food. He said some cities resist the introduction of urban agriculture due

to perceived health risks, and competition for land and other resources.

George Matovu, Municipal Partnership for East and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA), Zimbabwe, described the evolution of urban agriculture in his country, noting that although no law explicitly prohibits it, rigid regulatory frameworks and competition for land pose obstacles. He described how support for urban agriculture was achieved from the local government by positioning it as an integral part of the urban economy, instead of as a marginal activity.

Raquel Barriga Velasco, Councilor, Villa Maria del Triunfo, Peru, described successes achieved through the introduction of urban agriculture to her impoverished municipality, including food security and greening of the city. She emphasized information dissemination and having urban agriculture institutionalized within the municipal government.

Gayathri Devi, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), described the benefits of using wastewater in urban agriculture, including improved nutrition, drought resistance, and avoidance of agro-chemicals. She noted that there are ways of minimizing health and environmental risks associated with this practice, which include diarrhea and intestinal worm infections, and soil and groundwater contamination.

El Hadji Oumar Sissokho, Provania, described Provania’s efforts to develop urban agriculture in Dakar, Senegal, noting constraints such as water access and land use rights, and benefits such as training, composting, and a strengthened farmers’ organization. He identified the need for increased public engagement, capacity building, and inclusion of women in decision-making processes.

Participants discussed: strategies to attain legal recognition of urban agriculture; benefits associated with decreased fossil fuel and pesticide use, and increased diet diversity; gardening on rooftops; bio-filtration of wastewater prior to use for agriculture; the loss of agricultural land to urban sprawl; and the logistics of urban subsistence food production.



Henk de Zeeuw, Director, Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF)



Alexandre Monarque, Natural Resources Canada, described an online tool to identify potential renewable energy projects and assess their viability at the RETScreen networking event

### EMPOWERING CLEANER ENERGY DECISIONS

**IN 213 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE:** At this interactive networking event, Alexandre Monarque, Natural Resources, Canada, described RETScreen, a renewable energy technology (RET) tool to help cities better fulfill future energy demands and implement renewable and energy-efficient projects. He noted that over 80,000 people in 213 countries use this tool.

He noted that RETScreen reduces the costs of pre-feasibility studies and provides a common platform for discussions between policy makers and regulators, planners, funders, developers and product suppliers. Monarque described how, because it is available in over 20 languages, RETScreen can facilitate dialogue across countries.

Monarque demonstrated the RETScreen software and showed how it identifies and assesses the viability of potential projects. He noted many factors that affect project viability, including: availability of energy resource at the project site; equipment performance; initial project costs; “base case” credits, such as diesel generators for remote sites; on-going and periodic project costs, such as cleaning wind turbine blades; avoided energy costs; financing terms; equipment and income taxes; environmental credits and subsidies, such as greenhouse gas credits; and decision-makers’ definitions of cost-effectiveness. He closed by highlighting significant user savings and said RETScreen is available free of charge online.

**LAUNCHING THE GLOBAL CITIES COMPETITION “SMART URBAN FABRICS BEYOND OIL”:** Märten Lilja, Secretary of State, Ministry for Sustainable Development (MSD) of Sweden, said climate change is the greatest challenge facing the planet, and suggested that new solutions be developed to achieve sustainable city goals. He announced Sweden’s initiative to launch a competition to redesign urban fabrics to find energy solutions compatible with sustainable economic growth.

Reuterswärd said energy, especially household energy use, is high on UN-HABITAT’s agenda and, together with Inga Klevby, UN-HABITAT Deputy Executive Director, expressed support for the competition.

Presenting the initiative, Rolf Lindell, Director, MSD, said cities throughout the world face the challenge of adapting to demands of sustainable development beyond oil. He added that fundamental to this challenge is the need to establish sustainable energy solutions for urban development, noting that the objective of the competition is to discuss innovative ideas for how cities can meet this challenge. Focal issues include transportation and other energy-consuming activities as well as questions concerning overall urban lifestyle.

Ola Gölransson, MSD, gave an overview of the competition and said participants should produce and present a development proposal for a city beyond oil, giving consideration to urban form, transportation, infrastructure and urban lifestyle. Winners will be announced at WUF4 in Nanjing, China in 2008.

Per Hultén, the Royal Institute of Technology, and Hague commented on the competition proposal and said each proposal would be judged on how well it describes the transition from the current situation to a better future between 2030-2050.

During the discussion, some participants suggested that the competition should include students, professionals, NGOs and the private sector. Others proposed that the topic should not be limited to envisioning the urban fabric beyond oil, but also beyond natural gas. Lilja supported these suggestions.

### URBAN POLICIES AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY: TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY:

This networking event was organized by UNESCO and UN-HABITAT and moderated by Raquel Rolnik, Secretary, Brazil’s National Secretariat of Urban Programmes.

Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General, outlined international and national initiatives in the development of the right to the city concept, and Wataru Iwamoto, UNESCO, urged a transition from a needs-based to a rights-based approach in urban development and planning.

Noting increased exclusion and alienation in cities, Paul Taylor, UN-HABITAT, defined the “right to the city” as the right for all city dwellers to fully enjoy urban life with all its services and advantages. He also pointed out that this right has taken both legally-binding and voluntary forms.



Panel on launching the global cities competition. L-R: Per Hultén, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, Märten Lilja, Ola Gölransson, and Rolf Lindell, Swedish Ministry for Sustainable Development

Rolnik presented Brazil's experience in implementing the "right to the city" concept through legal and governance reforms, and land regularization programmes.

Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal, presented the Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, which entered into force in January 2006, stressing the public's involvement in its development and the equal importance for citizens to both acquire rights and assume responsibilities with regard to urban life.

Henrique Ortiz, Habitat International Coalition, presented the draft World Charter on the Right to the City. Zenaida Moya, Mayor of Belize City, highlighted the Aberdeen Agenda adopted at the Commonwealth Local Governments Forum in 2005, which promotes the right to the city concept, noting that it helps localize the MDGs.

Maria Fides Bagasao, Huairou Commission, delivered the grassroots women's statement, urging empowerment of, and financial resources for, grassroots women to implement the right to the city agenda.

Fransesc Rovira, Inter-religious Centre Barcelona, addressed religious cohesion in cities, stressing the need for affirmative policies on religious issues by local authorities, and noting the role of local inter-religious councils in conflict resolution.

Ivan Vlachos, Colorado State University, addressed the underlying causes of urban water conflicts, emphasizing that it is essential to properly manage, value and share water, and calling for empowerment, envisioning and enactment.

Marcello Balbo, University of Venice, highlighted effects of international migration dynamics on the social and economic development of cities, noting that migration will be an issue in the coming years and calling for migrants' participation in urban governance.

During the discussion, participants highlighted: rights and integration of urban indigenous communities; bridging the gap between declared rights and reality, operationalizing Charter



Raquel Rolnik, Brazil's National Secretariat of Urban Programmes, presented her country's experience in implementing the "right to the city" concept



Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal, presented the Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities

provisions by municipalities; the need for greater policy and advocacy focus; and the role of civil society in mobilizing awareness.

**SLUM DIARIES:** This networking event, co-chaired by Brenda Kelly, Executive Producer, Television for the Environment, and Susan Nosov, Head of Marketing, National Film Board of Canada (NFB), brought together slum dwellers, filmmakers, potential funders and broadcasters in a discussion about the role of participatory media in social change. The session's presentations included many short documentary screenings.

Tom Perlmutter, NFB, called for delegates "to use art as a hammer." Shelia Patel, Slum Dwellers International, underscored the importance of transforming the self-image of people living in informal settlements. George Ndiritu, Mathare Youth Sport Association Children's Project, Kenya, discussed his experiences with the media growing up in a slum in Nairobi's Eastlands. He said the perspectives of slum dwellers, especially the youth, are rarely depicted and stressed that, "unless the lions learn how to write, the hunters will always write their stories."

Namrata Bali, Self Employed Women's Association, discussed Videosaver, a cooperative society of illiterate and semi-literate women who produce documentaries in India. She elaborated on the value of filmmaking in creating a sense of self-identity and self-recognition for inhabitants of informal settlements. Nettie Wild and Fiona Gold of the Street Nurse Program, Vancouver, discussed how their new DVD is preparing nurses to interact respectfully with drug users. Daniel Cross, Homeless Nature, and Peggy Holter, Al Jazeera International, drew attention to the importance of pulling seldom-heard voices into the mainstream media and noted the growing role of websites.

In the ensuing discussion, delegates: conversed about advocacy and historical documentation through film; emphasized the importance of demonstrating real-world impacts of multimedia



projects to funders; called for the creation of internship opportunities; and queried how documentaries by slum dwellers could be made available in a global archive, perhaps using the Internet as a forum and potentially providing a source of revenue for grassroots NGOs. Wild called for future meetings of filmmakers on this topic.

**HOUSING AND HIV/AIDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES:** After a welcoming prayer to guide participants, Moderator Barry Pinsky, Executive Director, Rooftops Canada, opened this networking event by noting the session's goal of better understanding the impact of HIV/AIDS on housing and vice versa. He noted the event's format was based on training methods to help community groups think about HIV/AIDS implications and would thus "train trainers."

Ken Clement, Executive Director, Healing Our Spirit, began with a moment of silence to remember those who have died from HIV/AIDS. He explained how fragmentation of communities, lack of resources and prioritization, alarming infection rates and other issues affect Canada's aboriginal people.

Barbara Kohlo, Executive Director, Housing People of Zimbabwe, said it was difficult for housing cooperatives to manage the impact of HIV/AIDS and explained the importance of raising awareness, taking a holistic approach, and creating networks to help cooperatives face tough issues like inheritance and inability to provide home-based HIV/AIDS healthcare to the homeless.

Participants broke into small groups and reported back on the impacts of HIV/AIDS on their organizations and potential responses. On addressing emotional and financial impacts, participants recommended: developing a strategy to deal with basic needs at all levels of government; ensuring cultural and spiritual support; establishing property rights; providing blended housing; and educating the public about HIV/AIDS.

On addressing physical needs, participants recommended providing: stable and secure housing; food and social networks; and counseling for patients and caregivers. Delegates also recommended developing housing policy that includes HIV/AIDS



Small groups learn training methods to help community groups think about the implications of HIV/AIDS



João Avamileno, Mayor of Santo André, and Executive Secretary, Mercosur Network, Brazil

and establishing links to organizations with appropriate expertise. They noted the importance of spiritual and extended family support and reducing isolation, and said UN-HABITAT should do more to acknowledge the direct link between HIV/AIDS and housing.

**CITY NETWORKS: Engines of Urban Sustainability:** João Avamileno, Mayor of Santo André, and Executive Secretary, Mercosur Network, Brazil, described the Network's cooperation with local officials on the social and economic development of their cities.

Alberto Kleiman, Special Advisor for International Cooperation to the Brazilian Presidency, said the Mercosur Network is shifting its focus from economic integration to political and social cooperation, especially cross-border cooperation.

Patricia Durán de Jager, Executive Director, Federation of Municipalities of the Central America Isthmus in Guatemala, described the vulnerability of Latin America to natural disasters and the need for risk management through city networks. She said International Development Research Centre projects help Central American cities integrate their social and environmental policies through technical cooperation.

Gilberto Toro, President of the Colombian Federation of Municipalities, described technical assistance through workshops and capacity building projects, particularly in the area of risk management.

During the discussion, participants asked about the mechanics of forming networks, particularly among youth and indigenous people, and their possible role in standardizing municipalities' policies and regulations. Some questioned the role of networks and trade agreements in sustainable development. Durán de Jager responded that networking is a tool but must be equitable in terms of mutual respect, and that networks and trade agreements will only succeed if used for common development.

**INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN CONFLICT AREAS:** This networking session presented findings on why some post-conflict states break down while others manage to emerge resilient.



L-R: Daneil E. Esser, Jason Sumich, and Jo Beall, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Jo Beall, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), outlined the case of Durban, South Africa, stating that while most post-conflict cities experience a degree of conflict and dynamic contestation, the levels of violence differ. She said cities in which conflict was prevalent had shared constraints, including: weak local administration; budget constraints; over-determination of capitals; high unemployment; and factional politics.

Recalling experiences from Freetown, Sierra Leone and Kabul, Afghanistan, Daniel Esser, LSE, noted that local cooperation around security issues was successful when it was issue-based and focused on one aspect of human security. Esser noted that cities were enabling environments to overcome ethnic fault lines and to encourage greater collaboration. On increasing local cooperation in post-conflict cities, Esser outlined the need to link urban and rural areas and confront institutional multiplicity through interaction not competition.

Jason Sumich outlined the case of Maputo, Mozambique and noted that the post-conflict transition had been achieved at a high social cost.

Participants commented on what works and does not work with respect to multi-sector cooperation in post-conflict cities. The similarities and differences in Luanda, Angola and Maputo were compared. One participant noted that post-conflict Luanda had experienced conflicts around land tenure and access, and the criminalization of poverty.

Reference was made to the seminal work of Jane Jacobs, which emphasized the social and human consequences of urban growth. One participant commented on how the architectural “built form” affects institution building and democracy in cities and noted the value of art in forging cooperation in post-conflict cities.

Laura Petrella, UN-HABITAT, announced the launch of a new programme in cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to develop an approach to urban safety in Asia.

**IMPLEMENTING MDG 7/11 IN ASIAN COUNTRIES:**  
Noli de Castro, Vice-President, the Philippines, presented his government’s Northrail relocation programme, highlighting it as a contribution to the achievement of MDG Target 11 on slum upgrading. During the meeting, some participants from the Philippines voiced opposition to the methods of relocation and submitted a letter to the President of the Philippines appealing to halt the relocation.

Alison Barrett, Office of Local Partnerships for Urban Poverty Alleviation Project, introduced a project implemented since 2001 jointly by UNDP, UN-HABITAT and the Government of Bangladesh, involving 11 cities and towns. She said the project’s purpose is to empower poor urban communities at local and national levels through government efforts, and to alleviate poverty and improve lives.

Noer Soetrisno, Indonesia’s Ministry of Housing, addressed the role of microcredit in housing the urban poor in his country. He said microfinance institutions support poverty reduction and local economic development that in turn lead to promoting housing development. He also briefed participants on: 2005-2009 National Housing Development Plan; local capacity building; policies for housing development; strengthening municipal government support for social housing upgrading projects for the poor; promoting the allocation of corporate social responsibility funds for social housing programmes by private and state-owned companies; and encouraging microfinance institutions to provide housing loans as an integral part of their business.

Michael Lindfield, Asian Development Bank, briefed participants on the Bank’s poverty reduction and housing development projects in Asian cities.



Renowned environmentalist David Suzuki made an appearance at WUF3

### WUF3 SUMMARY

The IISD summary of the Third World Urban Forum will be available on Monday, 26 June 2006, online at <http://www.iisd.ca/ywb/wuf3/>



# World Urban Forum Bulletin

## A Summary Report of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum

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ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.IISD.CA/YWB/WUF3/](http://www.iisd.ca/ywb/wuf3/)  
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### SUMMARY OF THE THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM: 19-23 JUNE 2006

The third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) convened in Vancouver, Canada from Monday, 19 June to Friday, 23 June 2006. Held every two years, the Forum examines rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies.

Convened by the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Government of Canada under the theme of "Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action," WUF3 brought together 10,000 participants from over 100 countries, representing governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, urban professionals, local authorities, the private sector and academia.

Throughout the week, participants met in plenary, dialogue and special sessions, and attended 13 roundtables and over 160 networking events, which explored various aspects of sustainable urban development.

WUF3 marked the 30th anniversary of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements, which was also held in Vancouver and led to the creation of UN-HABITAT. The WUF3 Report will be submitted for consideration and appropriate action to the 21st session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council, scheduled to take place in spring 2007.

WUF3 concluded with a call for strengthening partnerships for urban development, as well as with a growing recognition of the need to address the underlying causes of urbanization in order to achieve the vision of sustainable human settlements for all.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ISSUES

As a result of the first UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), which took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May-11 June 1976, the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements officially established the UN Centre for Human Settlements as the major UN agency mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is projected that in the next 50 years, two-thirds of the world's population will be living in towns and cities.

Designated by the UN General Assembly as an advisory body, the World Urban Forum (WUF) is an open-ended think

tank designed to encourage debate and discussion about the challenges of urbanization. In its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, the UN General Assembly decided that the WUF 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." The General Assembly also decided, in the same resolution, to transform the UN Centre for Human Settlements into the UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT.

**HABITAT II:** The second Habitat Conference convened from 3-14 June 1996, in Istanbul, Turkey. The Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, adopted by 171 governments during the Conference, outlined over 100 commitments and strategies to address shelter and sustainable human settlements, emphasizing the themes of partnership and local action. The Habitat Agenda set the twin goals of achieving adequate shelter for all and the sustainable development of human settlements. After much debate, the Conference also reaffirmed a commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

**ISTANBUL+5:** The 25th Special Session of the UN General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat II outcomes took place from 6-8 June 2001 at UN headquarters in New York. At the special session, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,

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The WUF3 opened with a welcoming ceremony followed by statements from dignitaries and key stakeholders

which consists of: a political declaration reaffirming the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda; a review and assessment of implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and proposals for further actions for achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable development of human settlements.

**WUF1:** The First World Urban Forum was held from 29 April-3 May 2002, in Nairobi, Kenya. The overall theme was sustainable urbanization. Discussions also focused on: the effect of HIV/AIDS on human settlements; violence against women; basic services and infrastructure, including provision of water and sanitation; and the need for secure tenure.

**WSSD:** The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), was adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August-4 September 2002. It calls for achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. It also urges action at all levels to: improve access to land and property, adequate shelter and basic services for the urban and rural poor; increase decent employment, credit and income; remove unnecessary regulation and other obstacles for microenterprises and the informal sector; and support slum upgrading programmes within the framework of urban development plans.

**19TH SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT GOVERNING COUNCIL:** Convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5-9 May 2003, this session focused on urban development and sheltering strategies favoring the poor, and the rural dimension of sustainable urban development. The session reviewed activities of UN-HABITAT, and adopted its work programme and budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, its medium-term plan for 2006-2009, and 18 resolutions covering topics including women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, water and sanitation, and decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.

**WUF2:** The Second World Urban Forum took place in Barcelona, Spain, from 13-17 September 2004. Participants discussed progress in achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals on environmental sustainability, including Target 10 on water and sanitation, and Target 11 on slums. Participants also addressed gender equality, urban culture, poverty, safety, disaster preparedness and reconstruction.

## THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM REPORT

### OPENING OF THE FORUM

**OPENING CEREMONY:** On Monday, Master of Ceremonies Eric Falt, Director of the Division of Communications and Public Information, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), welcomed participants to Vancouver, noting that the Third World Urban Forum (WUF3) marks the 30th anniversary of Habitat I, the first UN Conference on Human Settlements also held in Vancouver in 1976.

Charles Kelly, WUF3 Commissioner General, noted that WUF3 is one step towards realizing sustainability principles, and expressed hope that participants would leave with "actionable" ideas to make a difference for urban development.

Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver, said Habitat I had changed the way urban development decisions were made in Vancouver, highlighting the need to embrace environmentally responsible urban "eco-structures" to decrease cities' ecological footprint.

Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia, emphasized WUF3's theme of turning ideas into action, and noted advances in urban sustainability in Vancouver achieved through citizen involvement.

Inga Klevby, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Deputy Executive Director, delivered a message from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stating that over the past three decades the world has become more urbanized, congested and polluted, and less equitable, with more than half of the developing world's urban population living in slums. Highlighting links between opportunities and deprivation, UN Secretary-General Annan called for scaling up efforts to make our planet more just, equitable and sustainable for all its inhabitants.

Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, emphasized that, as half the world's population now lives in urban areas, sustainable city planning will determine our future. While welcoming the Habitat Agenda's successes, she suggested that the failure to achieve urban sustainability has been due to a lack of political support for proper urban planning and underscored WUF's central role in engaging civil society in the UN-HABITAT process. Tibaijuka also requested a minute's silence in memory of Jane Jacobs and Rafik Hariri, champions of sustainable urban community development.

Underscoring the vision of successful, sustainable and safe

cities, Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, noted that urbanization is a powerful phenomenon gaining momentum in the developing world. He introduced the concept of "enlightened urban statecraft" with particular emphasis on: achieving fiscal and jurisdictional balance; addressing infrastructure



Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

deficit; ensuring environmental sustainability; curbing urban crime; providing affordable housing; averting terrorism; and promoting cultural diversity.

Noting that most population growth in the next 25 years will take place in the cities of the developing world, Noli de Castro, Vice-President of the Philippines, highlighted connections between urban poverty and the struggle for democracy, and underscored the role of WUF3 in addressing slum upgrading, housing finance, gender issues and realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice-President of Tanzania, addressed sustainable urbanization in Africa, noting Tanzania's progress in implementing MDG Goal 7 Target 11 on slum upgrading through housing and land legislation. María Antonia Trujillo, Spain's Minister of Housing and WUF2 Chair, suggested that WUF3 focus on identifying solutions rather than problems in sustainable urban development.

**OPENING PLENARY:** Diane Finley, Canada's Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and WUF3 Co-Chair, invited delegates to assess progress and respond to challenges posed by cities. She said while cities play a pivotal role in economic development, preserving a healthy rural environment is equally important for a balanced economy and social wellbeing.



Diane Finley, Canada's Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and WUF3 Co-Chair

**Adoption of agenda and organization of work:** WUF3 Co-Chair Finley introduced, and delegates adopted, the provisional agenda proposed

by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT (HSP/WUF/3/1) and organization of work for WUF3 (HSP/WUF/3/INF/1 and 2) without amendment. They also approved the establishment of the WUF3 Advisory Group (HSP/WUF/3/INF/6) to assist the UN-HABITAT Executive Director in the organization and conduct of the Forum. The ten-member Advisory Group is Co-Chaired by Finley and John Pombe Magufuli, Tanzania's Minister of Land and Settlements.

Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, stressed that home ownership is essential for accumulating wealth, financial independence, stability and social benefits. He noted the objective of establishing an ownership society in the US with a specific focus on minorities and the poor.

Kumari Selja, India's Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, highlighted the global consensus on the need to base global initiatives on local solutions for human settlement management and the emergence of the private sector as a partner in this agenda.

Naokazu Takemoto, Japan's Senior Vice Minister of Finance, emphasized civil society engagement, good governance and social stability, and recalled world leaders' commitment at the Millennium Review Summit in September 2005 to sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), addressed WUF3 on behalf of the UCLG presidency and highlighted the completion of the UCLG Guidelines on Decentralization, which emphasize community involvement in addressing the challenges of urbanization.

Enrique Ortiz, President of the Habitat International Coalition, lamented that lack of political commitment and market policies have undermined realization of the Habitat Agenda principles in the past, and urged a new approach to address global urban challenges through participatory and productive public-private partnerships.

## FORUM SUB-THEMES

In plenary sessions from Tuesday to Thursday, WUF3 addressed the three sub-themes of social inclusion and cohesion, partnership and finance, and urban growth and environment.

**SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COHESION:** On Tuesday, Jackson advocated home ownership as a means of improving the strength and safety of cities, explaining home ownership is key to financial security, social engagement and higher education.

Conversely, he said, homelessness has a devastating effect on urban areas. Jackson offered to: share US experiences with the role of government, rule of law, property rights and corruption eradication; and to work in partnership with other countries on home ownership issues.

Jockin Arputham, President, National Slum Dwellers Federation of India, outlined actions taken by slum dwellers to improve their situation, called for stopping forced evictions, and advocated community-based development and genuine cooperation between the developed world and slum dwellers.

Lindiwe Sisulu, South Africa's Minister of Housing, noted that: many of the poor are excluded from services they need and marginalized by unemployment and illiteracy; poverty affects 80 percent of the urban population in the developing world; and urbanization of the poor is accelerating at a rate most governments cannot manage.

During the ensuing discussion, Jackson agreed with Arputham that governments need to respond quickly to community-based initiatives, while Sisulu added that these initiatives should complement national ones. Sisulu welcomed the idea of savings schemes for slum dwellers, and argued that while government is not the only player responsible for the provision of housing, it needs to ensure security of tenure.



Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

**PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCE:** On Wednesday, Moderator Katherine Sierra, Vice-President, World Bank, outlined key public goods for which sustainable urban policies are necessary. She said that in order for urban development strategies in developing countries to be effective, they will need to take account of economic forces, social inclusion and environmental



Katherine Sierra, Vice-President, World Bank

sustainability. Sierra called for an open and frank dialogue on the impact of cities as engines of growth in developing countries, and for accentuating the positive role of urbanization. She emphasized the role of partnerships and the need for innovative and timely financing.

Mohammad Yousaf Pashtun, Afghanistan's Minister of Urban Development, outlined sustainable urban development challenges and efforts

to rebuild urban infrastructure after 25 years of war in his country. He underscored that cities have a central role to play in Afghanistan's transition from a post-conflict emergency situation to stability, and called for the achievement of sustainable peace and development through partnerships with the international community.

Pat Jacobsen, Chief Executive Officer of TransLink, the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, briefed WUF3 participants on the funding mechanisms available for the development of transportation infrastructure in Vancouver, including: partnerships with the federal government; generation of revenue from users; and private sector financing in cooperation with public funding. She highlighted the importance of involving stakeholders in infrastructure development planning processes.

Robert Williams, Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana, noted that cities cannot be vibrant without engagement at all levels and that partnerships are not an option but a requirement for the development of cities. He stressed the need to move away from traditional sources of financing to meet the increasing costs of urban management, and called for direct negotiations between international financial institutions and municipalities to fast-track loans and grants for urban development.

**URBAN GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT:** Held on Thursday, this plenary session was chaired by Chris Leach, President, Canadian Institute of Planners, who addressed planning for sustainable urbanization, including the need for networks of stakeholders to address sanitation, transportation, "smart" growth, water and environment.

Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator, UN Millennium Campaign, recalled former UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer's statement that poverty is the biggest polluter, and stated that it is essential to attack the roots of poverty in working towards sustainable development. She said the MDGs represent a global deal requiring local level implementation and that the past mistake of the donor community has been to view the poor only as clients, as opposed to partners, of development. Herfkens called for keeping promises made at the highest political level.

Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogota, Colombia, noted the rapidly growing urban population in developing countries, and argued that, to achieve sustainability, developing countries

must find a different model of growth. Referring to Bogota's experiences in promoting sustainable transport and green spaces, he highlighted resulting social justice improvements alongside environmental benefits. Peñalosa said that while resources were often available, political will was required to implement sustainable policies.

Participants commented on cities being at the forefront of the major health and nutrition challenges, and the challenge of cities in developing countries addressing violence, sanitation, and unemployment. Lamenting that the strong commitments made at Habitat-I had not been acknowledged at WUF3, one participant made an impassioned plea to realize historian Barbara Ward's vision that no one would be left without safe drinking water.

## ROUNDTABLES

On Monday and Wednesday, roundtable discussions convened to provide stakeholders' perspectives on the WUF3 agenda and, more broadly, human settlements development.

**MINISTERS' ROUNDTABLE:** Held on Monday under the theme "Vancouver + 30: The Changing Role of Cities and Global Sustainable Development," this roundtable drew the participation of ministers from over 50 countries, and focused on three themes: the role of governments in urban sustainability; the potential for partnerships; and the importance of linking national governments' international agendas to the local level.

**The role of governments in urban sustainability:** Ministers highlighted measures taken to meet urban sustainability challenges within their countries, with many declaring support for decentralization, civil society engagement, and the development of a common system by which to measure sustainability, poverty and urbanization. It was agreed that government has a strong role to play in providing guidance, funding and capacity building for local authorities in their sustainability efforts, and for securing tenure of social housing.

**Partnership between national governments and other jurisdictions in support of urban sustainability:** Ministers from several countries outlined their experiences in handling the relationship between national and local governments in achieving urban sustainability. It was generally agreed that urban sustainability requires a multi-disciplinary approach, particularly regarding health and education.

**Linking national governments' international agendas to the local level:** This theme drew wide-ranging comments, including on the advantages of administrative decentralization in achieving



Panel of the Ministers' roundtable. L-R: Co-Chair Ted Menzies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation of Canada; Moderator Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International and Chancellor, University of Ottawa; Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director; and Co-Chair Magufuli

the MDGs, and housing as the most important issue in countries emerging from conflict. It was acknowledged that countries face different as well as common challenges, and that solutions should be shared.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN ROUNDTABLE:** Titled “Vancouver +30 – Parliamentarians Guiding Change for Sustainable Urbanization,” this roundtable held on Monday provided parliamentarians with the opportunity to discuss legislative initiatives surrounding human settlements, urban development and affordable housing, through two segments: a retrospective of the past 20 years regarding urban legislation, and a consideration of emerging priorities and future policies in support of urban sustainability.

Several parliamentarians drew attention to results from a study of urban policies in Europe, stressing differences among countries in: the utilization of various tools, including centers of expertise for regional development; the consolidation of municipal self-government; waste management; and environmental assessment. Delegates emphasized: family planning, criteria for evaluating the success of urban policies, and that slums have the potential to breed extremism.

In looking to the future, participants urged raising urban poverty as a political priority, and directing foreign aid towards slums. Delegates proposed the creation of a fund to support housing and urban development in African countries.

**PRIVATE SECTOR ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable held on Monday discussed how the private sector can contribute to urban sustainability. Suggestions included: providing management expertise and cost control; building social housing; and working with government to create market mechanisms to encourage investment in social housing.

Discussion also addressed: returns on investment; providing neutral ground for partnerships; strengthening the enabling environment; the need to recognize cultural differences; the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in creating low-income housing; and legal and regulatory frameworks. On strategies for international community support, the need for a transparent tendering process was noted.

**WOMEN’S ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable held on Monday focused on the theme “Empowering the Millennium Development Goals: Grassroots Women Meet the Challenge.” Several participants remarked that many women’s groups work



Panel of the NGOs roundtable. L-R: Ana Sugranyes, Habitat International Coalition; Co-chairs Evaniza Rodrigues, Latin American Secretariat for Popular Housing; and Michael Shapcott, Wellesley Institute

towards meeting the MDGs without knowing it. They also shared initiatives ranging from dialogue with local authorities to a national anti-poverty campaign, and emphasized proper parenting as an important tool against crime and violence. One participant called for meaningful engagement of aboriginal women in policy development and implementation.

Delegates shared experiences in meeting migration and food security challenges, and developing community-owned enterprises that sustain local livelihoods and improve community health. They urged assessing the value of uncompensated contributions made by women in poor communities.

**NGOs’ ROUNDTABLE:** Held on Monday, this roundtable, titled “Assets and Struggles: 30 Years After Vancouver Habitat Forum,” focused on producing recommendations to UN-HABITAT around several themes. On forced eviction, participants noted the importance of NGO work in supporting community-based initiatives to strengthen monitoring and increase security of land tenure, solidarity and local action.

On privatization, participants pointed out that market forces were currently part of the problem and not the solution. It was also noted that WUF discussions had yet to adequately address the protection of the rights of displaced people, and that civil society should demand good governance with respect to this.

On involving local people in all aspects of post-disaster reconstruction, participants urged government accountability in the financing of disaster relief. One participant lamented that government has lost control of housing to private developers and land cartels, and advocated a human rights based approach, and holding governments accountable through civil society networks.

**RESEARCHERS’ ROUNDTABLE:** With the theme of “Planning and Managing Sustainable Cities: From Research to Practice,” this roundtable held on Monday set out to link research and action, with case studies presented on environmentally sustainable cities. Participants reported on: public transportation; good governance of cities as an outcome of research; EU research initiatives and their impact on urban policies. Participants recommended: education and community mobilization of sustainable communities; tailored action-oriented research; scaling research to the global level; and removing funding constraints that distort research.



Participants at the Women's roundtable



Panel of the Gendering Land Tools roundtable

**GENDERING LAND TOOLS:** Participants at this roundtable held on Wednesday stressed that secure land tenure for women is not a question of affordability, but of accessibility, and that tenure obstacles are both legal and cultural. It was noted that the main objective of gendering land tools is to achieve the MDGs on women's empowerment and slum upgrading.

Participants called for: global action to address insecurity of tenure, policies that reflect women's experiences and realities, and increasing the number of female land tools professionals. They expressed support for UN-HABITAT activities in this latter regard.

Participants welcomed the launch of the Global Land Tool Network, noting that it seeks to identify appropriate tools, ensure that they are gendered, replicate existing successes, and close existing gaps. Several speakers highlighted cases of discrimination against women associated with land and property tenure, and proposed to review progress in gendering land tools at WUF4.

Participants further discussed faith-based land tools, noting that culture and faith create both impediments and opportunities. Options were identified regarding societal change in response to conflict and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. One participant called for a "women's resource right agenda," including redistribution of land and putting resources under legal control of women.

**YOUTH ROUNDTABLE:** This high-energy roundtable held on Wednesday built on the momentum generated at the World Youth Forum preceding WUF3, and underscored youth's potential to contribute to solving urgent global problems. Participants identified a range of barriers to youth leadership and ways to overcome these, including through: North-South partnerships; art, culture and sports; education and training; and the media.

Noting the dire realities for youth in developing countries with respect to education, health and employment, and their exposure to drugs, HIV/AIDS, violence, home eviction, and child labor, several developing country participants called for more opportunities to share experiences and for youth in the North to support hope and effect change in the South. One panelist said the message should be kept simple to garner the political will to push forward a positive youth agenda.

**UNIVERSITIES' ROUNDTABLE:** The roundtable held on Wednesday focused on guiding principles for partnering and information diffusion initiatives. Participants were invited to

discuss how universities can absorb and disseminate lessons learned. Participants stressed: linking centers of learning, using an applied, field-based research focus; and harnessing the power of universities and students in development work.

Participants identified challenges associated with partnerships that bring together divergent interests, and improving our understanding of the dynamics of land markets. A major emphasis was placed on the need to view universities as real-world actors that should be held accountable for the same sustainability principles they promote. Participants also discussed: building alliances between universities and practitioners; supporting grassroots efforts; using an interdisciplinary approach to avoid compartmentalization; and challenging the *status quo* development agenda set by the North and developing indicators of progress. Several participants urged the use of the Internet to advance collaborative efforts, including the Global Urban Sustainability Services Exchange.

**ENVIRONMENT ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable held on Wednesday sought to identify common problems and development partnership project ideas by working in sub-groups. The Youth and Education Sub-group identified lack of funding, staff and time as the major problems they have encountered, and suggested creating opportunities and space for youth to collaborate across borders. The Community Capacity Building Sub-group also identified lack of human and financial resources as the major obstacle, and suggested mobilizing all sectors of society to develop and implement community-based sustainable projects which are global in scope with local impact.

The Food Sub-group identified obstacles including food tariffs and trade barriers, and proposed short and long-term projects on food security. The Safe Environment Sub-group identified problems associated with lack of: political will; capacity, information and experiences; use of traditional knowledge; adequate policies, laws and regulations; monitoring; and appropriate science and technology. Potential solutions identified included: partnerships; development of a shared vision; communication; and resource-sharing. The Energy and Resource Sub-group suggested developing renewable energy sources; building capacity; creating partnerships; promoting social equity; and engaging local people, international players and academia.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND MEDIA ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable, held on Wednesday, 21 June, Canada's National Aboriginal Day, was depicted as a forum for the exchange of best practices and the establishment of partnerships between media and indigenous people. Several case studies and short films were presented, followed by an animated dialogue. Discussions focused on indigenous participation in WUF3, with many criticizing the lack of inclusion of youth and indigenous people. Many pointed out that WUF3 had missed the opportunity to provide training on key issues such as ensuring adequate housing and had neglected nomadic peoples' rights.

Participants also spoke of indigenous media projects, berated the lack of and misrepresentation of indigenous people in mass media, and urged indigenous people to take ownership of their fight for representation.





Participants during the Spirituality Roundtable

**SPIRITUALITY ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable was convened on Wednesday under the theme “Bridging the Gap: Spirituality and Sustainability in the Urban Context.” One participant noted that the source of vision driving WUF3 extends beyond technical rationality and political agendas, and another suggested that solving urban problems involves not only financial resources but also lifestyle change.

Participants discussed how faith-based initiatives can address sustainability, finding contentment and connection to other human beings; the need for global peace in creating sustainability; and the role of urban spaces in hosting spiritual festivals. Delegates described a vision of urban wellbeing that is informed by a spiritual understanding of human community and remarked that spiritual needs are as legitimate as material ones. It was emphasized that civic leaders should systematically consider how the meaning, purpose and connectedness that drive spiritual growth are being met in the community.

**MAYORS’ ROUNDTABLE:** This roundtable was convened on Wednesday under the theme of “Local Governments at the Crossroads: Approaching the Millennium Development Goals through Practical Innovation and Local Action.” Speakers noted improvements in human rights and local autonomy of cities but lamented the financial crisis that prevents cities from achieving the MDGs.

The session began with mayors being polled on implementation of the MDGs. While admitting general lack of public awareness about the MDGs, 75 percent of the 130 mayors present said the MDGs are priorities in their cities and 50 percent said they had been involved in a dialogue with national governments on this issue. The panelists suggested that the mayors need to communicate their plans more effectively to both citizens and national governments. Researchers presented data indicating that citizen awareness generates greater support for the MDGs.

During the ensuing discussion, mayors from twenty cities presented examples of programmes for implementing MDGs and targets, particularly upgrading slums and improving water and other services. Delegates called for the mobilization of networks of stakeholders and donors such as the World Bank to secure funding for implementing the MDGs. It was proposed that mayors report on their implementation at WUF4 in 2008.

## DIALOGUES

Six dialogues were convened during WUF3 from Tuesday to Thursday, addressing: the challenge of achieving the MDG target on slum upgrading and related targets; the inclusive approach to public engagement; urban safety and security; municipal finance; urban planning; and energy.

**ACHIEVING THE MDGs: Slum upgrading and affordable housing:** On Tuesday, speakers from South Africa, Pakistan and Peru, and representatives of the UN and World Bank addressed the challenges and opportunities for the achievement of MDG Target 11 on slum upgrading.

On security of tenure, one panelist noted the increasing scale of land-grabbing, forced eviction, homelessness, and property speculation, and said the scale of this dispossession undermines the MDGs. He called for a pledge from governments to stop forced evictions. Many delegates drew attention to addressing homelessness following eviction, saying that until permanent solutions are found for housing, evicted people will rebuild slums elsewhere. They also emphasized self-organization within slums, improvement of women’s rights to land, property, inheritance, housing, and protection from domestic and other forms of violence.

On funding for slum upgrading, one panelist said foreign loans may be a poor option for affordable and sustainable financing, not only because of their conditionalities, but also because overhead expenses can lead to significant increases in the cost of materials. Panelists also suggested local governments could address urban poverty more effectively if given greater responsibilities and power; underscored partnerships between local governments and communities; and emphasized the role of the international donor community, the need for targeted national government subsidies and empowerment of local governments.

Participants discussed involvement of the urban poor in slum upgrading, and the role of the private sector in slum upgrading, with a particular focus on microfinance. They called for more aggressive ways to ensure that human rights and housing are incorporated into national laws.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: The inclusive approach:** On Tuesday, panelists from academia, government and civil society, discussed ways of fostering inclusiveness and cohesion in promoting sustainable cities.

Panelists highlighted: the need for tolerance, cultural diversity, and an equitable environment to enable inclusivity; empowerment of local communities through partnerships; and the role of local government in the delivery of services. One panelist urged ensuring the effectiveness of official development assistance, and noted that increased participation leads to more effective results.

Participants further discussed: interaction between government and NGOs; government leadership and commitment; and reconciling conflict between traditional and modern land ownership. Some questioned the inevitability of urbanization, and called for policies that will strengthen the viability of rural living. They also debated the role of professional associations such as those of planners and architects and the role of the media in holding elected officials accountable. Delegates called for greater transparency in policy and project decisions, better



acknowledgement of the needs of people with disabilities, and the inclusion of youth and women.

#### **URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY: Taking responsibility:**

Held on Wednesday, this dialogue focused on disaster planning



Presentators and participants at the Urban Safety Dialogue

and risk reduction, and crime and violence prevention. Panelists included academics, government representatives from Afghanistan, Japan, Papua New Guinea and South Africa, and international agencies.

Speakers addressed: the double challenge of civil unrest and natural disasters in Afghanistan; lessons learned following the Kobe earthquake in Japan, noting in particular the Kobe Framework Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction; and the need for targeted solutions. One speaker stated that involving communities in disaster risk reduction planning gives rise to a sense of ownership.

On violence against women, speakers highlighted the vulnerability of girls to sexual abuse in Africa, the success of female police stations in Nicaragua, and the importance of strong mayoral initiatives.

Participants also discussed: the role of women's grassroots information networks in crisis situations; the need for greater dialogue with faith-based organizations; and social problems following disasters, such as the exploitation of children. One delegate noted that hazards only become disasters due to vulnerability, remarking that "earthquakes don't kill people, poorly designed buildings do."

Participants also discussed the rise of gangs within aboriginal communities and post-9/11 security dynamics. Delegates called for access to legal advice for slum dwellers, minimizing displacements following armed conflict, and translating international obligations into local policies. The merits of a more integrated approach between hazard risk management and crime programmes were also considered.

#### **MUNICIPAL FINANCE: Innovation and collaboration:**

This dialogue took place on Wednesday and addressed constraints and innovations in municipal financing. It featured presentations from international agencies, local governments in Brazil, Cameroon, China and Belize, the private sector and community groups.

On municipal financing, speakers: addressed enhancing resources, through building credit worthiness; described using stock exchanges to raise funds for infrastructure rehabilitation; and emphasized that local governments must have the responsibility, power, funding, equitable approaches and technical capacity to undertake their tasks. Participants highlighted: the need to address individual and household debt; youth involvement in decision-making; enabling mechanisms for municipalities to manage resources; access to capital markets; and transparency to ensure accountability.

Speakers also described innovative approaches to providing infrastructure and related services, including a scheme to raise

funds from capital markets for infrastructure development in India and participatory budgeting in the areas of sanitation, healthcare, education, and environment in Brazil. The European Investment Bank outlined criteria for successful leveraging of funding by municipalities. Suggestions included: lowering taxes to attract investors; raising revenue through land management reform; using ISO 9000 for certification; using natural resources as a revenue source; and expenditure management.

Participants also heard an address from a former pavement dweller in Mumbai, India, who successfully worked with the municipality through a community network to stop demolition of dwellings and to build new homes.

**THE SHAPE OF CITIES: Urban planning and management:** Held on Thursday, this dialogue focused on the past problems of planning and considered possible solutions, building on the contributions of the World Planners' Congress prior to WUF3. Speakers represented academia, the urban planning sector and governments.

Speakers noted that technocratic planning is now obsolete, and that planning tools have not been able to contain growth in sustainable ways. They also discussed: how global and local environmental issues can be reconciled in the context of a city government; the differences between the environmental agenda in developing and developed countries; the implications of adapting best practices in the North to municipalities in the South; the features of sustainability in countries with economies in transition; and basic sustainability principles being considered by the World Urban Planners' Congress, which include integrated planning, recognizing diversity, pro-poor strategies and transparency. One lamented that the poor bear the brunt of environmental degradation caused by over-consumption of the rich and urged a multi-faceted approach to urban development.

Discussion also focused on: the gap between rhetoric and action; problems of over-consumption; the need for greater participation of the poor and youth; how universities should incorporate new ways of thinking in their curricula; responsibility of the media; and the role of the financial and private sectors. Participants also heard a presentation on the construction of the island eco-city of Dantang, China, a model that places sustainability at the centre of urban planning.

**ENERGY: Local action, global impact:** This dialogue on Thursday aimed to identify affordable and successful renewable energy options for cities, discuss the role of industry and public-private-partnerships in realizing this objective, and highlight novel approaches to sustainable urban transport.

Speakers discussed how to encourage less polluting models for urban transport, including through education, advocacy and fiscal reforms.

One speaker said that "easy oil" options are running out, and proposed using cleaner fossil fuel technology for the near future while developing renewable



Participants at the Energy Dialogue

energy sources. Speakers also highlighted: reduction of private car use; bias toward vehicles in planning practices; that the poor suffer greater health costs from pollution; and how to make cities pedestrian-friendly. One speaker said that instead of solving traffic congestion problems, the focus should be on the creation of parks and other public spaces.

Delegates noted the importance of energy for cooking to the poor, and discussed: pro-poor structural subsidies; shifting taxes to infrastructure users; creating fiscal policies which support comprehensive planning; and developing planning measures to avoid urban sprawl. One speaker noted the effort by 300 US mayors to meet the targets of the Kyoto Protocol, demonstrating that local governments can take on issues not addressed by their national government.

## SPECIAL SESSIONS

Convened from Tuesday to Friday, WUF3 special sessions were: inaugural UN-HABITAT lecture on “The Wealth of Cities”; a triologue on water, sanitation and human settlements; the role of local governments; the future of cities; and “From Vancouver to Nanjing.”

**UN-HABITAT LECTURE: The Wealth of Cities:** This special session, held on Tuesday, consisted of the presentation of the 2006 UN-HABITAT Award to John Friedmann, Honorary Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada, who then delivered the inaugural UN-HABITAT lecture.

In his lecture, titled “The Wealth of Cities: Towards an Assets-Based Development of Newly Urbanizing Regions,” Friedmann argued that the true wealth of cities is found in the progressive endogenous development of assets such as cultural heritage, human resources and urban infrastructure rather than in soliciting outside capital. He said the role of government is to facilitate self-motivated development through consultations with citizens.

Panelists welcomed Friedmann’s model for constructing sustainable cities, questioned whether the model reflects the reality of community conflicts and rivalries, and urged considering how to reconcile cities’ short-term requirements with long-term sustainable development goals.

Ensuing discussions covered: the role of public space; the optimum size of government and cities; women’s property rights; the value of financial capital, in particular for low-income households; and how to prevent the exportation of assets from developing regions such as through “brain drain.”



Presentators and participants at the special session on UN-HABITAT Lecture: The Wealth of Cities



Panel on Triologue on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

**TRIALOGUE ON WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:** Held on Tuesday, this special session brought together governments at national, state and local levels and representatives from international institutions and agencies to discuss how to meet the challenge of providing water and sanitation for human settlements.

Panelists discussed the role of urban infrastructure development and governance, and cooperation between government agencies and municipalities in providing financial and other incentives to prevent the sprawl of illegal settlements and to ensure access to water and sanitation services. Several panelists emphasized private sector involvement, with one pointing out that public-private partnerships offer management expertise and delivery capacity not always available in the public sector, and another urging equitable partnerships. Others noted the role of local community involvement, in particular community cooperatives.

The importance of providing access to safe water and basic sanitation in tackling poverty was highlighted, as were: addressing child mortality, empowering women, and promoting pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing countries’ cities. Panelists also emphasized: financial health of local governments; zonal approaches in urban areas; water storage capacity development; providing water and basic sanitation to those suffering from HIV/AIDS; and youth’s role in raising awareness.

**ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Leadership in sustainability:** This special session took place on Wednesday and focused on experience and leadership of local government in attaining sustainability. It featured presentations by mayors from the Netherlands, Burkina Faso, Brazil and Canada, as well as UN-HABITAT.

The mayors described work in their cities, including: a survey to be used for reallocation of resources and decisions on policy in Calgary, Canada; the establishment of a network of Mercosur Cities, a league of cities in Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Chile and Bolivia; and a local government partnership in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with the International Association of French-speaking Mayors and a local youth organization to carry out work on HIV/AIDS. One mayor suggested three major local government themes: decentralization, which ensures accountability, equity, transparency and the rule of law; basic services for all, a precondition of the commitment of citizens; and financial autonomy, essential for sound decision-making. Another panelist emphasized the role of partnerships in

providing financing for decentralization, and the value of citizen consultations.

Speakers also noted that partnership goes beyond cooperation and collaboration and emphasized national/local government financial partnership. UN-HABITAT highlighted the United Cities and Local Governments' establishment as a mechanism for locally elected officials to engage at the international level.

**STATE OF THE WORLD'S CITIES: Where are we going?:** On Friday, UN-HABITAT presented the *State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7*. The report demonstrates that slum dwellers in developing countries are in at least as bad a situation as their rural counterparts, and provides data showing that the world's one billion slum dwellers are likely to die earlier, experience more hunger and disease, attain less education and have fewer chances of employment than urban residents that do not reside in slums. The study further documents trends in: growth of megacities; population dynamics, including increasing numbers of slum dwellers; access to basic services such as water and sanitation; secure land and property tenure; and environmental degradation.

A panel of urban experts presented the major trends and challenges facing cities in the 21st century. One presentation described research in the "favelas", or shantytowns, of Rio de Janeiro, where youth have bought into democracy and participatory ideals despite rising unemployment, crime and violence. Another presentation addressed environmental and health problems caused by rapid urban growth in China, with a focus on two cities where citizens pressured the governments to reduce air and solid waste pollution through measures such as restricting traffic and banning the use of plastic shopping bags.

Speakers also: urged stopping the vicious circle whereby failure to invest in public transport leads to increased car purchases, which prompts investment in roads, and in turn makes cars more attractive; proposed monitoring urban relationships, such as those between squatters and authorities, as indicators of progress; stressed energy-efficient growth through subsidized public transport and sustainable urban planning; drew attention to climate change; and noted that unplanned urban growth marginalizes people, and may lead to extremism.

**FROM VANCOUVER TO NANJING:** On Friday morning, participants took part in a special session providing insight on the emerging issues from WUF3 that could be tabled at WUF4, scheduled to be held in Nanjing, China in 2008. Panelists represented national and local governments in Canada, China and Sweden, and UN-HABITAT.



Panelists during the special session on "From Vancouver to Nanjing". L-R: Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT; Michael Harcourt, Chair of the External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities; Wang Guangtao, China's Minister of Construction; and Wu Zhiqiang, Tongji University

Panelists and participants considered: localizing the MDGs; empowerment of under-represented groups; security; mobilization of resources; local governments as international players; building partnerships; and the centrality of urban governance and participatory approaches to planning.

Participants drew attention to the need to: ensure gender and age balance at WUF4; consider rural development to avoid further urban migration; and address the challenge of sustainable communities.

Delegates from China noted: implementation of the country's sustainable development strategy, which assigns high priority to energy, natural resources and environment; that China shares challenges common to both the developing and developed world, such as an aging population, large-scale urban migration, pollution and ecological destruction; and that a sustainable approach is necessary to address conflicts caused by rapid growth. Participants were told that Nanjing, the host city of WUF4, is pursuing a sustainable urban development strategy while protecting its cultural heritage and the environment, and that the theme of WUF4 will be "Harmonious Cities."

Participants discussed: increasing private sector engagement; the need for public engagement support; "sister cities" relationships; moving from case study demonstration to replication of successful projects; and the need to engage the social sciences.

## NETWORKING EVENTS

Over 160 networking events took place throughout the week, offering an opportunity for participants to share ideas, experiences and best practices in various aspects of sustainable urban development. Due to a large number of overlapping sessions, IISD coverage focused on a selection of networking events on Tuesday and Thursday.

**PLANNING SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE CITIES:** Using Vancouver, Canada as a case study, this networking event organized by the City of Vancouver on Tuesday, addressed urban planning and sustainability. Speakers highlighted the challenges associated with rapid growth and the unique aspects of Vancouver, including higher density housing and the absence of highways. They noted efforts to diversify the economy with information technology and creative industries as well as problems associated with success, such as the exodus of low-income residents.

Participants discussed a range of issues, including striking the right balance between residential and commercial space and Vancouver's success in reducing car use. Delegates urged greater equity in policy-making and delivery of social services, emphasizing citizen involvement.

**HOW TO INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS IN CITY LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Organized by Cities Alliance and UNEP, this networking event held on Tuesday drew upon several speakers to address how to strengthen environmental aspects in city planning. One delegate outlined the findings of a study on appropriate tools for city strategic planning, emphasizing the "eco-city" and participatory



Panellists at the Networking event: How to integrate Environmental Aspects in City Long-term Strategic Planning

approaches; another shared experiences from one of India's largest cities in addressing the gap in the delivery of urban services.

Participants stressed the need for a new urban paradigm, and suggested that cities be designed and managed using natural ecosystems as models. During the discussion, delegates focused on: harnessing political leadership; measuring the value of environmental investments; investing in people; long-term planning and immediate action; life-cycle costing; transformation of land-use patterns; reducing transportation demand; improving energy efficiency; and communication with grassroots organizations.

#### **ADDRESSING CONFLICT IN WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES FOR THE URBAN POOR:**

This networking event, held on Tuesday and organized by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), focused on water and sanitation issues, with case studies presented from India, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Vietnam. Discussion highlighted: the special challenges surrounding the delivery of water supply and sanitation services to the urban poor in developing countries; the importance of inter-sectoral planning; the organization of the landless; benefits and beneficiaries of increased land value from new services; and different types of user fees and coordination mechanisms.

Participants observed the importance of being neutral, knowledgeable and sensitive in building confidence among all parties, and stated that conflict sometimes is triggered by lack of information. It was also noted that the poor cannot always afford to be involved in consultative processes.

**LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCES AND DECENTRALIZATION:** This networking event, held on Tuesday and organized by Association Internationale des Maires Francophones, concentrated on mobilization of revenue for municipal governments in developing countries. Speakers presented case studies from Cameroon, Niger and Senegal.

Discussion focused on tax incentives, empowering local governments to adopt geographic information systems, and the potential for connections between large funding bodies and microfinance networks. One delegate highlighted the importance of establishing links between mayors and

international organizations, and urged the World Bank to fund city governments directly. Another emphasized technology transfer, public-private partnerships and the possibilities for international exchange programmes for municipal employees.

**LOCALIZING THE MDGs:** This networking event, organized by the African Women Local Governance Programme on Tuesday, discussed building competencies in local governments in Africa to mainstream gender and empower women. Speakers from Ghana and Mali discussed the need to empower women to participate in government, noting that although there are no legislative obstacles, other barriers include restrictions caused by cultural beliefs and tradition, poverty and disease.

Participants broke into groups to consider: knowledge acquisition to address gender issues; building support for gender equality; implementation of gender policy; planning and resource allocation; and promotion of gender equality beyond the local government authorities. Recommendations included: avoiding assumptions of homogeneity amongst local government authorities; the need to include both women and men; and promoting the consideration of gender issues as a national, and not political, agenda. Participants emphasized that women's empowerment will lead to success in localizing the MDGs.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND CITIES IN THE SOUTH:** This networking event, organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development and Sida on Tuesday, discussed greenhouse gas emissions and urban risk in a warming world. Noting that climate change poses the greatest threat for the poor, the moderator introduced case studies from Senegal, Bangladesh and Kenya.

Speakers: noted that natural and anthropogenic factors exacerbate risks caused by flooding; described efforts to mitigate risks caused by flood-related sanitary problems; discussed risks associated with saltwater contamination of freshwater resources; drew attention to the need to give people incentives to move away from vulnerable areas; suggested that building standards be changed to accommodate future climatic conditions, including increased temperatures and humidity; and urged a transition to low-tech renewable energy sources.

**DEVELOPING A TEMPLATE:** This networking event, organized by Women in Cities International on Tuesday, focused on gender equity and participation of women in policymaking.

Speakers from cities in Canada, Vietnam, the Philippines and Mexico briefed participants on different local government initiatives. They focused on: the problems faced by women in urban areas, especially with regard to transportation and sanitation; the importance of implementing legislation for gender equality; and the role of training and education programmes for poor girls to provide them with working skills and the ability to protect themselves against abuse and violence. Delegates also highlighted the importance of political will, action plans and accountability.

**INTEGRATING GLOBAL CONCERNS INTO URBAN MANAGEMENT IN ASIA:** During this networking event on Tuesday, organized by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, speakers outlined the role of cities in meeting the



Panelists of the Habitat JAM networking event

challenge of sustainability, remarking that, although cities have contributed to sustainability problems, they also have the potential to provide solutions. It was stated that cities need assistance with best practices in the areas of land use, transportation, energy, environmental and economic planning to leapfrog the past mistakes of industrialization.

Case study presentations highlighted rapid population and economic growth resulting in mass material consumption and unsustainable development in Bangkok, Thailand, and effective electricity-saving schemes in Kawagoe, Japan. Delegates called for a transition to greener buildings and infrastructure, integrated urban water and waste management, renewable energy sources, improved urban density, and increased awareness of environmental problems.

**HABITAT JAM:** Habitat JAM is a WUF3 outreach programme in which 39,000 participants from 158 countries came together for a three-day Internet networking session to share ideas on how to solve some of the world's most critical urban issues.

On Thursday, UN-HABITAT and IBM held a Habitat JAM networking event at WUF3 to share experiences on this innovative approach. Delegates emphasized the democratic nature of the JAM, called for it to be an annual or bi-annual event with focused topics and target groups, and suggested that it could eventually progress to a global video conferencing event. One community representative noted that although many slum dwellers are computer illiterate, the JAM has given the urban poor a voice.

Participants further highlighted financial support for community JAM participation and provided numerous suggestions for ensuring the initiative's sustainability, noting the challenge to find the means to connect the aspirations of the urban poor expressed during the JAM with follow-up actions of decision-makers. Delegates called for holding a Habitat JAM for WUF4.

**CULTIVATING INCLUSIVE CITIES:** This networking event, held on Thursday and organized by International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security, explored the topic of urban agriculture through the presentation of case studies from Zimbabwe, Peru, Sri Lanka and Senegal.

Speakers described successes achieved through the introduction of urban agriculture to their municipalities, including food security and city greening. They noted the potential for urban poor to attain food security through agriculture, cautioned against viewing rural and urban as separate entities, and urged participatory policy-making. One delegate said some cities resist

the introduction of urban agriculture due to perceived health risks, and competition for land and water resources. Another described how support from the local government for urban agriculture was achieved by positioning it as an integral part of the urban economy, instead of as a marginal activity.

The discussion highlighted the benefits of using wastewater in urban agriculture, including improved nutrition, drought resistance, and avoidance of agro-chemicals. Participants also discussed: strategies to attain legal recognition of urban agriculture; benefits associated with decreased fossil fuel and pesticide use, and increased diet diversity; gardening on rooftops; bio-filtration of wastewater prior to use for agriculture; the loss of agricultural land to urban sprawl; and the logistics of urban subsistence food production.

**EMPOWERING CLEANER ENERGY DECISIONS IN 213 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE:** At this networking event on Thursday organized by Natural Resources Canada, CANMET Energy Technology Centre and RETScreen International, Alexandre Monarque, Natural Resources Canada, described RETScreen, a renewable energy technology software tool to help cities better fulfill future energy demands and implement renewable and energy-efficient projects. He noted that over 80,000 people in 213 countries use this tool.

He stated that RETScreen reduces the costs of pre-feasibility studies and provides a common platform for discussions between policy-makers and regulators, planners, funders, developers and product suppliers. Monarque described how RETScreen can facilitate dialogue across countries as a multilingual tool. He demonstrated how RETScreen assesses the viability of potential projects, highlighting significant user savings, and noting that the tool is available free of charge online.

**LAUNCHING THE GLOBAL CITIES COMPETITION "SMART URBAN FABRICS BEYOND OIL":** During this networking event held on Thursday, the Swedish Ministry of Sustainable Development announced its initiative to launch a competition "Smart Urban Fabrics Beyond Oil." The competition involves the creation of a development proposal for a city beyond oil, giving consideration to urban form, infrastructure and lifestyle. Each proposal will be judged on how well it describes the transition from the current situation to a better future between 2030-2050. Winners will be announced at WUF4 in Nanjing, China in 2008.



Presentators and participants at the networking event on launching the global cities competition "Smart Urban Fabrics Beyond Oil"

It was noted that cities worldwide face the challenge of finding sustainable energy solutions, which address transportation and other energy-consuming activities as well as overall urban lifestyle. Many participants expressed support for the competition, noting that energy, especially household energy use, is high on the UN-HABITAT agenda.

#### **URBAN POLICIES AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY:**

This networking event, held on Thursday and organized by UNESCO, focused on good governance and local democracy. Delegates urged a transition from a needs-based to a rights-based approach in urban planning, and outlined international and national initiatives in the development of the “right to the city” concept: the right for all city dwellers to fully enjoy urban life with all its services and advantages.

Speakers from Brazil and Canada discussed their experiences in implementing the “right to the city” concept, stressing public involvement in the development of initiatives. Delegates reflected on the role of civil society, in particular grassroots women and local inter-religious councils. During the discussion, participants highlighted: rights and integration of urban indigenous communities; bridging the gap between declared rights and reality; and the need for a greater policy and advocacy focus.

**SLUM DIARIES:** This networking event, organized by Television Trust for the Environment and the National Film Board of Canada on Thursday, brought together slum dwellers, filmmakers, potential funders and broadcasters in a discussion on the role of participatory media in social change. Speakers: called for delegates “to use art as a hammer;” underscored the importance of transforming the self-image of people living in informal settlements; said the perspectives of slum dwellers, especially the youth, need to be better reflected in mainstream media; elaborated on the value of filmmaking in creating a sense of self-identity and self-recognition for inhabitants of informal settlements; and noted the growing role of websites.

In the ensuing discussion, delegates: discussed advocacy and historical documentation through film; emphasized the importance of demonstrating real-world impacts of multimedia projects to funders; called for the creation of internship opportunities; and proposed making documentaries by slum dwellers available in a global archive.

#### **HOUSING AND HIV/AIDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES:**

The goal of this networking event, held on Thursday and organized by Housing People of Zimbabwe, Lu’ma Native Housing Society and Rooftops Canada, was to facilitate understanding links between HIV/AIDS and housing. Speakers stressed the importance of raising awareness, taking a holistic approach, and creating networks to help cooperatives face issues like inheritance and inability to provide home-based HIV/AIDS healthcare to the homeless.

Participants broke into small groups and reported back on the impacts of HIV/AIDS on their organizations and potential responses. On addressing emotional and financial impacts, participants called for: developing a strategy to deal with basic needs at all levels of government; ensuring cultural and spiritual support; reducing isolation; establishing property rights; providing blended housing; and educating the public about HIV/AIDS.



Small groups learn training methods to help community groups think about the implications of HIV/AIDS

On addressing physical needs, participants recommended providing: stable and secure housing; food and social networks; and counseling for patients and caregivers. Delegates also recommended developing housing policies that include HIV/AIDS and establishing links to organizations with appropriate expertise. They urged UN-HABITAT to better acknowledge the direct link between HIV/AIDS and housing.

**CITY NETWORKS:** Focusing on city networks as the “engines of urban sustainability,” this networking event, organized on Thursday by the American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations of Local Governments and the International Development Research Centre, drew speakers from Brazil, Guatemala and Colombia. Delegates described cooperation with local authorities on the social and economic development of their cities, the need for risk management through city networks, and the importance of cross-border cooperation.

During the discussion, participants asked about the mechanics of forming networks, particularly among youth and indigenous people, and their possible role in standardizing municipal policies and regulations. Some delegates questioned the role of networks and trade agreements in sustainable development. It was noted that networking must be equitable, and that networks and trade agreements will only succeed if used for common development.

**INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN CONFLICT AREAS:** Held on Thursday and organized by the London School of Economics and Political Science and Crisis States Research Centre, this networking event presented findings on why some post-conflict states break down while others manage to emerge resilient. Participants commented on what does and does not work with respect to multi-sector cooperation in post-conflict cities. Recalling experiences from Freetown, Sierra Leone and Kabul, Afghanistan, one speaker noted that local cooperation around security issues was successful when it was issue-based and focused on one aspect of human security, and that cities were enabling environments to overcome ethnic fault lines and to encourage greater collaboration.

One delegate commented on how the architectural “built form” affects institution building and democracy in cities and noted the value of art in forging cooperation in post-conflict cities. UN-HABITAT announced the launch of a new programme in



Panelists at the networking session on MDG 7/11 in Asian Countries

cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to develop an approach to urban safety in Asia.

**IMPLEMENTING MDG 7/11 IN ASIAN COUNTRIES:** At this networking event on Thursday, organized by UN-HABITAT, participants focused on MDG Target 11, calling for the significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Speakers presented case studies on slum dweller relocation in the Philippines and a city poverty alleviation programme in Bangladesh. The discussion also highlighted the role of microfinance institutions in supporting poverty reduction and local economic development as demonstrated in Indonesia.

Participants were briefed on: local capacity building; policies for housing development; strengthening municipal government support for social housing upgrading projects for the poor; allocation of corporate social responsibility funds for social housing programmes by private and state-owned companies; and encouraging microfinance institutions to provide housing loans as an integral part of their business.

## CLOSING OF THE FORUM

The closing session, held on Friday late morning and early afternoon, was moderated by Brock Carlton, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and included the closing plenary and ceremony.

**CLOSING PLENARY:** WUF3 Co-Chair John Pombe Magufuli, Tanzania's Minister of Land and Settlements, presented the WUF3 Report. He noted that the WUF3 Advisory Group had endorsed the Report, which will be submitted to the UN-HABITAT Executive Director. He closed by presenting a Tanzanian Makonde carving, which symbolizes solidarity, to Lois Jackson, Chair, Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General, on behalf of UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, urged delegates to turn WUF3's global commitments into local action. He said WUF as a forum has no real "closure" and will continue when delegates return home. He posed the challenge of turning the promises of the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights into reality for more than half of humanity.

Representing the private sector, Kim Jawanda, Terra Housing, called for urban sustainability problems to be solved through market-based solutions and partnerships with the private sector. She referred to private-public-people partnerships as a way of providing affordable housing and delivering energy and water services to the poor.

Speaking for youth, Mernosh Tajhizadeh, Quebec Youth, presented the Declaration of the World Youth Forum, held immediately prior to WUF3, at which youth from around the world shared strategies for urban development. She emphasized the need to mobilize and engage youth as a community resource, stressed the role of local authorities in this regard, and called for establishing a youth trust fund and a sustainable youth advisory council.

John Kaputin, Secretary General, African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, highlighted ACP's efforts to eradicate poverty, contribute to sustainable development of cities, and implement the MDGs on health, education and slum upgrading.

Participants then heard closing remarks by UN-HABITAT partners. Representing civil society, Mariam Sow, ENDA Tiers Monde, recognized the many urban initiatives but noted continuing problems of social and economic exclusion. She stressed that it is impossible to have livable cities without sustainable rural development, and expressed hope that Africa will host WUF5.

Representing women, Ana Lucy Bengochea, Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras, noted that grassroots women's organizations participated in WUF3 not as beneficiaries but as committed leaders, thinkers, innovators, and teachers. She stated that, by making women equal partners in urban development, "we will achieve the MDGs and much more."

Wang Guangtao, China's Minister of Construction, extended an invitation on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China to WUF4 to be held in Nanjing, China in 2008.

In closing remarks, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Tibaijuka thanked the Government of Canada for hosting WUF3, and applauded the City of Vancouver as a model of sustainability and inclusiveness. She expressed satisfaction with the high standard of cooperation and international dialogue at WUF3,



Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT Executive Director

noting a 40 percent increase over expected attendance, with participation by both developed and developing countries. She highlighted paradigm shifts in urban issues over the last 30 years, and emphasized that future success depends on building partnerships between communities, the private sector, and local and national governments. She said ideas from WUF3 will be presented to the 21st session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in Nairobi in 2007.





James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works, Canada

Lois Jackson noted that urban migration is caused by both lack of rural opportunities and the lure of the city, and urged each participant to choose one concrete action to implement after returning home.

James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works, Canada, noted the contribution of Canadian agencies in development work, and called on participants to draw strength from cultural diversity when putting ideas into action. He officially closed the Forum at 1:20 pm.

**WUF3 Report:** The Report provides an overview of WUF3. It notes the convergence on a number of suggestions for the way forward, including: the need for all urban players to work harder; municipal leadership characterized by risk-taking and innovation; inclusive partnerships; and transparency and accountability. It highlights a unity of views between developed and developing countries that sustainability is a major challenge facing the cities.

The Report also identifies several emerging issues, *inter alia*, the need for:

- planning for rapidly growing urban populations;
- building coalitions that address the needs of the urban poor;
- increasing financial resources for sustainable infrastructure development;
- shifting from reliance on international development finance to local capital markets;
- using planning as a tool for sustainable urban development;
- addressing the gap between governments' commitments and actions to meet the MDGs in cities; and
- adopting strategies that recognize specific needs of women, youth and people with disabilities.

Finally, the report states that WUF3's success lay not in formal declarations but in learning from shared experiences, and that UN-HABITAT will take the Forum's outcomes to its Governing Council, and through it to the UN General Assembly, with a call for strengthening urban sustainability.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON QUANTIFIED ECO-EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS FOR SUSTAINABILITY:** This conference will be held from 28-30 June 2006 in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands. It will address issues such as: applications and user contacts; philosophy, concepts and quantified tools; methods framework; modeling and operational methods; motives and drivers; and consensus and standardization. For more information contact: Eco-Efficiency Secretariat; tel: +31-71-527-7477; e-mail: ee-conf@eco-efficiency-conf.org; Internet: <http://www.eco-efficiency-conf.org>

**2006 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOLAR COOKING AND FOOD PROCESSING:** Organized by Solar Cookers International and Terra Foundation, this conference,

to be held from 12-16 July 2006 in Granada, Spain, will exchange experiences to expedite access to solar cooking, water purification, and related food processing applications. The conference will consider requirements, costs and benefits of various solar cooking technologies. For more information contact: e-mail: [solar@terra.org](mailto:solar@terra.org); Internet: <http://www.solarconference.net>

**G8 SUMMIT:** The annual Group of Eight (G8) Summit will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 15-17 July 2006, and will address global energy security as one of its key themes. For more information, contact Sergei Yurievich Vyazalov, Organizing Committee Secretariat: fax: +7 495 206 4822; e-mail: [vyazalov\\_sy@gov.ru](mailto:vyazalov_sy@gov.ru); Internet: <http://en.g8russia.ru>

**BIANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICAN CITIES ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT:** Co-hosted by the São Paulo City Government and the World Bank, this conference will take place in São Paulo, Brazil, from 24-27 July 2006. The meeting will contribute to the preparation and implementation of the region-wide component of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Regional Sustainable Transport Project, including a number of transversal activities related to information exchange and capacity building, as well as development and dissemination of monitoring and assessment methodologies, tools and indicators. For more information, contact: Clean Air Initiative, World Bank; tel: +1-202-458-0859; fax: +1-202-676-0977/8 e-mail: [Clean\\_Air@worldbank.org](mailto:Clean_Air@worldbank.org), Internet: [http://www.cleanairnet.org/lac\\_en/1415/article-70393.html](http://www.cleanairnet.org/lac_en/1415/article-70393.html)

**WASTE SUMMIT 2006:** The summit will convene from 25-27 July 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa. For more information contact: International Quality and Productivity Center; Internet: <http://www.iqpc.co.za/SA-228>

**EIGHTH SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** The eighth session of the *Ad Hoc* Committee will be held from 14-25 August 2006 at UN headquarters, New York. It will consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development. For more information contact: UN Global Programme on Disability; tel: +1-212-963-0111; e-mail: [enable@un.org](mailto:enable@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc8.htm>

**WORLD RENEWABLE ENERGY CONGRESS IX:** This Congress will take place in Florence, Italy, from 19-25 August 2006, and will address biomass conversion, fuel cells and hydrogen technology, energy, poverty reduction and gender. For more information, contact: World Renewable Energy Congress; tel: +44-1273-625-643; fax: +44-1273-625-768; e-mail: [asayigh@netcomuk.co.uk](mailto:asayigh@netcomuk.co.uk); Internet: <http://www.wrenuk.co.uk/wrecix.html>

**THIRD GEF ASSEMBLY:** The third meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29-30 August 2006. As the

principal governing body of the GEF, the Assembly will chart the forthcoming years' agenda and work programme. For more information, contact: GEF Secretariat; tel: +1-202-473-0508; fax: +1-202-522-3240/3245; e-mail: [assembly@thegef.org](mailto:assembly@thegef.org); Internet: [http://www.gefweb.org/participants/Assembly/3rd\\_Assembly/3rd\\_assembly.html](http://www.gefweb.org/participants/Assembly/3rd_Assembly/3rd_assembly.html)

**BETTER AIR QUALITY 2006 WORKSHOP:** This workshop, to be held from 13-15 September 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, will address issues of air quality management, particularly in Asia. For more information contact: Ridwan Tamin, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia; tel: +62-21-8591-1207; e-mail: [ridwan@menlh.go.id](mailto:ridwan@menlh.go.id); Internet: <http://www.baq2006.org>

**HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:** This high-level meeting will take place from 14-15 September 2006 at UN headquarters in New York during the 61st session of the UN General Assembly. The aim of the dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The event is also expected to focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. For more information contact: Hania Zlotnik, UN Population and Development Division; tel: +1-212-963-3179; fax: +1-212-963-2147; e-mail: [zlotnik@un.org](mailto:zlotnik@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/index.html>

**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** This meeting will take place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 5-6 October 2006, and is organized by the Organization of American States (OAS). Participants will identify and advance concrete partnerships at the regional and hemispheric level to integrate environmental considerations into development, poverty alleviation, social and economic policies. The meeting will take into account progress in implementing sustainable development and identify specific opportunities for cooperation among OAS member states. For more information, contact: Joaquin Tamayo, OAS; tel: +1-202-458-3506; fax: +1-202-458-3560; e-mail: [JTamayo@oas.org](mailto:JTamayo@oas.org); Internet: [http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm\\_eng\\_v1.htm](http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm_eng_v1.htm)

**FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** CSD-15 will take place at UN headquarters in New York from 30 April-11 May 2007. CSD-15 will be a "Policy Year" to decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome obstacles and constraints for implementation of actions and goals on energy for development, air pollution/atmosphere, climate change and industrial development. For more information, contact: UN Division for Sustainable Development; tel: +1-212-963-8102; fax: +1-212-963-4260; e-mail: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev>

**TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UN-HABITAT GOVERNING COUNCIL:** The twenty-first session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council is scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, in spring 2007. The dates for this meeting will be

decided by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT, in consultation with the Executive Director and the CSD Chair. For more information, contact: Information Services Section, UN-HABITAT; tel: +254-20-623120; fax: +254-20-623477; e-mail: [press.unhabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:press.unhabitat@unhabitat.org); Internet: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

**EWEC 2007 EUROPEAN WIND ENERGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION:** This conference, organized by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) will take place in Milan, Italy, from 7-10 May 2007. For more information contact: EWEC; tel: +32-2546-1980; fax: +32-2546-1944; e-mail: [info@ewea.org](mailto:info@ewea.org); Internet: [http://www2.ewea.org/06b\\_events/events\\_EWEC2007.htm](http://www2.ewea.org/06b_events/events_EWEC2007.htm)

**ECO SUMMIT 2007:** Eco Summit 2007, organized by Elsevier and the Ecological Society of China, will take place at the Beijing International Convention Center, Beijing, China, from 22-27 May 2007, with the theme of "Ecological Complexity and Sustainability: challenges and opportunities for 21<sup>st</sup> century ecology." For more information, contact Sophie Peters, tel: +44 1865 843958; fax +44 1865 843958; email: [s.peters@elsevier.com](mailto:s.peters@elsevier.com); Internet: <http://www.ecosummit2007.elsevier.com>

**WORLD PLANNERS CONGRESS 2008:** The World Planners' Association is holding its next Congress in conjunction with WUF4, date and venue to be confirmed. For more information, contact Dave Crossley at: tel: +1 604-696-5031; Fax: +1 604-696-5032; email: [info@wpc2006.com](mailto:info@wpc2006.com); Internet: <http://www.wpc2006.com>

**WORLD URBAN FORUM 4:** WUF4 will be held in Nanjing, China, in 2008. The venue and dates for this meeting will be confirmed at a later date. For more information, contact Information Services Section, UN-HABITAT; tel: +254-20-623120; fax: +254-20-623477; e-mail: [press.unhabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:press.unhabitat@unhabitat.org); Internet: <http://www.unhabitat.org>



Canadian and UN flags flying high outside the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, WUF3 venue