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English only

Second session
Barcelona, 13-17 September 2004
Item 1 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the secretariat

Opening of the session

1. The second session of the World Urban Forum will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 13 September 2004. The programme for the opening ceremony will be issued shortly.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the session was prepared by the Executive Director in consultation with Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners. It is contained in document HSP/WUF/2/1.

Item 2. Establishment of an advisory group for the second session of the World Urban Forum

3. As agreed at the first session of the World Urban Forum, the Executive Director will, under this item, inform the Forum on the composition of the multi-partner advisory group which will advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of all the meetings and events to take place during the second session of the Forum.

Item 3: Organization of work

4. Under this item, the Forum will consider and adopt the organization of work which has been proposed by the Executive Director.
5. In the annex to the present note, the secretariat is providing information on the logistical arrangements for the nine dialogues which will be held during the second session of the Forum. This information includes an indication of the date, time, venue and panellists for each dialogue, a summary

* HSP/WUF/2/1.

of the content of the nine dialogues, the main discussion points and the documentation for each dialogue.

6. A list of the networking events and other special events and information on the exhibitions which will be held during the Forum are contained in documents HSP/WUF/2/INF/1 and HSP/WUF/2/INF/2, respectively.

Annex

I. Urban cultures: Dialogue on the state of the world's cities: globalization and culture in an urbanizing world: globalization and culture in an urbanizing world

Date and time: Tuesday, 14 September 2004, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Venue: Room 117

Abstract

The paper prepared for this dialogue discusses the ways in which culture, in the context of globalization, is influencing social and economic patterns and processes within cities all over the world. The first section reviews the overall effects of globalization on urban culture, including the role of new information and communication technology. This is followed by a discussion of how a particular aspect of globalization, namely, international migration, is giving rise to culturally cosmopolitan cities in which urban ethnic spaces are emerging, often in the form of ethnic ghettos. The next section examines how cities all over the world are using culture as a central component of urban development strategies that are designed to capitalize on the economic benefits of globalization. The concluding section discusses the ways in which globalization is likely to shape urban culture in future, and some of the key issues with which planners and managers of so-called “globalizing cities” have to contend. The paper ends with a few points for discussion at the second session of the World Urban Forum.

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| Speakers: | [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.] |
| Documentation: | HSP/WUF/2/2: Dialogue on urban cultures: globalization and culture in an urbanizing world HSP/WUF/2/11: Gender, culture and urbanization |
| Focal point: | Mr. Naison Mutziwa-Mangiza |
| Contact information: | naison.mutziwa-Mangiza@unhabitat.org |

II. Urban realities: Dialogue on innovative urban policies and legislation in implementing the Habitat Agenda and attaining the Millennium Development Goals

Date and time: Wednesday, 15 September 2004, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Venue: Room 117

Abstract

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals relating to gender equality and universal access to health and human services, improving living conditions of slum dwellers, combating HIV/AIDS, providing drinking water and sanitation, protecting the environment and reducing abject poverty will depend on the adoption of more effective legal and institutional frameworks, as well as harmonizing sectoral policies and strategies. Meeting the deadlines and quantitative objectives of the Millennium Development Goals will also require focus on urban areas as the majority of the women, men and children involved will be living in urban and peri-urban areas by the target dates of 2015 and 2020. The paper prepared for this dialogue presents an overview and analysis of current conditions and projected trends. It argues in favour a more harmonized and urban approach to national policy formulation and development. It presents six country case studies of promising and innovative laws and policies in the areas of land, housing and basic services, water and sanitation, social inclusion, local economic development and the role and contribution of local authorities. The background paper concludes with pointers for the future, as well as an outline of a set of tools to support the development of good urban policies and enabling legislation.

Speakers: [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/3: Dialogue on urban realities: innovative urban policies and legislation in implementing the Habitat Agenda and attaining the Millennium Development Goals

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III. Urban renaissance: Dialogue on new powers for local governments in a globalizing world

Date and time: Thursday, 16 September 2004, 3–6 p.m.

Venue: Rooms 111 and 112

Abstract

Urbanization and globalization call for an urban renaissance and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) supports the attendant decentralization of powers and capacities in favour of local government. The new approach of global governance empowers local communities to pursue global standards or objectives, such as the Millennium Development Goals. Recognition of the need for decentralization goes all the way back to the landmark United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996. Subsidiarity is the keystone upon which the whole edifice of decentralized governance rests, including improved accountability and effective delivery. The other main principles are local autonomy (the administrative relations between local authorities and other spheres of government), financial capacities (the vital area of financial resources and the tax-raising powers of local government) and local democracy (participation of citizens and civil society organizations in the decision-making processes at the local level). The recent worldwide drive towards decentralization and democratization has found a firm underpinning in the constitutional entrenchment of the scope and powers of local authorities on the basis of internationally recognized principles. This process furthers the objectives of the Habitat Agenda and sustainable urban development in an urbanizing world; it also creates a favourable environment for the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. The paper prepared for this dialogue suggests an agenda for discussion of urban renaissance at the Second World Urban Forum. The challenges of decentralization are outlined in the annex.

- Speakers:** [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]
- Documentation:** HSP/WUF/2/5: Dialogue on urban renaissance: towards new powers for local governments in a globalizing world
- Focal point:** Mr. Subramonia Ananthakrishnan
- Contact information:** subramonia.ananthakrishnan@unhabitat.org

IV. Urban Governance: Dialogue on civil society's contribution to local governance

**Date and time: Thursday, 16 September 2004, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (session one);
3–6 p.m. (session two)**

Venue: Room 117

Abstract

The paper prepared for this dialogue highlights some of the issues related to enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance, based on experience gathered by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) of working with Governments and cities over the past 27 years. Inclusiveness traditionally encompasses both political processes (in particular, participatory democracy) and policy objectives (improving the living conditions of all groups, focusing on marginalized and minority communities). In some cases, though, inclusiveness is only a policy in the absence of participatory democracy. But without empowerment, civil society cannot make a genuine contribution to urban governance. There are arguments against an inclusive political process but, at the end of the day, the long-term social and economic benefits are larger than the costs. The paper reviews the initiatives that have been taken to surmount hurdles on the way to inclusiveness and empowerment. These include identifying stakeholders and interlocutors, balancing the responsibilities of formal government with the demands of diffused interest groups; overcoming elitist and gender dominance at the local level, dealing with divisive political patronage and the perceived high resource requirements for inclusive decision-making. Overcoming the dichotomy between civil society and government and focusing on their intersection is crucial for success. Inclusiveness and empowerment also demand transparency and accountability. Finally, inclusiveness and the role of civil society are not merely matters of policies and processes: if they are to work, they must be underpinned by certain core civic values.

Speakers: [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/4: Dialogue on civil society's contribution to local urban governance

Focal point: Mr. Mohamed Halfani

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V. Urban poor: Dialogue on improving the lives of slum-dwellers

**Date and time: Tuesday, 14 September 2004, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (session one);
3-6 p.m. (session two)**

Venue: Rooms 111 and 112

Abstract

Urban poverty in developing countries is typically concentrated in slums and other informal settlements. If nothing is done to check the current trend, the number of people living in dire conditions will rise from 1 billion today to 1.6 billion by the year 2020. These figures call for a revision of Millennium Development Goal 11, which aimed at “significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020”. The trends in the world’s slum population in absolute and relative terms are diverse; although North Africa and the Latin American and Caribbean regions are in relatively favourable positions, there are prospects for improvement in Asia. The bulk of the world’s slum-dwellers, in both relative and absolute terms, will be concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa within the next decade or so. Instead of going against the grain of demography and urbanization, the objective must be to prevent the slum population from living in inadequate conditions through the provision of planned and serviced urban land before the slums are formed. The remedy recommended by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) – security of tenure, including an end to forced eviction – requires a fair amount of political will, as do the improvements in water and sanitation services called for under Millennium Development Goal 10. UN-Habitat is actively involved in this area through its water programmes for African and Asian cities. These programmes boost institutional and human resources with the aim of creating a favourable environment for new investments in water and sanitation. The Water and Sanitation Trust Fund of UN-Habitat has the same objective but has a specific focus on pro-poor water and sanitation investment and on the use of overseas development assistance in this sector.

- Speakers:** [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]
- Documentation:** HSP/WUF/2/6: Dialogue on the urban poor: improving the lives of slum-dwellers
- Focal point:** Mr. Farouk Tebbal
- Contact information:** Farouk.tebbal@unhabitat.org

VI. Urban resources: Dialogue on intensifying resources to reduce urban poverty: alternative approaches to financing urban growth

Date and time: Wednesday, 15 September 2004, 3–6 p.m.

Venue: Room 117

Abstract

The number of urban poor across the globe will double to 2 billion by 2030, dwarfing the Millennium Development Goal of improving the conditions of 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020. This prospect calls for all-round mobilization of available development partners and resources in favour of slum upgrading. The paper prepared for this dialogue takes a sustainable view of slum upgrading, setting improvements in shelter and infrastructure in the broader context of economic and social development. After a review of development partners, their approaches and their specific limitations, it focuses on sources of finance for housing and infrastructure. Apart from inadequate international financing, domestic sources of capital (including the private, non-governmental organization and informal sectors) are the most important and also the most promising despite the specific challenges that each of them faces. More effective mobilization of available resources in favour of slum upgrading calls for a number of reforms. Statutory and regulatory frameworks need adjusting and established institutions should do more to support and mainstream innovations pioneered by non-governmental organizations and the informal sector. Official development assistance (ODA) should leverage domestic efforts through well targeted financial and technical assistance. The paper ends with a few suggestions for discussion at the second session of the World Urban Forum.

Speakers: [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]

Documentation: HSP/WUF/2/7: Dialogue on urban resources

Focal point: Mr. Dinesh Mehta

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VII. Urban sustainability: Dialogue on environment, economy and society: commitment to a culture of partnerships for sustainable urbanization

Date and time: Wednesday, 15 September 2004, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Venue: Rooms 111 and 112

Abstract

The paper prepared for this dialogue builds on the notions formulated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its partners relating to sustainable urbanization, one of the outcomes identified for implementation by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the methods for its attainment. The concept calls for a culture of partnerships, namely: increased commitment by all development partners to support a coalition of joint efforts, particularly in the area of the urban environment at the local, national and global levels. The concept also links these commitments to the Millennium Development Goals, the outcomes of the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (on water, sanitation and human settlements), and global environmental issues. A culture of partnerships can help make sustainable urban development both achievable and effective, through increased resources, stronger action and better implementation and impact. Achieving “sustainable urbanization” as defined by UN-Habitat is a goal-oriented process, and a very dynamic and multidimensional one at that. It includes not only environmental, social and economic dimensions, but also political and institutional aspects. This paper does not attempt to address all these dimensions, but primarily focuses on partnerships in the area of environmental sustainability. Sustainable urbanization has no ready-made menu to follow; there are no quick or easy answers, and no short cuts either. Instead, UN-Habitat has opted to look at it as a process of challenges and responses – which in practice comes down to improving urban governance in such areas as municipal autonomy and empowerment (including decision-making and effective participation), effective decentralization, adequate basic urban services, social justice including balanced environmental impact, gender responsiveness, local capacity development and mobilization of local resources. The paper reviews several instances of practical partnerships at the local, national and global levels. It also identifies challenges for the future and suggests how they might be met.

- Speakers:** [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]
- Documentation:** HSP/WUF/2/8: Dialogue on urban sustainability: environment, economy, society: commitment to a culture of partnerships for sustainable urbanization
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VIII. Urban services: Dialogue on making the private sector work for the poor: revisiting the privatization debate

Date and time: Wednesday, 15 September 2004, 3–6 p.m.

Venue: Rooms 111 and 112

Abstract

The paper prepared for this dialogue focuses on how to get the private sector to be more responsive to the needs of low-income urban households which lack adequate access to safe water and sanitation. Too much effort has already been devoted to debating whether the role of the private sector should be expanded or suppressed. Changing the share of the urban water and sanitation market supplied by private operators does not in itself represent progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the water and sanitation target in particular. But if the private enterprises active in the sector can be made more responsive to the needs of households, progress is furthered. This is a task not just for the private enterprises themselves (which range from large multinational water companies to itinerant vendors, who are often worse off than their customers). It is also the responsibility of the other key actors in the sector, including international agencies, national and local governments, public sector regulators and utilities, and civil society organizations. And there must be a central role for the deprived residents themselves.

The introduction considers the Millennium Development Goals and the role of better urban water and sanitation provision in achieving these goals. The first section then re-examines the controversies over the relative merits of public and private water and sanitation provision, suggesting that these controversies have been misleading, diverting attention from more important issues, at least for those water and sanitation deprived households that the Millennium Development Goals imply should be the focus of international improvement efforts. The third section examines how private enterprises can be made more responsive to the needs of the urban poor, adapting a framework of power and accountability relations from the recent report by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on water and sanitation in the world's cities and the most recent World Development Report, entitled "Making services work for poor people". The paper ends with a set of questions, intended to assist the World Urban Forum in identifying principles and practices conducive to making private water and sanitation enterprises more responsive to the urban poor, and thereby helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

- Speakers:** [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]
- Documentation:** HSP/WUF/2/9: Dialogue on urban services: making the private sector work for the urban poor
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- Contact information:** iole.issais@unhabitat.org

IX. Urban disasters and reconstruction: Dialogue on sustainable relief efforts in post-crisis situations: transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable development in human settlements

Date and time: Thursday, 16 September 2004, 3–6 p.m.

Venue: Rooms 111 and 112

Abstract

The issue of post-conflict, natural and human caused disasters assessment and reconstruction is one of two special themes included in the provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Governing Council. The second session of the World Urban Forum provides an opportunity to bring together an array of experts and representatives to weigh and discuss pertinent issues relating to current disaster management practices in the global context, including, in particular, issues related to sustainable interventions during crises. The document prepared for this dialogue introduces an overview of the methodologies and principles of the involvement of UN-Habitat in supporting human settlements in crisis. During the urban disasters dialogue, UN-Habitat partners will critically review and debate the elements introduced with the aim of preparing an advisory note portraying the joint vision of both UN-Habitat and its partners on guiding principles for sustainable relief in human settlements. The completed advisory note will form the foundation of a report to the Executive Director that will be transmitted to the twentieth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council in mid-2005.

Speakers: [to be confirmed. The present document is an advance issue and a complete list of panelists will be contained in a re-issued version.]

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

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