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List of special events and information on the exhibitions

Note by the secretariat

1. The annex to the present note contains information pertaining to the special events and exhibitions which will be held during the second session of the World Urban Forum.
2. The special events are designed to highlight the issues of the Millennium Development Goals and their possible solutions. They comprise a series of best-practice exhibitions, a concert, a film première and a display of art works and so-called “instant architecture”. The special events are informed by two underlying themes: urban culture and urban youth.
3. The exhibitions provide an opportunity for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and its partners to show-case their work on all aspects of human settlements. They complement the formal dialogue sessions and informal networking events. They use images, films, models, publications and other visual media to portray challenges, successes, best practices, lessons learnt and other issues relating to human settlements and urban environments. All the world’s regions are represented in the exhibition and exhibitors range from Governments and local authorities to civil society and private sector organizations. The exhibition is being held in the 3,000 square metre Polivalent room, located on the ground floor of the Convention building directly below the meeting rooms used by the World Urban Forum.

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Annex

Special events and exhibitions at the World Urban Forum

I. Special events

Special Events at the World Urban Forum are designed to highlight issues being discussed at the Forum and the Millennium Development Goals. They include a concert, a film première, an award and publication launches.

A. 13 September

Award of the Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation to the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Forum Auditorium, 10 a.m.

During the opening session of the World Urban Forum, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, will present Prime Minister Rafic Hariri of Lebanon with the prestigious Habitat Scroll of Honour 2004 Special Citation for his outstanding and visionary leadership in the post-conflict reconstruction of Lebanon. This work is prominently featured at the World Urban Forum exhibition on the ground floor of the convention centre.

B. 14 September

Launch of the UN-Habitat flagship report – *State of the World's Cities 2004/2005*

The report *State of the World's Cities 2004/2005* charts the progress and the challenges that we face in our rapidly urbanizing world. With contributions from some of the world's leading urban scholars, writers and experts, the report carries extensive examples, illustrations and facts that are of use to experts and non-experts alike. First published in 2001 and now published every two years, this flagship report of UN-Habitat represents a further milestone in the efforts of the United Nations to gather, promote, and disseminate information for policy makers and the public at large.

It is both a working tool and reference manual, as well as an interesting review of the way cities are growing in both positive and negative ways. It is illustrated by a fascinating series of essays by leading journalists, writers and experts, who explain how modern urban trends affect us in everyday life. Published jointly by UN-Habitat and Earthscan, the *State of the World's Cities 2004/2005* makes for essential reading by the widest possible audience.

C. 15 September

Launch of a joint European Union-Habitat research initiative, Room 129, 2.30 p.m.

Mr. Pierre Valette, Acting Director of the European Union's Research Directorate, and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, will launch a publication on a new initiative by UN-Habitat and the European Union to share the results of research on urban issues. The two organizations are working together to explore new strategic areas of urban research and to create a combined database of good practices for urban sustainability.

Première of the film *Milagro de Candéal* by Fernando Trueba, Spanish film director and Oscar winner, Forum Auditorium, 7 p.m. (by invitation only)

This film portrays the urban transformation of a Brazilian favela. The director, Fernando Trueba, will present the film at this European première. The film tells the story of a project initiated by Carlinhos Brown in the slums of Bahia in Brazil, to uplift and empower young people through the force of music. Mr. Carlinhos Brown and Mr. Bebo Valdes, the noted Cuban pianist, conductor and composer, will also be at the première.

“The Message”: Hip-hop concert in the Plaza, 6.30 p.m. until late

This concert, offered by some of the world’s leading hip-hop and rap artists, is dedicated to raising awareness of the Millennium Development Goals. It may be described as “a party with a purpose”, featuring socially committed artists from around the world singing and rapping about issues that affect their communities. The artists include: MV Bill of the “City of God” from Brazil, La Etnnia from Colombia, Saian Supa Crew from France, Nukke Posse from Greenland, Gidi Gidi Maji Maji from Kenya, Madcon from Norway, Godessa from South Africa, La Mala Rodriguez from Spain, and the Black Eyed Peas from the United States of America. The concert will also feature break-dancing by some of the best B-Boys and B-Girls from Barcelona and other cities in Spain.

II. Exhibitions

A. 13–17 September

World Urban Forum Exhibition, Convention Centre, ground floor, from 9 a.m.

Visitors to the 2004 Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona can also see some of the world’s latest developments in urban innovation at a series of dazzling exhibitions of best practices and ideas from countries around the world. Covering an area the size of a football field, the exhibition area also provides delegates with essential facilities such as a business centre and a refreshments area with seating for informal meetings. In addition, there is a cinema booth featuring short films by UN-Habitat and partners. The programme of film showings will be published each day in the daily journal.

Children and art

Children from many countries joining a youth camp being held throughout the Universal Forum of Cultures will present two unique works of art.

Thirteen school children, aged under 14, from Chengdu in China will be painting the world’s largest painting on hand-made paper on the theme of “Our City – Our Future”. The children were selected in a citywide competition and will paint together with other children participating in the Youth Camp throughout the week of the World Urban Forum. They will present the painting to Barcelona Mayor Joan Clos at the closing ceremony.

Expo Morrinho: Exhibition Hall of the World Urban Forum

Twelve young people from a slum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will build a model of their slum in the exhibition hall of the Convention Centre hosting the World Urban Forum. The mock slum actually exists back home and a few years ago young people were discovered using it as a remarkable sort of playground in which they would re-enact scenes of daily life in their community. Participants at the Forum will be able to witness the building of a slum day-by-day and to see video clips of daily life in a favela as portrayed through the eyes of young people.

B. 12–18 September**“The Fair”:** exhibition and meeting space in the Plaza

“The Fair” is an exhibition inside the Forum Plaza featuring 80 best practices selected from Catalonia, other areas of Spain, and the world in general. The exhibition is organized around the themes of the eight Millennium Development Goals. These are, first, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; second, to achieve universal primary education; third, to promote gender equality and empower women; fourth, to reduce child mortality; fifth, to improve maternal health; sixth, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; seventh, to ensure environmental sustainability; and, eighth, to develop a global partnership for development. Some of those directly involved will be on hand to discuss these best practices.

C. Throughout the Universal Forum on Cultures and the World Urban Forum**Best Practices City and Water Exhibition in the Plaza**

Visitors to the 2004 Universal Forum of Cultures in Barcelona can also see some of the world’s latest developments in urban innovation at an exhibition of best practices and ideas from countries around the world. The Best Practices City and Water Exhibition, officially opened on 9 May 2004, features over 50 ideas representing examples of proven solutions to the common social, economic and environmental problems of an urbanizing world. The exhibition aims to display the innovations in a way that is both stimulating and easy to understand.

Each display at the Best Practices City takes the form of a photograph, a graphic image or an object, requiring a minimal amount of explanatory text. The practices are grouped in three broad categories – solutions that each and every one of us can initiate within our respective communities, those that require partnerships with other stakeholders, and those that point to what is possible when there is an enabling policy framework. The Best Practices team and the UFC worked together for several months to identify the best ideas with a potential for a compelling visual display. They also developed a three-minute audiovisual presentation, with the title “The Oracle”.

The water exhibit is entitled “Water Talks – Are You Listening?” and is designed to raise awareness in 15 key areas related to freshwater usage. It shows where the water that we use every day comes from, how we use it, and what happens to it. This information is graphically represented in the form of 15 large transparent columns. One side of each column presents some facts and figures, while the opposite side is inscribed with a proverb that serves to remind us how different cultures have perceived and respected freshwater. The exhibition was conceived and designed jointly by the UN-Habitat best practices team, the International Secretariat for Water, the Universal Forum Cultures and the Green Cross.

Live graffiti exhibition in the Plaza

Throughout the summer months, children selected from various cities around the world participating in the Youth Camp of the Universal Forum on Cultures have been demonstrating their artistic talents in decorating one of the largest blind walls inside the Universal Forum on Cultures. The wall is dedicated to the theme of “Civic Engagement, Cultural Expression and Social Inclusion”. The wall will be inaugurated on 16 September, immediately following the first Global Hip-Hop Summit.
