

## ComHabitat - City-community partnerships in the Commonwealth

### Description of event:

The event will constitute the official launch of the ComHabitat web site and work programme. However, it will focus on sharing specific practical experiences in using partnerships to implement the Habitat Agenda and/or work towards the Millennium Development Goals. Multi-sectoral teams from Mumbai and Nairobi will present their experiences of moving from a situation of threatened evictions of railway-side slum dwellers, to negotiations with slum dwellers' federations resulting in mass voluntary resettlement and how these experiences have been shared through exchanges between the two cities. ComHabitat plans to develop information, documentation and referral services across the Commonwealth focusing on infrastructure provision, slum upgrading, alternatives to forced evictions and urban finance.

### Name of organization:

ComHabitat

### Description of organization:

ComHabitat has been developed to support the work of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) in implementing the Habitat Agenda within the context of the Millennium Development Goals. ComHabitat aims to bring together a wide range of governments, local authorities, NGOs, CBOs and private sector interests throughout the Commonwealth to share information and experiences on a regular and practical basis. ComHabitat will also carry out research and documentation aimed at enhancing the Commonwealth's capacity to improve the lives of slum dwellers.

### Partner organizations:

Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, Department for International Development (DFID), Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, Commonwealth Local Government Association, Homeless International, Shack/Slum Dwellers International.

### Confirmed speakers:

Hon. Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Local Government and Housing, Zambia  
Mr. Renson Mbwagwa, Director of Physical Planning, Ministry of Lands and Housing, Kenya.  
Dr. S.V. Joshi, IAS, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)  
Ms. Sheela Patel, Director, SPARC, India  
Ms. Jane Weru, Executive Director, Pamoja Trust, Kenya  
Mr. A.S.Garud, Chief Engineer, Indian Railways (Mumbai)  
Mrs. Edith Jenkins, Estate Manager, Kenya Railways

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