

Conference News

WORLD URBAN FORUM

The Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona, Spain 13 - 17 September 2004

15 Wednesday September

Culture for peace and understanding in cities of the new Millennium

By Todd Hooper

Culture has many meanings. This was the focus of the Dialogue on urban cultures called *Cities as Crossroads of Cultures: Globalization and Culture in an Urbanizing World*.

Professor Michael Cohen, Director of the Graduate Program in International Affairs at the New School University, New York chaired a Partners' Dialogue that acknowledged that little work has been done in the past on culture as it relates to city planning, management and governance.

But as a result of increasing diversities in the cities of today, the relative issues of culture are becoming ever more important.

In a statement read on her behalf, Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, emphasized the importance of the impact of international migration on cities, and the issue of planning multicultural cities in the present era of globalization.

"International migration is one of the major dimensions of globalization and most international migrants move into cities rather than rural areas because this is where the jobs are," she said. "The latest United Nations statistics indicate that in 2000, there was a total of 175 million international migrants in the world representing about 3 per cent of the world's population."

The number of international migrants, she added, had been increasing steadily over the last 25 years, most of them to North America and Europe.

Others speakers agreed with her that the real significance of international migration was in the way in which it brought new cultures and languages into cities.

Professor Jordi Borja of the University of Barcelona, Spain, said local and regional governments had be given more responsibilities and citizens should be afforded more participatory opportunities in the development process.

Mr. Yves Dauge, Senator of Indre-et-Loire and Mayor of Chinon, France added that training and education are integral to the development of professionals who are capable of identifying and incorporating cultural themes into urban projects. Such training is also an important part of the planning and development process of the cities.

Ms. Sheela Patel of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) in Mumbai, India, said urban development and poverty reduction are a direct result of citizen participation. Learning from the people is the key. Real life situations can produce useful knowledge leading to the cultural promotion of peace.

In concluding remarks, Prof. Cohen cited values as a strong indicator for urban planning. "Unless we have a clear idea of who we are, it is difficult to figure out where we are going. It is important to make the journey from the virtual city back to the city of virtue. When we ask the question as a city 'what do we mean by virtue?' the answers help guide us in the planning and development process."

Dialogue on the urban poor: improving the lives of slum dwellers

By Tanzib Chowdhury

"Suppose there was considerably more donor funding available, say a further 10-20 billion dollars a year on the way - how can it be used to improve access to services and empower the urban poor?"

This was the challenge posed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals in opening remarks. He called for the group to find practical, innovative solutions to stemming the growth of slums that worked *at scale*, and not simply at the pilot project level.

His message was backed by Mark Hildebrand, Programme Manager of the Cities Alliance. He said, "solutions need to be based on political commitment, local targets, and citywide and nationwide interventions". Several countries have almost achieved the Cities without Slums goal via scaled up approaches, while other countries are on their way after launching major efforts to meet the target – including Thailand and Morocco.

Mexico and the City of Aleppo, Syria, showed how they were scaling up in practice. Jesus Tamayo, Secretary-General for Urban Development and Ordinance, Ministry for Social Development, presented a major national urban poverty reduction programme – "Programa Habitat" – that is targeting deprived areas in 364 cities and towns throughout Mexico. In 2004, the programme supported 7,000 projects. Aleppo, Syria's second city, is developing a city-wide informal settlement upgrading programme targeting 1 million residents.

Indicators play an important role in the design and monitoring of these scaled up poverty reduction strategies. In both Mexico and Aleppo, Local Urban Observatories have been set up, helping cities effectively target resources and monitor progress of their local policies. In Thailand, data were used to identify the urban poor who faced tenure problems – this information was collected by the slum dwellers themselves.

Robert Johnston, United Nations Statistical Division, highlighted the need to go beyond the Cities without Slums goal and apply all the MDG targets in cities. Indicators for monitoring HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality rates, school enrolment, are needed locally in order to provide a snapshot of how cities are performing against these key targets.

Tanzib Chowdhury is a human settlements officer with UN-HABITAT's Global Urban Observatory.

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Wednesdays Programme

Please note that the schedule of networking events (HSP/WUF/2/INF/1) in the information kit is incorrect. Please refer to this Journal and the blue programme in the information kit.

Morning Dialogues 10.00 – 13.00

Urban Realities - Partners' Dialogue	RM 117.
Urban Sustainability - Thematic Dialogue	RM 111 +112

Afternoon Dialogues 15.00 – 18.00

Urban Resources - Partners' Dialogue	RM 117
Urban Services - Thematic Dialogue	RM 111 +112

Morning Networking Events 10.00-13.00

Access to Basic Services for All	RM 123
Agenda 21 for Culture	RM 115
Civil or Civic Defense	RM 131
Fighting Forced Evictions	RM 116
Institute@WUF	RM 122
Planning Practice in an Urbanizing World	RM 129
Property Rights and Sustainable Urban Development	RM 132
Safer Cities Through Youth Development and Inclusiveness	RM 120-121
Urban Inequities and GIS - Putting the Poor on the Map (Metropolis)	RM 125
Urban Policies and Practices Addressing International Migration	RM 124
Urban Structure and Sustainable Transport	RM 130

Afternoon Networking Events 15.00-18.00

Affordable and Accessible GIS for Local Governance	RM 125
Countrywide Slum Upgrading	RM 123
Committed Cities: Women's Inclusive Practices and Good Urban Policies	RM 132
Cultural Heritage: A Tool for Urban Development	RM 116
From Marginalization to Citizenship (HIC)	RM 114
Local Economy and Urban Form	RM 130
Participatory Budgeting, Urban Governance and Democracy	RM 115
Rental Housing: An Essential Option for the Urban Poor	RM 122
Spanish Best Practices/ Bilbao facing the new century/ Forum Barcelona	RM 124
Sustainable Cities and Villages: International Training for Local Authorities	RM 131
The Challenges of City Financing: Habitat's Professionals Forum	RM 129
Youth and Urban Environment/Roundtable on Youth and Local Government	RM 120-121

Youth Caucus Meetings..

Youth caucus meetings will be held every day from 9- 9.30 in Meeting room 120-121

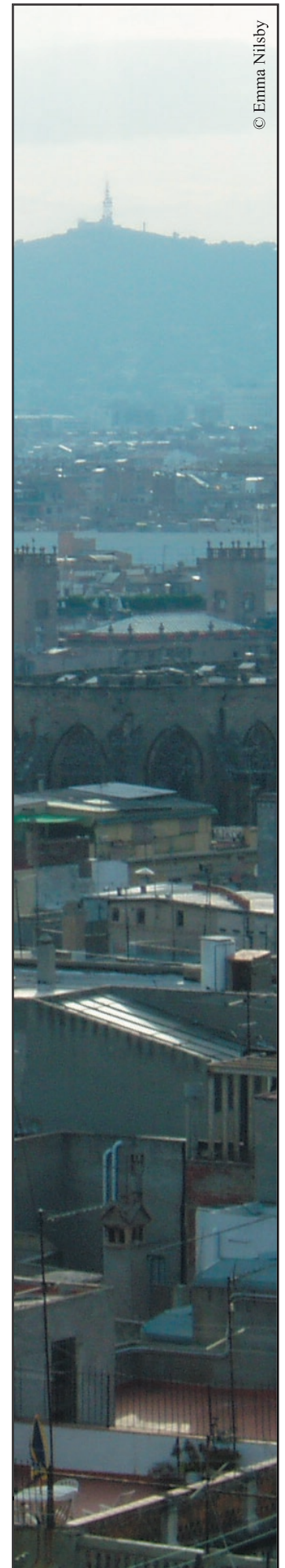
Women's Caucus meetings

Please note that the Women's Caucus has been moved to room 120-121, from 13.45 to 14.45, for the entire week. Men are most welcome !

Hip - Hop Concert, "The Message" Plaza 18.00

Premier of the film Milagro de Candéal by Fernando Trueba Forum Auditorium 19.00

Launch of a joint EU-UN-HABITAT research initiative Room 129, 14.30



Quote of the Day



"I am very happy to see that gender concerns have become a permanent feature in the development arena. Previously, it was always a question, as to whether gender issues could be worked on. Now this features in the mainstream. This conference has proved fruitful for me so far as it has allowed me to make many contacts, and meet and communicate with people from all over the world, many of whom are men who are interested in gender issues, which is pleasing to see."

Monique Minaca

From the European Commission, France, works with women in the city.

Announcements

Creating a World of Sustainable Cities,

Room 129 at 14:30 – The European Union Directorate-General for Research and UN-HABITAT will launch their joint initiative on creating a world of sustainable cities. The two organisations are working together to explore new strategic areas of urban research and to create a combined database of good practices for urban sustainability. Focusing on sustainable urban development and land use management, the research will cover sustainable housing, water and sanitation, urban slums and the preservation of urban cultural heritage.

Premier of the film *Milagro de Candéal* by Fernando Trueba, Spanish film director and Oscar winner. Forum Auditorium at 19:00

- This film presents the urban transformation of a Brazilian favela. The director, Fernando Trueba, will present the film at this European "premier". The story of the film is about a project initiated by Carlinhos Brown in the slums of Bahia in Brazil, to uplift and empower youth through the force of music. Mr. Carlinhos Brown and Mr. Bebo Valdes, the noted Cuban pianist, conductor and composer, will also be at the premier.

A Hip-Hop Concert, Plaza from 18:

30 - This concert by some of the world's leading Hip-Hop and Rap artists is

dedicated to raising awareness of the Millennium Development Goals. It will be "a party with a purpose" featuring top stars and groups including 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 others. The concert will also feature break dancing by some of the best B-Boys and B-Girls from Barcelona and Spain.

State of the World's Cities Report - UN-HABITAT announces that the State of the World's Cities report that was launched during the Urban Cultures Dialogue yesterday is available for sale at the UN-HABITAT and Earthscan's stands in the Exhibition Hall.

Films on show

Film booth is located in the exhibition area

Audit for Change

Living human Rights

Demolition to Development

Building Federations Through Savings and Exchange Programmes

Spiritual Regenerations and Human Values

Rosario Cultiva

Doing the Right Things

A View from the People

Today at Speakers' Corner

11.45

Empowerment and Stress Management through the Breath - A practical Experience

International Association for Human Values

13.30

The Future is in Game Baguio City, Phillipines and Sant Feliu de Llogerats, Catalonia

17.00

Reaching a Balance Women's Network, Rwanda, City of Gijón, Spain, City of Paredes, Spain, Provincial Government of Cordoba, Women's Network, Guatemala, Women's Environmental Protection Committee, Nepal

19.00

For my city, I would like..

Proyecto Nasa, Naga City, Phillipines and City of Callús, Spain

20.10

The Best of the Best of Spain Comité Español de Habitat

Global Youth Congress

Programme 13-17 September 2004

Wednesday 15

10.00 – 13.00

SAFER CITIES THROUGH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVENESS.

15.00 – 16.30

YOUTH AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT: ROAD TO VANCOUVER 2006

16.30 – 18.00

ROUNDTABLE ON YOUTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Thursday 16

10.00 – 13.00

YOUTH AND URBAN SPACE

15.00 – 18.00

INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL HIP HOP SUMMIT

Friday 18

9.00 – 10.30

GROWING UP IN CITIES

CLOSING CEREMONY

All events take place in Rooms 120/121 unless indicated otherwise.

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Sustainable urbanisation*By Thierry Naudin*

Looking at effective partnerships for the environment, the economy and society, the idea of *sustainable urbanisation* is gaining momentum, and playing an increasingly important role in the pursuit of global objectives, particularly in connection with Millennium Development Goals.

But it is a concept that has no ready-made or easy solutions. UN-HABITAT has opted to look at it as a process of challenges and responses. Today's discussion will be of special relevance to Target 11 of MDG 7 - improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by year 2020, and gradually moving towards 'Cities without slums'."

Three factors - poverty, gender inequality and poor 'quality of life' - pose major challenges to sustainable urbanisation.

If good governance can combine adequate powers, resources and operational capacities with community and partner empowerment, local authorities can take a central role in sustainable urbanisation. Mobilisation of local resources, whether public or private, is a major challenge.

Agencies like UN-HABITAT can share with its partners both expertise and linkages. For instance UN-HABITAT, together with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), supports the urban affairs unit of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and its "sustainable city" scheme. More generally, the two UN agencies act as catalysts of international, regional, national and local capacities, resources and efforts in favour of sustainable urbanisation.

UN-HABITAT also helps local authorities and their partners build capacities for sustainable urbanisation under local Agendas 21. These partnerships in environmental planning and management further promote the MDGs (access to water and sanitation, improving the lives of slum dwellers) through participatory planning, decentralisation and inclusive decision-making. UN-HABITAT's main partners here are UNEP, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and capacity-building institutions.

The partnerships help local authorities achieve MDGs and follow up on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the 1996 UN-HABITAT Agenda, as well as the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Commission for Sustainable Development. UN-HABITAT's main partners in those schemes are UNEP, regional programmes, national governments, local authority associations like United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), the private sector and (international) NGOs.

Thierry Naudin is a London-based consultant who writes for major UN-HABITAT publications, such as Habitat Debate and the State of the World's Cities report.

Water and sanitation in cities – translating global goals into local action*By Kalyan Ray*

Cholera is endemic in East Africa. Every couple of years when it rains heavily, storm water washes accumulated human waste, mainly from informal settlements lacking proper sanitation, into open boreholes and other water sources the poor use for drinking. The result is a cholera epidemic.

The most recent cholera epidemic which raged in East Africa in 1997 and 1998, is still fresh in our minds. In the space of a few months in late 1997, the epidemic spread from a few slums like a bush fire in the region, killing thousands in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The three countries suffered heavily, not only from lives lost, but also from a drop in exports and tourism.

The East African cholera outbreak was in many ways like a slow motion video replay of a similar cholera outbreak in Lima, Peru, in 1991. Peru lost nearly US\$ 1.5 billion in three months because the fishing industry collapsed and tourism fell back.

Both outbreaks could have been avoided with a modest investment in basic sanitation and safe drinking water, particularly in the densely populated informal urban settlements. The disastrous human toll and the economic consequences could have been averted, and huge national medical bills could have been saved.

The lessons learnt from Peru and East Africa, and the years of struggle by the United Nations and its partners, have finally stirred the international community to action. Water and sanitation emerged as a key development issue at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002. The Plan of Implementation adopted by the summit ratified the Millennium Goal and the related target on safe drinking water. It also included a similar target for sanitation.

Equally important was the inclusion of shelter alongside water and other key issues in the Johannesburg Declaration. More recently, further commitment of the international community to keep water and sanitation at the top of the political agenda came from the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development earlier this year, when it deliberated on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements as the thematic focus for the first cycle of its deliberations (2004-2005).

But much remains to be done to turn this political commitment into concrete action at the local level. As a member of the United Nations Millennium Task Force, UN-HABITAT has recently conducted the first global assessment on the state of water and sanitation in the world's cities. The 2003 report, *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals*, recommends three main priorities.

First, the urgent need to appraise policy makers of the true magnitude of the crisis. Official statistics often disguise the real problem of the poor in cities and towns. For example, in Kenya, official statistics indicate that 96 per cent of urban residents have access to 'improved' sanitation. But a reality check shows that in many slums in Nairobi, 150 or more people are forced to queue daily to use a single public toilet. It is unbelievable but true that a slum dweller in Nairobi, forced to rely on private water vendors, pays five to seven times more for a litre of water than the average north American citizen. The health and economic impact of these service deficiencies can be very costly.

Secondly, there is a widening gap between the growing demand and the current provision of water and sanitation

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services. The Millennium Task Force estimates the current financial gap to be around \$16 billion a year, a large part of which must go to address the sanitation needs of the urban poor. In Johannesburg, a promising initiative came from the Asian Development Bank, which committed \$500 million in loans to bring pro-poor investment to Asian Cities through UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities programme.

Africa has the poorest water and sanitation coverage of all the regions. It needs special attention. Over the past three years, UN-HABITAT's Water for African Cities programme, with the support of a broad coalition of donors, has created an enabling environment for new investment in African cities.

Finally, meeting this daunting challenge calls for a broad-based partnership of all key stakeholders on the water scene: governments, the private sector and the communities themselves. Governments and city authorities must create the means for this partnership to flourish.

The provision of water and sanitation by large international private utilities serves only 10 per cent of the world's population. Too many people still rely on informal providers, and in Africa, for example, research shows that up to 80 per cent of the population is served by small-scale providers.

Public-private partnerships can bring efficiency gains and cost-effectiveness in the water sector, while effective regulatory control can ensure that poor neighbourhoods are not neglected. Strong political commitment, transparency in management and sound strategies will be needed to attract more private sector investment and risk-taking in urban services.

It is important that we use this occasion in Barcelona to weigh evidence suggesting that the share of the urban water market supplied by private operators does not necessarily represent progress towards Target 10 of Millennium Development Goal 7 aimed at halving the number of people without clean water and adequate sanitation by 2015. We need to investigate how key actors in the water sector, including international agencies, public sector regulators and utilities, civil society organizations and deprived residents themselves, can work with private companies. The aim is for new innovations that make the private sector more responsive to the needs of the urban poor.

The Urban Services Dialogue at 3:00 pm today in rooms 111 and 112 will address issues pivotal to getting adequate water and sanitation to the urban poor – governance, local companies and informal markets. On Thursday, UN-HABITAT will host a networking event on Values-based Water and Sanitation Education in room 129. It will share experiences and best practices from Africa, Asia and elsewhere about human values as the basis for formal and informal education on water and sanitation.

Kalyan Ray is the Chief of UN-HABITAT's Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch.

Huge financing shortfalls for slums, water and sanitation improvements

By Dinesh Mehta and Chris Williams

The United Nations Millennium Declaration recognises the dire circumstances of the world's urban poor. It articulates the commitment of Member States to improve the lives of at least

100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 – Target 11 of Goal No.7 – a task UN-HABITAT is mandated to help lead the way.

But as large as 100 million may seem, it is only 10 per cent of the present worldwide slum population which will multiply twofold to 2 billion by the year 2030 if their plight is not addressed seriously.

The challenge is made more daunting by the fact that to reach this relatively modest target it cost in the region of US\$ 70 billion to US\$ 100 billion. At present international donor support is less than US\$ 300 million a year. While there is an urgent need for more aid targeted at slum upgrading, it is also important to design innovative strategies to mobilise domestic capital.

This includes strengthening local housing finance and micro-finance institutions. This dialogue in Barcelona today will present the experience of public, private and community sectors in raising funds for slum upgrading. It will discuss affordability, risk mitigation, and the need for secure titles for mortgage finance. The aim is to provide guidelines on how to establish strategic partnerships to stimulate pro-poor investment in human settlements.

Housing and urban infrastructure investments are about 3 per cent of GDP in the developing countries. Most investment in water and sanitation comes from the national and local governments, while most of the money for housing comes from the private and household sector.

Multilateral and bilateral assistance for human settlements is decreasing. Currently amounting to about US\$ 5 billion a year, only about US\$ 1 billion of that is for slum upgrading.

In many bilateral development agencies – urban development – as a distinct sector of assistance has all but disappeared. We certainly need to increase Official Development Assistance for slum upgrading and infrastructure – but even a doubling of ODA will only meet a fraction of the finance gap. We need the increased assistance and engage more systematically with private commercial lenders in the financial service industry. Indeed, we need to recognise that slum dwellers are more “bankable” than we think. We need to support and leverage their hard earned savings and purchasing power.

In January this year, the UN General Assembly decided to establish a new sub-programme for UN-HABITAT on “financing human settlements” to work on the mobilisation and leverage of resources.

UN-HABITAT and its partners are working together to develop a Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) to work with communities, local authorities, national governments, and other development partners. It will link these to domestic financial institutions such as banks, housing finance institutions, and micro-finance institutions, as well as to international donors and financing facilities for urban upgrading programmes.

It is expected that SUF will lead to the development of sustainable financing mechanisms and policy and regulatory reform. It is also envisaged that the SUF will pave the way for the deepening of local capital markets, so necessary for slum upgrading, and provide downstream opportunities for new forms of output-based aid approaches.

Dinesh Mehta is Coordinator of the Urban Management Programme. Chris Williams is Acting Director of UN-HABITAT's Human Settlements Financing Division

YESTERDAY'S DIALOGUES

Thematic Panel Discussion Looks Towards the Future

By Bill Hargett and Sandra Baffoe-Bonnie, UN-HABITAT

Six panelists at the Thematic Dialogue on Urban Poor held on Tuesday addressed the challenges and future goals of their organizations in meeting the Millennium Development Goal on slums - "Improving lives of slum dwellers: Are we getting there?" Mr. Pietro Garau, Coordinator of Task force 8, mediated the discussion, giving the floor first to Mr. Jockin Arputham, President of the Slum dwellers International and National Federation of Slumdwellers of India.

"The government cannot deliver, this is driven by the people" said Mr. Arputham, in a statement that echoed several times throughout the three-hour event.

Ms. Lindiwe Susulu, Minister of Housing of South Africa, highlighted government successes in developing houses for the poor as well as improvement initiatives. She said South Africa was well on the way to meeting the United Nations Millennium Goals.

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, of Ministry of Cities, Brazil said "15 million families need some of kind of improvement". She was adamant that cities should, instead of competing for international investment, cooperate and reach a new level of solidarity.

Mr. Alfredo Stein of the Ministry for International Development in Sweden presented the Swedish International Development Agency's strategies for the comprehensive development of urban housing.

Ms. Nie Meisheng, President of the China Housing Industry Association, presented strategies adopted in China for housing construction, including a Welfare Housing Project..

The event concluded with a final announcement by Mrs. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. "It is now time to act."

she said, confident that the meetings and discussions in Barcelona would herald good news for the next World Urban Forum to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in 2006.

There was general consensus that considerable progress has been made in improving the lives of slum dwellers as was evident from the experience presented from China, South Africa, Brazil and community of slum dwellers. However, it was recognized that more needs to be made since the MDG target is just 7% of the current world populations of slum dwellers. Pietro Garau, Coordinator of the UN Task Force 8 used this opportunity to inform the meeting of the revision of the target recommended by the Task Force to include "whilst providing alternatives to slum development."

Innovative Urban Policies and Legislation in Implementing the Habitat Agenda and Attaining the MDGs

By Wandia Seaforth

A lively discussion on good policies and enabling legislation was chaired by Ms. Buyelwa Patience Sonjica, Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa. Presenters from cities with noteworthy experiences of implementing good policies and laws included: Ms. Silvia Andere, from the Municipal Urbanization Corporation of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Mr. Liu Zhifeng, Deputy Minister of Construction, China, and Ms. Agnes Devanadera, Interior and Local Government Undersecretary, Philippines.

Belo Horizonte presented the *Profavela* law, that has resulted in the regularization and upgrading of slums and poor neighbourhoods - a state law which Belo Horizonte was the first city to implement. Innovative aspects include: a participatory master plan, management and monitoring mechanisms for the *Special Interest Zones* that the law provides for, and partnership with the private sector. Lessons learned include the need to have a strong social content in laws and to recognize community as well as individual rights.

China presented the achievements from implementing the national housing policy. By providing an enabling environment that includes supporting, the housing market, providing a legal framework, support services for housing, influence on the mortgage market and reducing housing-related taxes among others, the government of China manages to produce 10 million housing units per year. It caters for all categories of demand - including very low income renters as well as a owners from different income groups.

The Philippines presented the 1991 Local Government Code, which is said to have revolutionized governance in the Philippines. The Code devolves a wide array of responsibilities and resources to local authorities. It has given local authorities much scope to be creative. Many municipalities now have significant levels of civil society representation, participatory budgeting and gender mainstreaming action plans. The law also gives communities power of recall for non-performing elected officials, which communities have used.

Discussion and questions revolved around the financial mechanisms and arrangements for China's remarkable output and coverage in quality housing; the monitoring mechanisms to ensure that residents of regularized areas do not sell and move to new informal areas in Belo Horizonte, and for the Philippines the constraint to local government due to the mismatch between the budget and the devolved responsibilities.

The dialogue continues tomorrow with presentations from Morocco, Spain and South Africa.

NETWORKING REPORTS

MONDAY

Urban profiling

More than 120 people representing a wide cross-section of central and local governments, civil society, development partners, researchers and other experts on Monday discussed an *Urban Profile Study* covering 27 countries supported by the Governments of Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and the European Commission.

The study assesses the institutional set-up and existing policy and operating framework within the urban sector with the involvement of all significant urban stakeholders. It is a rapid profiling that sets forth the opportunities for strategic policy and programmatic interventions to bring about poverty reduction. In line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, it aims to identify capacity-building gaps and projects, leading to action and programme implementation at three levels: regional, national and local. At the regional level, study findings will be used by UN-HABITAT and development partners to, guide policy definition to better design future work programs; guide countries in the definition of urban policies and also enable them to influence other national policies on poverty reduction; identify areas of technical assistance and interventions to improve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the sub-regions; and guide donors in supporting regional, national and local interventions.

Participating cities: Nairobi, Kenya; Tunis, Tunisia; Banjul and Kanifing, Gambia; Elmina and Accra, Ghana, Alexandria, Egypt; Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; Lusaka and Kitwe, Zambia; Hargeisa, Somaliland, Yaounde, Cameroon; Tripoli, Lebanon, and Lilongwe, Malawi.

External Support Agencies: DFID-UK, EC, Go Italy, US-AID, ILO, ADB, Swiss Cooperation, Social Housing Foundation, IAGU, MDP-East Africa, universities and research institutes, NGOs.

The 27 countries covered by the programme are Angola, Bukina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Sharja, UAE, Zambia.

Urban governance

“If you do badly, you get assistance to improve. If you do well, you get re-elected,” said Mayor Mary Jane Ortega of the Philippines.

Her remarks, capturing the essence of urban governance and performance measurement were made to delegates discussing *Measuring Urban Governance* on Monday.

Panelists from Guyana, Canada, Sri Lanka and South Africa shared their experiences in applying municipal performance measurement systems and the Urban Governance Index from the demand-side perspective. Representatives of UN-HABITAT, UNDP, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) described the various indicator systems being developed internationally. The discussion brought up a rich and varied range of issues, including the reasons for measurement, what to measure, why, and whether universality or contextualization holds the key. The importance of developing indicators to measure the fulfillment of national,

provincial and local responsibilities affecting urban taxpayers was also emphasized.

Transferring experience and building capacity was highlighted as one of the key follow-ups of measuring urban governance. Robert Williams, the Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, suggested that governance indicators could also be used by cities to build confidence of international lending agencies in their level of responsibility and capacity. The idea of using the Urban Governance Index to award cities for improvements in urban governance over a set period of time was also raised.

Urban disasters and reconstruction

UN-HABITAT started a series of discussions this week on man-made and natural disasters. In a statement read on his behalf, the former President of Finland, Mr. Marti Ahtisaari, said: “The range of threats facing the smallest of villages to the largest of our mega-cities starts with direct vulnerability to natural phenomena and so far ends with the victimization of children for political ideology. With the ever shrinking global village, the contingent risk from crises in human settlements affects neighboring towns, regions, states, and in some cases the rest of the planet. For these reasons, it remains our responsibility to explore the boundaries of vulnerability of the world’s human settlements with a view to seeking means to reduce the threats facing their residents.”

A session on Monday was attended by delegates from around the world. The meetings this will review recent disasters in the Caribbean and Latin America, Asia, and Africa, with a view to influencing the way in which the cities cope with and try to prevent future crises. Presenters and participants from civil society, national and local governments, and the international community will discuss means and strategies for addressing sustainable relief from both natural and man-made disasters.

TUESDAY

Ibero-American and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices

The *Ibero-American and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices*, founded in 1997, presented a series of regional best practices at a well attended meeting on Tuesday. In remarks at the opening plenary of the World Urban Forum, the Spanish Minister of Housing, Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, reaffirmed her government’s support for the Forum.

Institutions from Latin America that form part of this project, coordinated by UN-HABITAT’S Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, presented four key objectives: the documentation and analysis of best practices, capacity building, distribution of learning materials and the dissemination of best practices.

The meeting also shared experiences on best practices elsewhere in the world. The Forum launched a Best Practices Transfer Regional Award, sponsored by the Municipality of Medellin, Colombia.

Urban safety

“Building peace in cities is as difficult if not more so, than building peace across nations,” Ms. Kumari Selja, Union Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India told a meeting on *Making Urban Safety Sustainable*.

NETWORKING REPORTS

Echoing the concern of former President of Finland, Mr. Marti Ahtisaari, in his opening address to the Urban Disasters and Reconstruction events, she reminded delegates that the risk of disasters spreading their effects from city to city, and even across national boundaries provided just cause for trans-national cooperation on risk reduction planning.

Among the delegates, Ms. Juana Balbina Chimilio Blanca described the inability of government to respond immediately following Hurricane Mitch, and the consequent need for her small community near Colon, Honduras, to act in their own interest by doing something that had not been done before in their community: "We worked with the women, and we worked with the youth to develop our own means of minimizing risk in the future," she said.

Throughout the session, delegates spoke of their own experiences and their concerns that poor had to join in reducing their vulnerability with government and international support to minimize risk, disasters will continue to hit the most vulnerable citizens of the world's cities hardest. Moderator Mihir Bhatt, of the Disaster Mitigation Institute of India, said, "the safer the poor, the safer the cities".

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, one of five such regional bodies, UNECE, one of the five UN Regional Commissions presented its findings on the role of PPP in urban regeneration. Ms Corine Namblard co-chaired the event and observed the dynamics of the market, its growth and its opportunities to contribute to sustainable development.

Around 100 participants joined the European members of the PPP Alliance. Speakers came from the groups of the private sector, the governmental authorities and the NGOs. PPPs are concession-based financing technique that put together the best of both public and private sectors. They have contributed to renovating cities, improving the access of services to citizens and generating employment opportunities.

The outcome is a commitment to expand the UNECE network of interested public and private agencies in the broad ECE region to share best practices and experience working in close cooperation with UN-HABITAT, ILO, the EU and development banks, such as EBRD.

Started in Western Europe, the work of the PPP Alliance is progressively expanding to the Eastern European countries where PPP units are about to be set up.

Global networks for local government capacity building

"A road is made by walking on it", observed Anna Vasilache, Director of Partners Romania Foundation at a meeting called on Tuesday to share experiences from members of regional training networks for local government capacity building.

Networks are an invaluable way of building relationships among professionals so that they may gain the creativity and courage required to make a meaning difference to their community.

"Local governments are by their very nature conservative, if they get things wrong criticism from the local community is usually swift and intense", said Brock Carlton from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Networks are therefore an important way of sharing best practices that address current trends, policies and the needs of learners.

Kinuthia Wamwangi provided an overview of some of the e-

learning tools developed by the Kenyan Municipal Development Programme which stimulated an interesting debate on the use of technology. But for a network to be successful, it is important to get the basics right, said Kamla Kant Pandy from the Human Settlements Management Institute in India.

The objectives have to be clear, the membership committed and involved and networks should avoid the temptation of trying to "do it all", Mr. Pandy said. Networks need to promote other networks.

Participants readily echoed these sentiments and challenged institutions present such United Cities and Local Government, the World Bank, UNITAR and UN-HABITAT to facilitate networking among networks.

The Chair of the meeting, Mayvonne Plessis-Fraissard from the World Bank Transport and Urban Development Unit, closed the meeting Networks need to respect and respond to the needs of users- but they also should provide leadership, getting this balance right might not be easy, but their success depends upon it."observing that in a world of collapsing space and time, "we need to strengthen global networks for learning which can be adapted and customized to local cultural realities.

Urban space and security policies

During a networking event on Urban space and security policies Tuesday, researchers looked into the linkages between urban space and urban safety, exchanging and discussing good cities practices as well as research methodologies. The city of Mumbai Police Commissioner, Mr. A. N. Roy, presented the action developed by Mumbai police to respond to policing needs in poor communities through local committees bringing together community members and police and working on dispute solution and increasing security in areas with specific security problems.

The city of Durban/eThekweni manager, Mr. Michael Suttcliffe, presented the comprehensive approach developed to make public spaces more secure. He said although integrated approaches targeting causes of crime are needed, environmental improvements can have an important impact on safety in the urban space.

Liza Bazhkova, from the Russian Information Center of the Independent Women's Forum, presented the results in crime reduction achieved through the involvement of residents in estate improvements. She explained how this practice is changing the relations between women and authorities, including the police.

Researchers presented studies on the impact on urban form and functioning by crime, in contexts as different as Douala, Cameroon, Catania, Italy, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. The participants agreed that it is crucial that researchers make their results available to policy makers and shared broadly. The networking event organized by the UN-HABITAT Safer Cities Programme, the Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne and the Small Arms Survey (Geneva) also launched a new network on safety and urban space constituted to exchange practices and experiences, identify issues for further action, and develop tools and approaches in support of cities facing insecurity worldwide. Documents from the session will be available on www.unhabitat.org/safercities

Young people out in force at the World Urban Forum

By Robert E. Sullivan

Delegates to the World Urban Forum from what Tim Campbell of the World Bank called "some of the toughest places on earth" Tuesday turned to the world's youth as hope to solve some of the planet's toughest problems.

In a session devoted to discussions of the Global Youth Parliament (GYP) and the youth oriented *We are the Future* (WAF) program, delegates repeatedly said youth must have a say in their future, and that the world's future depends on the young.

Olivier Mugema, co-ordinator of the WAF program in Kigali said, "the youth should be allowed to decide on their future because they could not decide for their past."

"Their childhood was robbed from them," he said.

The WAF program ties young people from Kigali, Addis Ababa, Asmara, Nablus, Freetown and Kabul with sister cities in more developed areas and with each other. These cities, Campbell said "are some of the toughest places on earth for those of us in the development game."

His Worship, Theoneste Mutsindash Kaya, Mayor of Kigali, said that with the participation of the city's youth, as well as that from other cooperating cities, like Kabul, Addis Ababa, and Freetown, will become "symbols of determination of our people to build a future of development."

Sarah Lewis of Freetown told the seminar "to live in the past is to miss today's opportunities and tomorrow's blessing."

Hussein Abdallah al-Araj, Acting Mayor of Nablus and the Minister for Local Government noted that a group of ten Palestinian youths and ten others from Israel were meeting in Venice, but couldn't meet at home.

He said, "I believe peace can be implemented only if we build confidence between our youth and the youth of our neighbour, Israeli youth."

Mr. Al-Araj said that Nablus had been closed for three years, and noted that a wall has been under construction nearby.

"Walls don't build peace, we learned that in Berlin ... face to face contact do," he said. "The other side," he said. "has the same problems. It is time to build confidence."

Avi Rabinovitch of the Israeli Union of Local Authorities said a recent non-governmental organization delegation had

asked Israeli and Palestinian city mayors what was their top priority. They both asked for youth programs, he said.

"Maybe this is a big Mafia of Israeli and Palestinian mayors," he said, "but it is a big mafia that is attempting to reinstate peace." He asked the young persons of the neighbouring nations to "widen the gate" through continuing contact. "If you keep widening gates, you don't have a wall," he said.

"We need to build understanding, we need to build trust," he said. "And we need to build a bridge. And who will build that bridge? The youth will," he said.

Robert Sullivan, who recently spent six months as a correspondent in Iraq, teaches journalism in Beirut, Lebanon,

A Global partnership for youth in Africa

A new Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth in Africa was launched at the AC Hotel in Barcelona on Tuesday by UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka.

Present at the launch were young people from Africa, mayors from many cities around the world and representatives of civil society organisations.

Robert Njoroge, a young person from Nairobi, Kenya highlighted the various initiatives that he and other young people in Africa are involved in, and which require support. He gave the example of the One Stop Youth Information Center in Nairobi for underprivileged and vulnerable youth as an example of concrete and tangible initiatives that positively influence the lives of young people.

Mayor Kleist Sykes of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, welcomed the initiative while highlighting unemployment, crime and governance as core areas in addressing issues afflicting urban youth.

A progress report will be issued at the next UN-HABITAT Governing Council in Nairobi in May 2005.

Global Youth Congress opens

UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, on Tuesday opened the Global Youth Congress at the World Urban Forum in Barcelona. Ms. Erna Solberg, the Norwegian Minister for Co-operation and Development encouraged youth to seek partnerships in the implementation of their projects and not to tire in the process.

The Huairou Commission

Let's toss out the three R's of "top down" disaster assistance, and bring on the three P's of local self help.

This was the message from the New York-based *Huairou Commission*, a women's grass roots organization to the World Urban Forum.

Huairou representative, Prema Gopalan, told a workshop on urban safety on Tuesday: "Rather than the three Rs of Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation, we should employ the three P's of Participation, Partnership and Pro-active planning." Ms. Gopalan of Mumbai, said that "top down" disaster assistance sometimes erodes local ownership of social services, and causes corruption and community-level violence and local divisions. She said some 80 per cent resources were used in the first year of a disaster, leaving little for long-term development.

Ms. Gopalan said her affiliated organizations had success in redirecting aid, citing as an example money excess designated for tents in earthquake-ravaged Turkey was allocated for community centers, which had a longer term effect.

She suggested international groups actively utilize available local civic networks, because that way "the very act of rebuilding is itself empowering."

"We must put development at the center of consideration of safety," and suggested that women's groups are the logical local assets that should be utilized. "We need women to be looked on as partners, not as victims or recipients."

Ms. Kumari Selja, Union Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India suggested the World Urban Forum create an international risk sharing and disaster mitigation system to spread widely the impact of even domestic crises.

"This may take time, but the process is moving ahead and the direction is clear," she said.

Returning to the theme of "top down" assistance, Shyam Khadka of the International Fund for Agriculture assistance should be directed at "meeting people's needs, not what one feels are their needs".

Information for Delegates

Where to find documents

In your information pack, you will find a book each on Dialogues and Networking Events, a folder with information on organizational aspects, special events, the exhibition and other general conference matters, and brochures on Barcelona and the Universal Forum of Cultures.

You will also find:

- additional papers on particular dialogues and networking events will be placed on tables inside the meeting rooms
- a daily copy of this journal, Conference News, on the first floor of the Convention Centre, at the entrance of the networking event rooms. The paper will highlight the key events of each day and report on the previous day's proceedings
- information for specific delegations, e.g., invitations to closed meetings or receptions, in the pigeon holes on the ground floor of the Convention Centre opposite the Information Desk and Exhibition Room.

Distribute your documents

If you have documents to distribute for a particular networking event, please contact the staff at the information desk on the first floor or contact Ramadhan Indiya at the mobile number 627 118 861. You will need to provide enough copies for participants of your meeting at least 30 minutes before the meeting starts. Only meeting-specific documents are allowed in the meeting rooms.

Exhibition and Publications

Visit the Exhibition Room on the ground floor of the Convention Centre where many participants are showing their work. Some of the stalls, including the UN-HABITAT stand also have publications on a wide range of human settlement issues. The huge exhibition area also houses a business centre, café, and cinema in addition to the many exhibition stands.

Business Centre/ Informal Meeting Area

A business center with five Internet enabled computers and a printer is located in the Exhibition Room on the ground floor of the Convention Centre. The business center also offers an informal meeting area. Another ten Internet computers can be found in the main lobby of the Convention Centre.

Café

Also located in the Exhibition Room is a refreshments area with hot and cold drinks for sale.

Facilities for Panelists

Panelists for the Dialogue and Networking Event have access to facilities in the Speakers' Room 118 to prepare for their meeting. Facilities include computers, a printer and a photocopier. If you plan to show a film or Powerpoint presentation at your meeting, please give your tape VHS (PAL format), DVD (Region 2 format), CD or diskette to the Forum personnel in the Speaker's room as far in advance as possible and let them know the date, time and room of the presentations.

Show your film

A small cinema has been set up in the Exhibition Room to show films from our partners. If you have an interesting short film (20 minutes or less), VHS (any format) or DVD, please contact Irene Juma at the UN-HABITAT exhibition stand or call mobile number 699 895 033. The daily Conference News will show the film programme for each day.

Organise a press conference

If you have a newsworthy event, please contact the Head of our Press and Media Relations, Sharad Shankardass, who coordinates all the press conferences. His mobile number is 660 524 702 or email him at Sharad.Shankardass@unhabitat.org.

Organise a reception

Some delegations have requested facilities for holding private meetings or receptions. The company TILES A can assist with this. Please contact TILES A at telephone number 934 537 389. If you need help in distributing invitations to particular delegations, contact the staff at the pigeon holes on the ground floor of the Convention Centre or call Ramadhan Indiya on mobile number 627 118 861.

Gift Centre

Visit the UN-HABITAT stand in the Exhibition Room where a few promotional items are available for those who want a memento of their time in Barcelona at the World Urban Forum!

First Aid

A First Aid center is available on the Forum site. Please speak to the staff at the information booth just outside the Convention Center.

Map of the Forum building

