

Conference News

WORLD URBAN FORUM

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

Tuesday 14th of September

World leaders, mayors warn of urbanization crisis

The Second World Urban Forum opened in Barcelona on Monday with warnings from world leaders and mayors that rapid urbanization was one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in the new Millennium.

Speaker after speaker at the opening plenary called for more backing for local authorities from the United Nations system and governments. They called for a renewed drive for decentralization. And all expressed concern that millions of people in cities around the world still lacked access to safe water and sanitation, health care, education, shelter, security of tenure.

In a highlight of the opening plenary, UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka bestowed the UN-HABITAT's Scroll of Honour Special Citation for Post Conflict Reconstruction on Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr. Rafic Hariri, for showing visionary leadership in helping rebuild his country after a devastating 16-year civil war.

Organisers said that over 3,000 people had come to the conference in the glittering forum convention hall on the city's newly refurbished waterfront. The delegates included several internationally renowned leaders and over 600 mayors from around the world.

"All of us have reason to thank the organizers and people of Barcelona for this initiative in the interest of the international community," said the former Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev. "This forum is an important contribution to strengthening peace, tolerance and sustainable development. I was happy to respond to the invitation from UN-HABITAT, now that the urban population of world will soon exceed rural population."

Addressing the congress in Russian through an interpreter, Mr. Gorbachev said the theme of the conference, Cities: crossroads of cultures, inclusiveness and integration? was an important question because the world could not continue to solve problems the way it used to.

"Urbanisation is bringing problems of concern to us all," said Mr. Gorbachev, who signed a Cooperation Agreement with UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka on a rights-based approach to water management in human settlements.

"Four years ago, when world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration, it seemed they recognized the urgency of the problems," he said. "But all of us today are concerned that many leaders having taken that step, have not shown the political will to implement them and take on the obligations they assumed. We have to be frank – we cannot leave the millennium commitments to the same fate as the Rio document of 1992."

In opening remarks, the outgoing Chair of the World Urban Forum, South Africa's former housing minister, Ms. Sankie D. Mthembu-Mahanyele, said the large numbers of delegates and leaders in Barcelona showed how critical growing urbanization had become. She introduced the new Chair, Spain's Minister of Housing, Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo saying the urbanization of poverty was particularly acute in the developing world. But in a more optimistic note, Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), said at least the wish of world mayors

in 1996 at the Habitat II conference in Istanbul to be able to speak with a united voice had now come true with the formation in January this year of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Mayors now had their own world-wide body based in Barcelona. He noted that in many countries local governments were unelected, lacked financial independence, were unable to raise their own finances and thus unable to make full use of their authority. The new UCLG wanted to develop local administrative independence around the world. Citing a European Union treaty providing local authorities with necessary independence, and also adopted in Canada, he said UCLG now sought a respective international treaty recognized by the United Nations.

Mr. Pieter van Geel, State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of The Netherlands, told delegates urban poverty was not affecting cities alone any longer. Rapid urban expansion was putting more pressure on the countryside and on ecosystems – causing deforestation, flooding, and other problems. He said the problems of water and sanitation provision and the way they interconnect was of prime importance.

Finland's former president, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, said the international community had to do more to help with proper training and interventions to increase capacity building.

In a message read out on his behalf, UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan said: "Cities are recognized as national engines of economic growth. But they are much more. Cities are also the crucible for cultural fusion. Standing astride every intersection on the global network of trade and migration, the world's cities must become shining examples of inclusiveness and equity as called for in the Millennium Declaration. Otherwise, they will remain potential flashpoints of conflict and reservoirs of poverty – barriers to humanity's further development."

Mrs. Tibaijuka said the question mark in the theme of the conference implied that the world still had not yet arrived at an effective strategy to make cities work for everyone. She lauded Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon and the people of Lebanon, recipients of UN-HABITAT's Scroll of Honour Special Citation for Post Conflict Reconstruction: "I congratulate the Prime Minister for his outstanding and visionary leadership in the post-conflict reconstruction of his country. I also congratulate the Lebanese people without whom success could not have been made."

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Tuesday 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 Cultures - Partners' Dialogue	RM 117.
Urban Poor - Thematic Dialogue	RM 111 +112

Afternoon Dialogues 15.00 – 18.00

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

Morning Networking Events 10.00-13.00

• Commission for Africa	RM 116
• Global Networks for Local Government Capacity Building	RM 132
• Global Youth Congress: Opening Ceremony/ Emerging Partnerships in Urban Youth Development	RM 120-121
• Iberoamerican and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices (LAC Forum)	RM 123
• Making Urban Safety Sustainable	RM 129
• Slum Upgrading: How Public Finances Leverage Household and Commercial Finance	RM 125
• Third Public-Private Partnerships Alliance Meeting	RM 115
• UNESCO: Cities as World Heritage	RM 131
• Urban Space and Security Policies	RM 130

Afternoon Networking Events 15.00-18.00

• City Diplomacy for Peacebuilding	RM 120-121
• Financing Urban Housing and Infrastructure	RM 129
• From Marginalization to Citizenship (HIC)	RM 134
• Gendering Governance through Local-to-Local Dialogues	RM 132
• Development and mangement in African Cities	RM 122
• Launch of Millennium Partnership	RM 125
• Launching a South-North Forum on Networking, Research, Education and Training	RM 124
• Porto Alegre Local Authorities Forum for Social Inclusion (FAL)	RM 116
• The Institute@WUF	RM 130
• Think Global, Act Local - A Challenge to Sustainable Development	RM 123
• Third Public-Private Partnership Alliance Meeting	RM 115
• UNESCO: Rivers and Urban Culture	RM 131

Other meetings

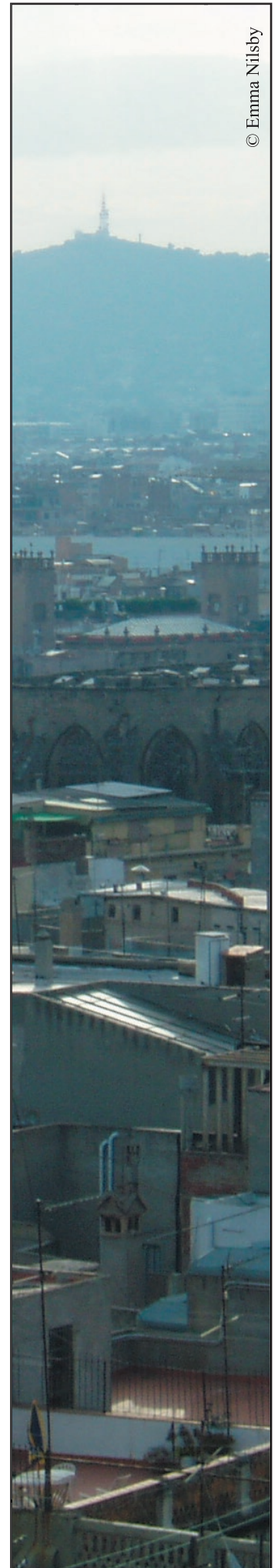
Daily Women's Caucus at 13:45-14:45	RM 113
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Cancelled

- Housing for the Poor in Developing Countries

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

**Launch of the Global Partnership Initiative for Urban
Youth Development in Africa**



State of the World's Cities Report

UN-HABITAT today launches its flagship report, The State of the World's Cities 2004/2005 charting the progress and the challenges we face in this rapidly urbanising world.

With contributions from some of the world's leading urban scholars, writers and experts, this report carries extensive examples, illustrations and facts about cities that are of use to experts and non-experts alike.

First published in 2001, this major UN-HABITAT now published every two years, 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 positive and both 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 every day 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.

Global Youth Congress Programme 14 - 17 September 2004

Tuesday 14

- 10.00 – 13.00 OPENING OF YOUTH CONGRESS
 11.00 – 13.00 EMERGING PARTNERSHIPS IN URBAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
 15.00 – 18.00 CITY DIPLOMACY FOR PEACEBUILDING
 19:00-21:00 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE LAUNCH CEREMONY (Venue: AC Hotel)

Wednesday 15

- 10.00 – 13.00 SAFER CITIES THROUGH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVENESS.
 15.00 – 18.00 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 FIRST GLOBAL HIP HOP SUMMIT

Friday 18

- 09.00 – 10.30 GROWING UP IN CITIES
 11.00 – 12.15 CLOSING CEREMONY

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

Today at Speakers' Corner

11.45 Empowerment and Stress Management through the Breath - A practical Experience

13.30 The Cost/Benefit of Drug Policy

17.00 Hostage: Indigenous Voices from Colombia

19.00 Excluded: Integration of Marginal Populations

20.10 Adapting to Globalization



World Urban Forum delegates in the Convention Center. © Katja Makelainen

Land in an urbanising world

By Clarissa Augustinus

There are few more contentious and complex problems in the world than those dealing with land and secure tenure. Many religions have firm rules on land and inheritance, most local communities have deeply ingrained cultural traditions, and every government faces the challenge of land differently with its own vast array of laws.

At today's thematic dialogue on the urban poor, land is a crucial factor if the world is to make any serious, sustainable and long-term progress.

In many countries, the rules work against women owning land because of religious and cultural traditions.

This web of widely varying rules is further exacerbated by unfair land distribution. The United Nations Development Programme in its Poverty Report states that governments have failed to "squarely address the sources of inequality such as unequal distribution of land." In many cities in the world, such as Nairobi, Kenya, the poor live on 5 per cent of city land, yet they constitute more than 60 per cent of the city's population.

In wealthy countries, land records cover most of the territory and are generally well kept. But few developing countries have more than 30 per cent of their land accounted for by land records. Land records are usually linked to the middle and higher classes. In many countries, there is large-scale corruption associated with land. In post conflict societies, land is a key issue which needs special management and often a fresh start. At the heart of it all is personal security, and where that is lacking it can lead to unrest as countless examples around the world show.

From Afghanistan to Kosovo, Iraq and Timor Leste, to name a few, UN-HABITAT runs numerous programmes around the world. Through its *Global Campaign for Secure Tenure* it is working to bring land and secure tenure to the forefront of the agenda. It has recently launched the campaign in a number of countries including Brazil, Namibia, India, Jamaica, The Philippines, and South Africa. UN-HABITAT's *Cities Without Slums* programme addresses the issue of land. Most of UN-HABITAT's programmes are designed so that the allocation of land and property is managed by taking into account the needs of the poor, equal access to land, fair distribution, gender equality and partnerships with the slum dwellers themselves.

Simply stated, dealing with land in many towns and cities around the world could be a nightmare.

In South Africa, in one province alone, there are over 1,000 laws applying which need to be understood when dealing with land delivery. In Brazil, land is sometimes controlled by drug lords in the *favelas* or slums. In Indonesia, the Ministry of Forestry controls most of the country's land, including large numbers of human settlements – but this is not their core business. In many countries of French-speaking Africa there are tensions over land between the customary authorities and local authorities. Poorly managed reforms involving rapid and large-scale privatisation in the Transition Countries of the former Soviet Union, has led to increasing impoverishment in the cities, and especially in the secondary cities. Many countries worldwide are still using colonial land laws which are expensive, appropriate only to the middle classes, and which fail to take into account local land custom.

In a speech celebrating the restoration of land to a local community in South Africa in 1998, former President Nelson Mandela said: "The experience of all countries everywhere is

that if such wrongs are not put right, then the bitterness lives on for many generations. Our land reform programme helps redress the injustices of apartheid. It fosters national reconciliation and stability. It underpins economic growth and improves household welfare and food security."

Land is like a diamond – it has to be understood from numerous facets or approaches simultaneously. Strategic action plans for countries undertaking land reform have to cover a wide range of social issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, technical and human capacity building, governance and restructuring, financing and the development of a regulatory framework. In post-conflict societies this takes in the management of disputes that could lead to further crisis and ethnic cleansing.

Under the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the agency is coordinating the work of the UN system in improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. Although this number may seem huge, it represents only 10 per cent of the present worldwide slum population, which, if left unchecked, will increase to 2 billion by the year 2030. The challenge is made more daunting by the fact that, according to UN-HABITAT recent research, the world's slum population has already grown by 75 million in barely three years since the Millennium Declaration.

Often, land and security of tenure explain the existence of slums. The regulatory framework used in the city should enable its local authorities to treat all its citizens equally. Often, the national land laws create inequality among the citizens. These laws need to be reformed. Many countries have focused on titling as the only form of delivering secure tenure to the poor. Yet titling systems are generally slow, unaffordable and inflexible. In Peru, land delivery of a single parcel can take over 20 years.

There is no sustainable human settlements development where there is no security of tenure for all the citizens of a country. As Aldo Leopold (1887-1948), the renowned American philosopher, teacher, writer and environmental campaigner, once stated: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a commodity to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Clarissa Augustinus is the Chief of UN-HABITAT's Land and Tenure Section.

"Land, which is a necessity of all human existence, which is the original source of all wealth, which is strictly limited in extent, which is fixed in geographical position - land, I say, differs from all other forms of property in these primary and fundamental conditions...

...We see the evil, we see the imposture upon the public, and we see the consequences in crowded slums, in hampered commerce, in distorted or restricted development, and in congested centres of population... and we say here and now to the land monopolist...'you shall be taxed at the true selling value'.... — **Sir Winston**

Churchill, Edinburgh, July 17, 1909.

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A new water cooperation agreement between UN-HABITAT and Green Cross International.

By Andre Dzikus

The former Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, Chairman of Green Cross International and Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on Monday signed a Cooperation Agreement aimed at achieving a global breakthrough for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation.

“Fundamental to this breakthrough is a Human Values approach that can bring about positive attitudinal changes and a new ethic for water and sanitation management in society and lay the foundation for good governance”, said Mrs. Tibaijuka.

She said current approaches to water and sanitation management had failed to bring about any fundamental change in behaviour and personal attitudes, and in the underlying values of the people that influence decisions.

Both organizations recognize that water

is one of the basic human needs – that the water crisis is global and sustainable solutions should be found at local level. They also view the participation of civil society essential to the prevention and resolution of water conflict. They also regard access to safe water and basic sanitation not as a privilege, but as a human right.

Mr. Gorbachev, said: “I am here today to declare that enough is enough.” He said world governments were failing to live up to the development pledges made in the Millennium Declaration exactly four years ago.

In the last four years, 20 million children have died from preventable water-borne diseases, and hundreds of millions of people continued to live with the daily drudgery and squalor associated with the lack of water and sanitation. Yet, today, there was little to indicate that we will not face the same situation four years from now.

“The people of the world need to wake

up, take responsibility, and play their part in the great human mission enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals. We should be acting with the same sense of urgency as we would if it were our own children going thirsty,” insisted Gorbachev.



Inclusive cities – cultural melting pots or cauldrons of intolerance

By Roman Rollnick

Our cities set every trend in the world today, both positive and negative, and this is because they have always been magnets for people seeking a new and better start in life. And thus today’s dialogues on urban poverty in Barcelona.

A century ago, there was no international covenant on rights. Less than half the world’s people lived in cities. It was more difficult to move around because there was no motorised mass transport, or proper roads.

Yet even then cities grew with human mobility through flows of people, money, goods, and art. Great cities around the world flourished with the great sea trade. Already a century ago, one could eat Indian food in London, enjoy West African food in Paris or east European dishes in New York. Today, one can purchase a CD with Senegalese music from a Chinese supermarket in Paris, enjoy British television in Africa, drive a Japanese car in Australia, or communicate across great distances using the internet or a mobile telephone.

Speak to an Ethiopian taxi in

Washington DC, a French-speaking Congolese woman washing dishes in Cape Town, a Palestinian selling computers along London’s Tottenham Court Road, and all are a little wary of the locals, but like the place enough to stay; the same goes for people living in slums on the outskirts of Calcutta, Nairobi or Rio de Janeiro. They all like the city, even though they don’t have it easy as everyone else.

All are willing to do jobs the locals might not do, and they bring with them their languages, their art, their cuisine into the cultural melting pot. They send money back home and help stimulate the local and global economy.

But scratch the cosmopolitan veneer, and we find that ages old fear of strangers, and every human prejudice and intolerance. We cannot tackle this, or the urban poverty crisis, until we understand the situation.

In 1950, one-third of the world’s people lived in cities. Today, this proportion has risen to one-half and will grow to two-thirds, or 6 billion people, by 2050. In many cities, especially in developing countries, slum dwellers number more

than 50 per cent of the population and have little or no access to shelter, water, and sanitation.

In a world where some 1.4 billion people lack access to safe water, and 2.7 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, what could be a more direct attack on poverty than to remedy this? (Millennium Development Goal No. 7, Target 10).

Today some 930 million people live in urban slums. If the present trends continue, this figure will reach 1.5 billion by the year 2020. Slum dwellers have no political voice, decent housing, or security. They do not benefit from the rule of law, enshrined rights, education or health. What would be a more concrete way to remedy this as well? (Goal 7, Target 11). This is where UN-HABITAT is mandated to make a difference.

Roman Rollnick is editor of UN-HABITAT’s flagship quarterly magazine, Habitat Debate

Geographical Information Systems

By Martin Raithelhuber

Urban planners in a Kenyan town were surprised when they discovered that several larger buildings in the city centre had been built right across access roads and road reserves. During a period of rapid urban growth, this development had remained unnoticed by the local authority which lacked the means to update the old city maps.

To cope with such a rapidly changing urban situation, the city introduced a geographical information system (GIS) that links plot boundaries with digitized information on buildings and roads. The system uses a high-resolution satellite image that can focus down to 1 meter. Thus, new urban development can be detected immediately and appropriate action be taken.

Similar situations exist in many cities in developing countries. Often, maps date back to colonial periods, and information on even the most basic amenities such as water connections is fragmented, incomplete or misplaced.

Bringing together this information into a unified system, which is based on an interactive electronic map, allows policy-makers and planners to pinpoint problem areas and target their scarce resources more efficiently. Often, the most vulnerable groups living in informal settlements do not figure in official records. But satellite images in combination with GIS analysis show precisely where the slums are, providing mapping that is not only accurate, but easy to grasp. Participatory planning becomes a reality when disadvantaged citizens can help map and plan their own neighbourhood together with the local authority using a simplified GIS interface.

The World Urban Forum provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about GIS and how it can help to develop our cities. On Wednesday morning, a discussion on *Urban Inequities and GIS* puts “the poor on the map” of cities as diverse as Nairobi, Melbourne, and Rio de Janeiro. In the afternoon, a session on Affordable and Accessible GIS for Local Governance will show how local authorities can benefit from GIS. On Thursday, our networking event, Managing Information for Local Environments brings together practitioners from projects all over the world with software developers and training institutions. Finally, on Friday [check day – RR], experts will discuss ICT application for Urban Development when they discuss The Role of Cities in an Information Age.

Martin Raithelhuber, of UN-HABITAT's Global Urban Observatory manages the 1000 Cities GIS Programme.

Films on show

Film booth is located in the exhibition area and the films start everyday at 1.00 pm

Pavement of Gold

Illegal Cities

“Streewise: Facing the Challenge”

My Mother Built This House

“Elmina, Building on the Past to

Create a Better Future”

Mumbai Police Panchayat

Will push come to Shove

In the name of development

Beyond the Track

Urgent challenges of urbanisation - the afternoon plenary

Mr. Syed Zahid Hussain, Chairmain of the Group of 77 and China, and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN-HABITAT said that the developing nations belived that gender equality, health, water and sanitation had to be addressed as a matter of urgency at the Second World Urban Forum.

In a keynote address at the opening of the afternoon plenary session on Monday, he said that the Group of 77 countries and China hoped the experts meeting in Barcelona this week would come up “with the benchmarks and solutions urgently” during the course of the week’s deliberations.

The 10th meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA)

The Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, UNACLA, held its 10th Meeting on Sunday at the Barcelona City Council under the Chairmanship of Mr. Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Clos highlighted the importance of culture in a new approach to managing the world’s cities. He said that the demographic, economic and political approaches of the urban environment must be complemented by a cultural dimension if the world was to succeed in meeting its goals in the new Millennium.

Over 40 delegates participated in the meeting which was also attended by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Convener of UNACLA.

The proposed agenda included consideration of the new rules of procedure for UNACLA, guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralisation (AGRED), a joint briefing by UN-HABITAT and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) on the plenary session on “local governments, partners for development”, scheduled for 17 September 2004. The agenda also included a similar briefing on the Cooperation Agreement between UCLG and UN-HABITAT to be signed 17 September, as well as a proposed international framework on access to basic services.

This crucial meeting of the committee was organized in conjunction with the Second World Urban Forum.

Responsive Local Governance: Positioning Women to Lead

The session was organised by the Huairou Commission, Cordaid and the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG). Presenters from eight countries shared their experiences in local governance including women's participation and the need to have women in local government. The grassroots women expressed their concern about gender mainstreaming as the main strategy for addressing grassroots issues. Some recommendations coming from the session include the need to look at the governance process itself and how to build structures to support the changes women make when they are in government positions. It was also suggested that there is a need to invest equally and provide support for both elected women and grassroots women in order to enhance the quality of women's

Global Partnership Initiative Focus: Youth and Employment

By Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, Facilitator

Expand rather than recycle job opportunities, enhance their knowledge and competence, make their education relevant to job opportunities because this is the way to sustain the interest of youth in employment and education schemes – these were some of the issues discussed at the first workshop under the umbrella of the UN-HABITAT Global Partnership Initiative.

More than 40 people participated in the “Youth and employment”. The panel consisting of Thabo Maisela of Xhosa-ATC from the Gauteng Council, Neville Chaine from The Ekurhuleni Metro Municipality, Anne Fitchett, lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, Kim Jawanda of Terra housing from Vancouver in Canada and Assistant Professor Lillian Larsen from the Akershus University College in Norway introduced the themes.

The workshop, sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted a number of relevant issues including training of life skills, technical and vocational skills, literacy and numeracy to improve to job mobility, skills portability and marketability. Ensuring that the educational system is continuously updated to offer youth relevant education was identified as an intrinsic strategy to sustain employment above and beyond projects that often lead to short term and time-bound employment. The team from South Africa highlighted the objectives of the Expanded Public Works Programme to enhance people's ability to enter the competitive job market with the enhanced skills.

Another programme mentioned was the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality Mayoral Special Programme, set up to re-integrate de-militarised youth into mainstream socio-economic activity through a vocational training programme related to sustainable community development. The strategy involved developing six-member teams of youth, with around 130 youths employed to build houses. Housing development projects have been initiated in 22 areas in and around Ekurhuleni, the fastest growing municipality in the Gauteng Province, of the city of Johannesburg. It is expected that the employment schemes will generate more than a million jobs over five years. Not a bad start for a youthful nation.

Networking and learning about other cultures

By Todd Hooper

Mireia Belil of the Forum Universal de las Culturas 2004 introduced Monday's 2nd Plenary Meeting by summarizing conclusions reached in previous dialogues. Ms. Belil cited the importance of architecture, education, and energy to the future of urban development.

Her query of the audience, “What are you looking for at the Barcelona World Forum,” showed diverse expectations. Some interests included; “To learn about other cultures”, “To learn about best practices in other countries”, and to see resources devoted to 3rd world development rather than weapons”.

Ms. Belil focused her response to these interests around the principle of the Three Pillars of the City - Sustainable Development, Conditions for Peace, and Cultural Diversity.

Guest speaker Jordi Borja of Urban Technology Consulting followed Ms. Belil by introducing his project “What Would You Like Your Future City To Be?” He argued that weakening the central state leads to an increase of power to urban leadership and as a result governments require good democratic participation within their territories. Mr. Borja conceded that there was no single city model and no consensus on how resources can be used to build cities.

There were also presentations by Margarita Gutman of the Universidad de Buenos Aires and New School University of New York, Gianni Longo of ACP-Visioning & Planning, and Mr. Borja himself with regards to the Buenos Aires 2050 Project. The project encompasses the hopes, expectations, and fears of the people for the future. “The future belongs to our present,” said Mrs. Gutman of the groundbreaking enterprise. This widespread urban round-table on city development included residents, artists, planners, and government officials in three cities: Buenos Aires, New York, and Barcelona.

The meeting closed with commentaries from Berardo Dujovne of the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Tom Angotti of Hunter College, City University of New York, Pietro Grau of the Programa Milenio, Naciones Unidas and Raquel Rolnik, Secretaria de Programas Urbanos, Ministerio das Cidades, Brasil. All four speakers agreed that there was an absence of vision and planning within the governments of today's cities. Planning is a vital part of development and must encompass not only cultural diversity, public and private sectors, and citizens, but also a future that addresses our needs today.

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 TILESAs can assist with this. Please contact TILESAs 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 in the basement of the Convention Centre. Please speak to the staff in the lobby at the information desk should you require access to the center.

Map of the Forum building

