

MR. PRIME MINISTER, VICE-PRESIDENTS, ANNA TIBAIJUKA, HONORABLE
MINISTERS, MAYORS, YOUR WORSHIPS, PLANNERS, ENGINEEERS,
BUSINESSMEN, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, YOUTH, REPRESENTATIVES OF
SLUM-DWELLERS, GLOBAL CITIZENS.

BIENVENUE AU CANADA.

WELCOME TO CANADA.

AS HOSTS TO THIS, THE THIRD WORLD URBAN FORUM, WE OFFER A VERY
SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS FROM UN-HABITAT.

ON BEHALF OF CANADA, I ALSO WANT TO OFFER A VERY SPECIAL
WELCOME TO THE HUNDREDS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND THOUSANDS OF
VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE MADE WUF3 POSSIBLE.

TODAY MARKS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST UN CONFERNCE ON
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS HELD IN VANCOUVER. THE 1976 CONFERENCE WAS
THE BIRTH PLACE OF UN-HABITAT. 1976 ALSO MARKS THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE HABITAT FORUM - A MASSIVE ENGAGEMENT OF
CIVIL SOCIETY THAT HAD A PROFOUND AFFECT ON THOUSANDS, AND ON
THEIR CITIES. AT THE HABITAT FORUM, CIVIL SOCIETY WAS GIVEN A

PLACE OF RESPECT. GEORGEIOUS CEDAR AMPHATHEATRES WERE BUILT BY THE YOUTH OF VANCOUVER. AND BY THE THOUSANDS, WE LISTENED AND LEARNED FROM GREAT INTELLECTUAL, SPIRITUAL AND ACTIVIST LEADERS OF THAT TIME. SOME DESCRIBED THIS AS THE WOODSTOCK FOR PLANNERS.

FOUR YEARS AGO, CANADA ASKED UN-HABITAT TO HOST WUF3. THIS IS THE FIRST WUF THAT IS A STAND ALONE EVENT FULLY HOSTED BY A NATION STATE. YOUR NEXT WUF4 WILL BE IN NANJING CHINA. PLEASE EXPERIENCE THIS AS BUT ONE STEP ON THE JOURNEY TO WORK TOGETHER ON THESE VITAL URBAN ISSUES.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK THE DEDICATED EFFORTS OF THE 17 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, AND THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES, THAT HAVE WORKED WITH OUR SECRETARIAT IN OTTAWA AND COORDINATED OUR HOST RESPONSIBILITIES WITH A DEDICATED TEAM IN NAIROBI AT UN-HABITAT.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP AND COURAGE OF ANNA TIBAIJUKA WHO HAS OPENED UP THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND SOUGHT THE ENGAGEMENT OF CITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY. LARS

REUTERSWARD AND THE TEAM AT UN-HABITAT HAVE BEEN TRUE PARTNERS, COLLEAGUES AND NOW GOOD FRIENDS.

THE VANCOUVER WORKING GROUP, AN ORGANIZATION OF OVER 50 ORGANIZATIONS (INCLUDING THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT, AND THE CITY OF VANCOUVER) HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR 2 YEARS TO COORDINATE THE RELATED PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS.

THANK YOU WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION AND THE GLOBE FOUNDATION.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO UBC, THEIR COMMITMENT TO BOTH WUF AND SUSTAINABLE ISSUES HAS BEEN SECOND TO NONE!

NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR THE EARTH FESTIVAL ON WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY. I INVITE ALL PARTICIPANTS TO MEET THE CITIZENS OF VANCOUVER AT THEIR CELEBRATION – THEY WANT TO MEET YOU.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE HUNDREDS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND ALMOST 40 THOUSAND PEOPLE FROM 158 COUNTRIES THAT MADE SUCH A

SUCCESS OF THE HABITAT JAM AS A PREPARATORY, ON-LINE DIALOGUE EVENT. WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK ON THIS.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO IBM FOR THEIR VISION, TECHNICAL PROWESS AND GLOBAL COMMITMENT OF EMPLOYEES.

IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE HUIROU COMMISSION, GRASSROOTS WOMEN, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, SLUM DWELLERS INTERNATIONAL AND OVER 400 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS.

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF PLANNING FOR THIS FORUM, A VERY WISE POLITICAL LEADER, MADAME SISULU, WHO WILL BE SPEAKING AT TOMORROW'S PLENARY, ADVISED ME, "IF IT IS ALL ABOUT EVERYTHING, THEN IT WILL BE ABOUT NOTHING!"

THIS CONFERENCE IS ALL ABOUT URBAN SUSTAINABILITY. THAT IS HOW WE APPLY THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY, AS OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TOOLS IN HOW WE MADE DECISION IN CITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

OUR THEMES AND SUBTHEMES REINFORCE THE MESSAGE THAT FOR ALL DECISIONS AT THE CITY LEVEL, WHETHER A SEWER, A ROAD OR A BUILDING, A PLAN MUST ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSION IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER. THAT IS THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE, THE METRIC, THE ESSENTIAL DECISION MAKING PARADIGM.

ALL OF THIS HAS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A FOUNDATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, CIVIL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS AND WITH THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY THE DECISIONS.

OUR MEASURE OF SUCCESS THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK IS THAT YOU RETURN HOME TO YOUR COMMUNITIES WITH AT LEAST ONE ACTIONABLE IDEA.

THIRTY YEARS AGO, JANE JACOBS, IN ONE OF THOSE JERICHO BEACH HANGERS SHARED WITH US TWO LESSONS. THE FIRST WAS THAT CITIES ARE ORGANIC. THEY GROW, THEY DECAY AND THEY ARE RENEWED AND REBORN. THE SECOND WAS A LESSON TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE, THAT THE CITIZENS MOST AFFECTED IN URBAN ISSUES MUST BE ENGAGED IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

TODAY THE NEED FOR ENGAGEMENT OF THE POOR, THE WOMEN AND YOUTH IN ADDRESSING THE URBANIZATION OF OUR PLANET COULD NOT BE GREATER.

IN THIRTY YEARS WE HAVE LEARNED THAT NOT ONLY IS THE CITY ORGANIC, BUT THAT THE PLANET IS AN ORGANIC WHOLE....THAT DECISIONS MADE IN SHANGHAI AND MUMBAI HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND, YES INDEED, SOCIAL IMPACTS AROUND THE WORLD.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER AS GLOBAL CITIZENS.

THIS IS YOUR FORUM.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO VANCOUVER. WORK HARD AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.