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Report of the third session of the World Urban Forum

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains the report of the third session of the World Urban Forum, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006.

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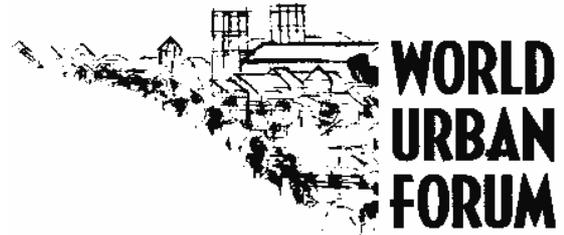
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Annex



UN-Habitat



**REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD
URBAN FORUM**

**VANCOUVER, CANADA
19–23 JUNE 2006**

Contents

	Page
Overview	5
Introduction	7
I. Opening of the Session	7
A. Opening ceremony	7
B. Opening plenary session	10
II. Organizational matters	12
A. Attendance	12
B. Adoption of the agenda	13
C. Establishment of an Advisory Group	13
D. Organization of work	14
III. Dialogues on “Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action” (plenary sessions)	14
A. Social inclusion and cohesion	14
B. Special UN-Habitat lecture and panel discussion	15
C. Partnership and finance	16
D. Urban growth and environment	17
IV. Dialogues on “Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action” (dialogue sessions)	18
A. Social inclusion and cohesion	18
1. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: slum upgrading and affordable housing	18
2. Public engagement: the inclusive approach	20
B. Partnership and finance	22
1. Municipal finance: innovation and collaboration	22
2. Urban safety and security – taking responsibility	25
C. Urban growth and environment	28
1. The shape of cities: urban planning and management	28
2. Energy: local action, global impact	30
V. Government and partner round-table sessions	32
A. Ministers’ round table – Vancouver +30: the changing role of cities and global sustainable development	32
B. Parliamentarians’ round table — human settlement legislation developments +30: good laws for a better Habitat	33
C. Private sector round table — business round table on corporate leadership for sustainable urbanization	34
D. Researchers’ round table – planning and managing sustainable cities: from research to practice	35
E. Women’s round table – empowering the Millennium Development Goals: grassroots women meet the challenge – women’s lives, women’s decisions	35
F. Non-governmental organizations’ round table – assets and struggles: 30 years after the Vancouver Habitat Forum – realizing the right to adequate housing, sustainable habitat and inclusive cities	37
G. Indigenous people and media round table – picturing ourselves: video as a tool for defining community	38
H. Universities’ round table – universities and urban sustainability: the Millennium City University	39
I. Youth round table: youth, leaders of today and tomorrow	39
J. Gendering land tools round table – Global Land Tool Network	40
K. Spirituality round table – bridging the gap: spirituality and sustainability in the urban context	41
L. Environment round table – strategic eco-innovation: integrating health and environment into sustainable urban practices	41

M.	Mayors' round table – local government at the crossroads: approaching the Millennium Development Goals through practical innovation and local action.....	42
VI.	Special sessions.....	43
A.	Dialogue on water, sanitation and human settlements	43
B.	The role of local governments: leadership in sustainability.....	45
C.	From Vancouver to Nanjing	47
D.	Future of cities	49
VII.	Networking events	50
VIII.	Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum.....	51
A.	Provisional agenda.....	51
B.	Dates and venue.....	51
IX	Presentation of the summary report of the Session.....	51
X.	Closure of the Session.....	51

Overview

With over 10,000 participants from 156 countries, the Third Session of the World Urban Forum paved the way for a new drive forward on the international urban agenda in a world of rapidly growing cities. Just as the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver in 1976 placed local community concerns on the international agenda and highlighted the critical importance of inclusiveness, the Forum in Vancouver, 30 years later, lived up to its promise of moving from ideas to action. It also symbolized inclusiveness, with balanced participation from the public, private and civil society sectors and, compared to previous sessions of the Forum, featured a notable increase in private sector participation.

The quest for innovative ideas and practical solutions – rare for a meeting convened by the United Nations – was underscored in the six dialogues, 13 roundtables and more than 160 networking events. Ministers, mayors, academics, community-based organizations, federations of non-governmental organizations and the private sector shared their insights and experiences on what would improve the quality of life in the world's growing cities. The inclusive approach followed at the Forum is a model for cities. Some are already following this model and others would benefit from doing so.

It was promising that the participants, in such large numbers and from all walks of society, began to converge on an outline for the way forward:

They agreed on the need for all urban players – citizens, local governments, state and provincial governments, national Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations – to work harder to solve urban problems and challenges. There was widespread agreement that they all must do their part, rather than simply transfer responsibility to others.

They agreed that risk-taking and the pursuit of innovation must characterize municipal leadership if cities were to achieve sustainable development. Vancouver's example in taking the lead in such areas as air and water quality, public transit and planning was mentioned often in this context.

They agreed that appropriate engagements, partnerships and relationships needed to be built in an inclusive manner to enable better understanding of challenges and the development of practical solutions. Participants from many parts of the world presented examples that could serve as guideposts for such solutions.

They agreed on the importance of transparency and accountability. They agreed that citizens needed to be informed of challenges and steps taken by governments to address them and that transparency went hand-in-hand with accountability, which sped up the process of enhancing actions that worked and curtailing those that did not work.

Highlights and emerging issues are summarized below.

Coming to terms with the Urban Age: A new message resonated from Vancouver: urban issues have become a major challenge of our time. The urban population of developing countries is set to double from 2 to 4 billion in the next 30 years. Ensuring that these people do not end up in slums requires the planning, financing and servicing of the equivalent of a new city of 1 million people every week during the same period. The investment required to plan for and provide decent shelter and basic services should be viewed as a major impetus for socio-economic development.

From exclusion to engagement: All partners showed a willingness to build effective coalitions to address the needs of the urban poor. The Forum witnessed a dramatic and fundamental shift in the willingness of Governments and local authorities to engage with all urban actors to improve the quality of life of people, their communities and cities. In several keynote addresses and in various dialogues, Government representatives showed a keen interest in being actively engaged with civil society organizations and their representatives and in supporting initiatives that improved their housing and access to basic services. Most Governments represented in Vancouver 2006 cited the need to engage with and support community initiatives to improve the living conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable groups and to improve the urban environment. This willingness to be engaged with all urban actors and to drive the process of urban renewal and poverty alleviation reflects a change in Government attitudes towards the need to move beyond participation to concepts such as inclusiveness, empowerment and active engagement with urban citizens.

Meeting the financing challenge of slum upgrading and sustainable infrastructure development. The Forum recognized the critical need for increased financial resources to attain the slum upgrading target of the Millennium Declaration. It further recognized that the challenge was to shift from relying on international development finance to tapping local capital markets. In this context, the Forum acknowledged the need for international donors to play a catalytic role in building the capacity and improving the credit-worthiness of cities, as well as the need to package such assistance with seed capital, as piloted by UN-Habitat's Slum Upgrading Facility, in line with paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 Millennium Summit Outcome, which calls for investments in pro-poor housing and urban infrastructure.

Re-inventing planning: applying new paradigms for sustainable urban development. The Forum placed a strong emphasis on planning as a tool for urban development and environmental management and as a means of preventing

future slum growth. This view was accepted not just by Government officials and urban planners themselves but also by civil society groups that wanted planning to be more inclusive, transparent and ethical. The Forum stressed the important role of planners as agents of change and underlined the importance of sustainability as the backbone of new forms of planning.

A number of observations were made at the Forum, some of which are described below:

“Beautiful speeches, awful reality” – The Millennium Development Goals are not having an impact on the ground in many countries. The commitments made by Governments at the Millennium Summit in 2000 and the adoption of national poverty reduction strategies in several countries have not necessarily resulted in improved living conditions among the urban poor. For instance, the increasing incidence of forced evictions goes against the Millennium Development Goals aimed at reducing poverty. Participants felt that there was still a wide discrepancy between what Governments said and what they did, and that that discrepancy needed to be addressed if the Millennium Development Goals were to be met in cities.

Converging approaches to sustainable urban development policies between developed and developing nations.

The traditional North-South divide was not evident at the 2006 Forum, as countries from both developed and developing countries seemed united in the view that sustainability – and its link to poverty – was a major challenge facing all cities. There was, however, recognition that each region faced particular challenges that were best addressed by a more systematic exchange of best practices and good urban policies among all stakeholders at the local, national and international levels.

Particular emphasis was placed on the needs of women, youth and people with disabilities. The Forum was marked by strong participation by women and youth. It was recognized that youth represented a large proportion of people living in cities and their participation in large numbers infused a welcome energy in the deliberations. Youth representatives encouraged participants at the Forum to adopt strategies bearing the specific needs of youth in mind and to engage youth in decisions affecting their lives. The Forum further recognized the ongoing investment and resource contribution of grassroots women to the sustainability of cities and communities.

The emerging reality of public-private partnerships. The Forum recognized that cities were largely the product of private investment. The strong presence of the private sector and its active participation in the Forum underscored their interest in engaging in the quest for sustainable cities.

The success of the third session of the World Urban Forum lay not just in what was discussed but in what was learned. Participants were keen to share ideas, network and forge new alliances through both formal and informal meetings with partners and viewed the Forum not as a place where declarations and plans of action were endorsed but where experiences were shared.

The way forward

The spirit and enthusiasm evinced at the Forum in formal sessions and in the interstices are difficult to capture in words. But it was very clear that every participant was committed to the basic theme of the Forum on turning ideas into action. Hundreds of actionable ideas were proposed, described and exchanged. No doubt they will provide the basis for renewed vigour and commitment to a sustainable urban development that is inclusive.

Guidelines and policies for decentralization and the empowerment of local authorities are required to enable them to engage civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in transforming their respective cities, as Vancouver did in the follow-up to the first Habitat Conference in 1976. All spheres of Government need to prioritize the urban agenda in their respective plans and policies. UN-Habitat will take the outcomes of the third session of the World Urban Forum to its Governing Council and, through it, to the United Nations General Assembly, with a call for a strengthened role of the United Nations system and international agencies in meeting the urban sustainability challenge.

Introduction

1. The World Urban Forum was organized and convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements, in which the Commission requested the Executive Director “to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda”.¹ Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/206, that the Forum would be a “non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet”. At the same session, the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 56/205, encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

2. The theme of the Third Session of World Urban Forum was “Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action”. Six dialogues on the three sub-themes, social inclusion and cohesion, partnership and finance and urban growth and environment were held. In addition, 13 round tables brought Habitat Agenda partners together in peer group sessions to share experiences and views on the Forum theme. Over 160 networking and training events were also held.

I. Opening of the Session

A. Opening ceremony

3. The Third Session of the World Urban Forum was opened by Mr. Charles Kelly, Commissioner General of the Third Session, Government of Canada, with a welcoming ceremony. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada. The message of Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was read on his behalf by Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The opening sessions were addressed by dignitaries and representative of key partners.

4. Mr. Kelly welcomed the representatives present for the Session, saying that the Government of Canada, the City of Vancouver and UN-Habitat had worked together for two years to prepare the Session, which marked the thirtieth anniversary of the first Habitat Conference, in Vancouver in 1976. The occasion also commemorated the significant engagement of civil society in the Forum, which had had a profound effect and had laid the foundations for the more sustainable development of cities. He expressed his gratitude to the 17 Canadian Government departments and agencies, the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia for making the Forum possible, and paid a tribute to Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, for opening up the decision-making process and seeking the engagement of cities and civil society.

5. He paid a tribute also to the hundreds of organizations which had participated in the Habitat Jam – a global internet discussion on urban sustainability held prior to the Third Session – and commended the grassroots women’s organization the Huairou Commission, youth organizations, Slum Dwellers International and over 400 partner organizations for their input.

6. He recalled the pioneering work of the late writer and thinker Jane Jacobs, who had described cities as organic for the way they grow, decay and rejuvenate. Thirty years on, the world had learned that the planet was also organic in that sense. In that connection, the need to engage the poor, women and young people in addressing the urbanization of our planet could not be greater.

7. Mr. Sam Sullivan, the Mayor of Vancouver, thanked the Prime Minister of Canada for giving recognition to the importance of cities by coming to address the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.

8. He informed the Session that the City of Vancouver had made concerted efforts to be sustainable, meaning that the city core was being managed so as to develop in a balanced manner that included residential, commercial and green spaces such as parks and pathways. The city’s strategy was to make the transportation system sustainable, with focus on public transport. As a result of that strategy, Vancouver was the only city in North America that did not have a freeway running through it

¹ The Habitat Agenda is to be found in *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

and where the number of people using non-motorized transport was increasing. In that connection, he expressed thanks to the former Mayor of Vancouver, Mr. Gordon Campbell, for initiating policies that made Vancouver one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world.

9. Nevertheless, despite good initiatives, many Canadian cities were sprawling; consequently, cities needed to decide whether they should continue to invest in conventional infrastructure or to develop “eco-structure” to make them greener and healthier. He gave as an example Vancouver’s own EcoDensity Initiative, which would engage citizens in the process of increasing housing densities as a way of reducing the city’s environmental impact and make home ownership more affordable. In conclusion, he expressed the view that the outcome of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum would be crucial to ensuring the health of the planet.

10. Mr. Gordon Campbell, Premier of the Province of British Columbia, Canada, and former Mayor of the City of Vancouver, said that the aim of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum was to turn ideas into action through people learning from one another to make cities human and healthy: it was essential to plan in such a way as to create cities in which people enjoyed living.

11. The task of the Third Session was to plant the seeds for sustainable, welcoming cities with clean air and clean water. Sustainable urbanization was deliverable, but it required people to see the world differently. Meeting the challenge, however, was not a just a matter of dialogue, but of follow-up in cities and countries around the world.

12. The pursuit of a more sustainable City of Vancouver was rooted in and defined by its geography and natural environment, including its mountains, the sea and rivers. He concluded by describing major initiatives relating to green space, public transit and sustainable development based on public consultation that had taken place in Vancouver over the last 30 years.

13. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, was read out by Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

14. In his message, the Secretary-General described the Third Session of the World Urban Forum as a historic occasion for the United Nations, marking the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of an agency dealing with where and how all people live. Cities, now home to half of humankind, were among the greatest users of natural resources and were major emitters of greenhouse gases. Over half the urban population in the developing world lived in slums, with little or no access to decent housing, clean water, basic sanitation, regular jobs or steady income. Such was the deprivation there that families were forced to choose between sending their children to school or to fetch water.

15. In an interdependent world, opportunity and deprivation were interlinked. Thus, the consequences of overconsumption and pollution, hunger and deprivation, and crime and insecurity, knew no borders. If not handled well, they could generate intolerance and migration, instability and extremism.

16. The Third Session of the World Urban Forum was well placed to address the challenges facing cities. Wishing the meeting success, the Secretary-General urged representatives to scale up efforts and make the urban world more just, equitable and sustainable for all its inhabitants.

17. Ms. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, called for representatives to observe a moment of silence for the late urbanist Jane Jacobs and the late Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri. Ms. Jacobs, whom she described as “the mother of inclusive cities”, had been an irrepressible champion of integrated urban communities, and Mr. Hariri had been awarded the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour at the Second Session of the World Urban Forum for his efforts in fostering the people-centred post-conflict reconstruction of Lebanon.

18. The period from 1950 to 2050 would, she said, be remembered by future generations as one that had led to the greatest social, cultural, economic and environmental transformation in history, that of the urbanization of humanity. She emphasized that the future of humanity was tied to the city and that the United Nations General Assembly, recognizing the complexity of cities, had decided to establish the World Urban Forum as a means of engaging and learning from all social actors to further the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

19. She noted that when the United Nations was born in 1945, environmental and urban problems were not on the development agenda; it had not been until the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 and the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, in

Vancouver in 1976, that key actors had come together to seek consensus on how to govern cities more effectively and to pursue policies to make cities more sustainable.

20. Despite impressive gains in raising awareness concerning urban issues, slums were growing at a rate that outpaced attempts to deal with them, and urban sprawl and overconsumption of energy had severely hindered efforts to make cities sustainable. Citing the late Deputy Secretary-General of the first Habitat I Conference, Mr. Duccio Turin, she noted that lack of political will had resulted in lack of support for proper urban planning and urban development institutions, especially in the area of housing and infrastructure finance. The failure of political will, she added, had also led to a failure to recognize that cities and the people who live and work in them are integral to national development.

21. Mrs. Tibajuka expressed the view that if the evolution of urban governance was to keep pace with the revolution of urbanization, politics must also become urbanized. Thus, new urban policies and new approaches to urban finance, tenure reform and participatory decision-making could place the city in the mainstream of national and international politics. The current process of United Nations reform, was evidence that States Members of the United Nations were eager to debate new approaches involving civil society and local authorities. If implemented in an open and inclusive manner, those approaches would offer political leaders at all levels bold strategies that would carry them and their constituents safely forward into an urbanized world.

22. In conclusion, she expressed her gratitude to the Government of Canada for hosting the Third Session of the World Urban Forum and for extending its hospitality to all participants.

23. Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, welcomed all participants to the Forum and informed them that Canadian cities were attracting more migrants in quest of better economic opportunities. In that connection, he expressed the view that rural-urban migration, which had been taking place in the developed world for two centuries, was the most important and irreversible trend of the times. He recalled the words of the late Canadian urban visionary, Jane Jacobs, who had said that creative workable cities had always been at the core of human success.

24. He noted that the *Economist* magazine had named Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary among the top 10 major cities in the world, with Vancouver ranking first; healthy neighbourhoods and healthy families constituted the foundations of healthy cities with voluntary, neighbourhood-based groups at the core of their political organization. Fair taxes, the responsible exercise of personal freedom and a commitment to community and volunteerism were modest prices to pay for a country and cities that worked. Like all countries, Canada had its challenges and struggled with issues such as drug abuse, family breakdown, homelessness, poverty and crime, problems for which there were no quick fixes. Failed neighbourhoods were like failed States: breeding grounds for crime and violence. He pointed to the roles of various levels of government in Canada, and the contribution of the Government of Canada itself, in energizing cities, including the Government's commitment to dealing with fiscal imbalance, which was constraining provincial and city financing.

25. The most serious challenge in the modern world was, however, the threat of terrorism. Although Canada had so far been spared the horrors visited on New York, Madrid and London, some had expressed the view that Canada's open and culturally diverse society made it more vulnerable to a terrorist attack. He stressed that, to the contrary, Canada's diversity, properly nurtured, was its great strength. The commitment to diversity had avoided the formation of ghettos, the bane of urban existence in so many other places. Canada would ensure that terrorism found no comfort in its territory by preserving and strengthening its cultural diversity.

26. Mr. Noli de Castro, Vice-President of the Philippines and Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said that the theme for that Session of the World Urban Forum, "Sustainable Cities: Turning Ideas into Action", reflected the important role that cities played as agents of local development. The Forum offered a real opportunity to bring the fight against poverty to the local level, the ground zero of development, where poverty was felt and seen.

27. Most of the world's population growth in the twenty-first century would occur in cities of the developing world, and the coming decade would also see an increase in the urbanization of poverty: nearly 1 billion people living in cities would remain poor if current trends continued. If the world's nations were united, however, they could prevent a further decline in the living conditions of the urban poor.

28. The Philippines was, he said, committed to waging a battle against urban poverty. In 2002, the Government had launched campaigns on secure tenure and good urban governance. Those campaigns and the Millennium Development Goals and targets, especially target 11, achieving significant

improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, were now fully mainstreamed in the national and local development plans.

29. Mr. Mohamed Shein, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania, commended the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for transforming the World Urban Forum into a formidable movement which was gaining momentum with each session, drawing in more and more people from every walk of life in pursuit of the noble objective of sustainable urban settlements.

30. Emphasizing that he was addressing the Forum from the perspective of the developing world, especially Africa, he said that the outcome of the Forum would be important for improving the lives of millions of poor people living in urban areas. Given the colonial roots of urban centres in many developing countries, ways had to be found to make human settlements organic and dynamic parts of the national landscape and development. The experience in the developing world showed that sustainable urbanization must look at rural and urban as parts of an interconnected system.

31. Millennium Declaration² target 11, seeking to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, represented only one tenth of the projected slum population in that year. A situation in which 72 per cent of the population lived in slums needed urgent remedial measures. He highlighted the critical importance of increased financial resources in meeting the Millennium Declaration target on slums, as well as preventing the formation of new slums through the provision of affordable housing and related infrastructure, as emphasized in paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³ which called for the capitalization of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility; in that connection, he called for a greater allocation of resources and a strengthening of the role of UN-Habitat in meeting the slum upgrading target and in preventing new slums.

32. He recalled in conclusion that at their Summit in 2003, African Heads of State and Government had adopted a decision to promote and prioritize the development of sustainable cities and towns, as a result of which the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) had been established, with a commitment to work with similar organs in other developing regions.

B. Opening plenary session

33. The session was chaired jointly by Ms. María Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing, Government of Spain and Chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, and Ms. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada, Chair of the Third Session.

34. Ms. Trujillo said that the World Urban Forum constituted a global initiative aimed at facing the challenges of the new millennium and allowed participants to share new ideas and experiences. She urged participants to go beyond statements and move to action on housing and urban development issues. In Spain, the Ministry of Housing was facilitating low-income people's access to housing by reforming its laws to enable production of more affordable housing. The Government was also supporting UN-Habitat and the Ibero-American Forum on Best Practices: the identification and dissemination of best practices and their transfer was an effective means of turning good ideas into action. The Government of Spain had also committed €500,000 to support women in sub-Saharan Africa, in line with the efforts of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to improve the lives of women in the region.

35. Ms. Finley noted that 30 years after the first Habitat Conference had been held in Vancouver, it was appropriate that the same city was the venue for assessing progress made in responding to the challenges of urbanization. Over the past 30 years, Canada had been successful in responding to the challenges of urbanization; as a result, Canadian cities were recognized worldwide as some of the best in which to live, work and invest. Canada's population was relatively small but the country was highly urbanized, with nearly 80 per cent of the country's population living in urban areas.

36. Maintaining the role of big cities as engines of growth and keeping them liveable was a major challenge facing the world. Providing cities with stable and predictable funding, reinvesting in urban infrastructure, ensuring air and water quality, tackling crime and improving access to affordable housing were key priorities of the Government of Canada.

37. Mr. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of the United States of America, said that the mission of his Department was to increase

² General Assembly 55/2.

³ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

home ownership free from discrimination, to support community development and to increase people's access to affordable housing. Over 70 per cent of the population of the United States already owned their own homes, and as Secretary it was his job to reach the 30 per cent of Americans who did not.

38. President Bush believed that home ownership was the key to wealth accumulation and financial independence, as it led to greater freedom and optimism and created stronger, healthier communities. Home owners not only enjoyed economic benefits but social benefits as well. Studies had shown that home owners were more engaged in their communities and that their children did better at reading and mathematics than children of tenants. They were also more likely to graduate from high school.

39. Housing was a key to economic growth, and the housing market made up nearly a quarter of United States gross domestic product (GDP) in 2005; the housing industry had created over 5 million jobs, and both President Bush and he himself were committed to providing greater opportunities for housing and home ownership.

40. Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, said that the people of India eagerly looked forward to the outcome of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. Reforms initiated by the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi from 1985 to 1990 had promoted the systematic empowerment of local governments, and new initiatives in the financial management of state and local governments were emerging in a gradual and systematic manner, complete with a scientific and performance-based system of funding allocation to city governments through finance commissions.

41. In the last two decades, India's private sector had gradually emerged as a partner in providing municipal waste management, water delivery, community services and road transport. Citing various examples, she said that the Government was encouraging cities to take up poverty alleviation and slum improvement in a systematic and inclusive manner.

42. Cities not only must ensure local economic development but also had to serve as service centres for their rural hinterlands. It was therefore essential to recognize and understand the role of cities for the development of sustainable human settlements. India would work hard with the international community in promoting the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

43. Mr. Naokazu Takemoto, Secretary-General of the Japan Parliamentarians on Habitat and Deputy Chairman of the Asia Regional Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, thanked the Government of Canada for hosting the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, which would provide a good opportunity to review progress and harness global partnerships for development, especially in housing and urban development.

44. The problems of urban slums were getting worse despite efforts to curb them. Citing the alarming projections that the number of slum dwellers would grow from 1 billion in 2006 to 3 billion by 2050, he said that swift and urgent action was needed to create secure, safe, environmentally friendly and sustainable cities. Efforts must be redoubled if the world was to attain the Millennium Declaration slum upgrading target.

45. The Japanese Government considered human security a pillar of its foreign policy. Noting that Mr. Keizo Takemi of Japan was a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, he said Japan appreciated that effort to make United Nations operational activities more efficient and effective so that the United Nations system, including UN-Habitat, could respond to the complex and diverse problems confronting the modern world.

46. He recalled that Japan had provided funding to various UN-Habitat projects for people in war-torn countries and those recovering from natural disasters. In Iraq, for example, Japan had granted aid through UN-Habitat for schools and other infrastructure. In Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Japan had supported the victims of the tsunami and the earthquake. Japan, which had provided financial contributions to UN-Habitat amounting to \$54 million since the Second Session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona in 2004, would continue its support.

47. Mr. Smangaliso Mkhathswa, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), South Africa, said that UCLG was currently present in over 120 countries around the world with members in over 1,000 cities representing half the world's population. It therefore had the capacity to bring a new revolution for peace, and social and cultural reforms. Support from the international community was required, however, to transform that capacity into meaningful action on the ground.

48. Central governments were simply not close enough to the citizenry at large, and UCLG had therefore been working to adopt new guidelines for decentralization. Decisions had to be taken by the level of government closest to the people in cities and towns. The United Nations should stimulate and build ties with local authorities on the ways and means to implement the Millennium Development Goals. For that to happen, the citizens themselves needed to be involved in change so that local communities could be “micro-players” at the “macro level”, but it must also go hand in hand with financing.

49. Mr. Enrique Ortiz, Habitat International Coalition, noted that the first Habitat Conference had been not only a vibrant and creative encounter, it had also constituted a significant milestone in raising global awareness of human settlements problems in both urban and rural areas, and of the strategies to address them. The Vancouver Declaration recognized that housing and adequate services constituted a basic human right which imposed on governments the obligation to assure their obtainment by all inhabitants.

50. The dream of providing adequate housing for all by 2000 had been frustrated by the imposition of policies that viewed housing as a commodity rather than as a right, policies which made the city the sphere of financial and real-estate speculation. Such policies had led to the prioritization of housing markets and the privatization of basic services. The result had been growing numbers of homeless and inadequately housed people

51. The Millennium Development Goals’ target of reducing the number of slum dwellers by at least 100 million was insufficient as it addressed only a tenth of the slum population, which was set to grow over the next 15 years. Intervention was required by governments at the highest possible level to facilitate the participation of organized civil society groups. The contribution of UN-Habitat was important in recognizing and disseminating best practices; in that connection, there was a need to reward good policies.

II. Organizational matters

A. Attendance

52. The Third Session of the World Urban Forum was held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006. A total of 10,471 people registered for the Forum, excluding over 1,800 support staff and volunteers. The gender ratio of participants was 45.7 per cent female to 50.1 per cent male (the remainder did not specify their sex). The table below outlines the types of participants based on the affiliation indicated at the time of registration on site.

Participants by partner category	Attendance at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum		Attendance at the Second Session of the World Urban Forum	
	Number	%	Number	%
Governments	1,540	14.7	446	17.8
Parliamentarians	63	0.6	27	1.1
Local authorities	1,611	15.4	414	16.4
Non-governmental organizations	2,450	23.4	535	21.2
Private sector	1,356	13.0	203	8.0
Professional and research institutions	1,553	14.8	201	8.0
Foundations	102	1.0	33	1.3
Media	388	3.7	51	2.0
Intergovernmental organizations	108	1.0		
United Nations	434	4.1	196	7.7
Other participants	793	7.6	416	16.5
Canada secretariat	73	0.7		
No affiliation indicated			1,867	
Total number of participants	10,471	100.0	4,389	100.0

53. The list of participants is contained in document HSP/WUF/3/INF/9.⁴

B. Adoption of the agenda

54. At its first plenary session, the Forum adopted the following agenda for its Third Session.
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Establishment of an Advisory Group for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.
 3. Organization of work.
 4. Government and partner round-table sessions.
 5. Dialogues on “Sustainable Cities – Turning ideas into action”:

Session I: Social inclusion and cohesion

- (a) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: slum upgrading and affordable housing;
- (b) Public engagement: the inclusive approach;

Session II: Partnership and finance

- (c) Municipal finance: innovation and collaboration;
- (d) Urban safety and security: taking responsibility;

Session III: Urban growth and environment

- (a) The shape of cities: urban planning and management;
 - (b) Energy: local action, global impact.
6. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum.
 7. Presentation of the summary report of the Session.
 8. Closure of the Session.

C. Establishment of an Advisory Group

55. The Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, Ms. Finley, at the request of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, announced the names of the members of the Advisory Group for the Third Session. The terms of reference of the Advisory Group were to advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of all the meetings and events which took place during the Third Session of the Forum. The members of the Advisory Group were as follows.

Ms. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada, who served as Chair of both the Third Session of the World Urban Forum and of the Advisory Group.

Mr. Munir Sheikh, Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada, also acted as alternate Chair at Ms. Finley’s request.

Mr. John P. Magufuli, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, served as Co-Chair of both the Third Session of the Forum and of the Advisory Group.

Mr. Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, Government of China.

Mr. Shannon H. Sorzano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America.

Mr. Gil Elorduy, Senator, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Mexico.

Mr. Allan Lloyd, Founding President of United Cities and Local Governments, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Alejandro Florian Borbon, representing the Habitat International Coalition, Colombia.

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Available through www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=41.

Ms. Esther Mwaura-Muiru, GROOTS Kenya, representing the Huairou Commission and Women at WUF.

Mr. Alexander P. Farvorsky, Chief, Design Department, ARCHITEK (Moscow), Russian Federation.

Ms. Rachel Wariko, Kenya National Council for Youth for Habitat, Kenya.

D. Organization of work

56. The Forum adopted the organization of work as proposed by the Executive Director in document HSP/WUF/3/Add.1, which set forth the logistical arrangements for the dialogues, and documents HSP/WUF/3/INF/1 and HSP/WUF/3/INF/2, which gave the conference programme and the schedule of training and networking events.

III. Dialogues on “Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action” (plenary sessions)

A. Social inclusion and cohesion

57. The plenary session on social inclusion and cohesion was moderated by Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of Global Water Partnership, Canada. The session discussed key challenges related to marginalization, social exclusion and urban poverty facing cities. The plenary session was addressed by Mr. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Government of the United States of America; Mr. Jockin Arputham, founder and President, National Slum Dwellers Federation of India; and Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, Government of South Africa.

58. Ms. Catley-Carlson opened the plenary session by emphasizing that poverty and social exclusion were interlinked and that one often led to the other.

59. Mr. Jackson highlighted the importance of home ownership as a means to make the world's cities stronger, safer and more prosperous. The mission of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development was to increase home ownership as currently some 30 per cent of the American population did not live in their own homes. Many of those people were from groups that had been discriminated against in the past.

60. The Department was working hard to ensure that Americans were aware of the benefits of home ownership and his job under the Bush administration was to promote an “ownership society”, especially among low- and middle-income minorities. The United States had also dedicated the month of June as Home Ownership Month.

61. Recalling that the housing market had made up nearly a quarter of United States GDP in 2005, he said that for every home built, 3.5 jobs were created. In the United States, the private sector played the major role in the growth of the housing market and the national economy.

62. The lesson which other countries could learn from the experience of the United States was that the achievement of decent, safe and sanitary housing for low- and middle-income families required the joint efforts of both the public and private sectors because the level of investment required to meet the enormous demand for housing, particularly in urban areas, was beyond the scope of donors and governments. In recognition of that fact, the Government of the United States had awarded over \$1 billion to faith-based and community groups to help combat homelessness, which was becoming a chronic problem.

63. Both President Bush and he himself were committed to partnering with government officials to create greater opportunities for people in other countries to improve their housing. He warned, however, that while his country was willing to help, the initiative to bring about change had to come from countries themselves.

64. Mr. Jockin Arputham, founder of the National Slum Dwellers' Federation of India, thanked the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, for allowing slum dwellers like him to participate in the World Urban Forum: some 35 slum dwellers and two pavement dwellers were among the participants at the Forum.

65. Many conferences had been held to address the problem of slums, but few had resulted in tangible changes in the lives of slum dwellers. He challenged delegates to let slum dwellers take control of their own lives instead of just talking about their problems at conferences and seminars. Slum

dwellers needed to take development into their own hands by getting organized and coming up with their own housing solutions, as they were closest to the problem.

66. For many years the United Nations and national governments had paid mere lip service to the plight of slum dwellers and had not pledged sufficient funds to improve their lives. Every year, millions of people in Asia and Africa were evicted from their homes, but UN-Habitat and other international organizations were unable to prevent evictions and intervened only after the evictions had taken place.

67. He urged governments to follow the example of the Government of South Africa, which had allocated 235 million rand to Shack Dwellers International to enable the urban poor to build their own homes, and was working closely with organized groups of the urban poor to come up with housing solutions.

68. Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, Government of South Africa, said that in order to understand social exclusion fully, it was necessary to bring poverty, urban poverty in particular, back into the centre of discussions on development. She noted that the international community currently devoted only between 2 to 12 per cent of donor funding to urban areas, as the bulk of assistance was still focused on rural areas. Referring to the High Level Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (HLCLEP), she added that exclusion worsened the plight of the poor, as they lacked access to services that directly affected their economic wellbeing.

69. Just as the world had united in the fight against Nazism during the Second World War, it must now unite against the common scourge of poverty. Urbanization had thrown up new challenges as the urbanization of poverty was escalating. Nothing defined the reality of the urban poor more starkly than their living conditions; people living in shacks not only lacked services but also suffered from high levels of unemployment, illiteracy and ill health.

70. South Africa's experience had shown that the inclusion of the communities involved was essential. Shack Dwellers International and other organizations therefore needed government support. That support could be in the form of meeting the efforts of community-based savings and loans schemes half way. African governments at the inaugural meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in South Africa in February 2005 had indeed committed themselves to paying more attention to housing because housing lay at the core of urban poverty. Quoting the Holocaust survivor and Nobel peace laureate, Elie Wiesel, she warned that indifference to the plight of the poor was tantamount to a crime.

71. To halt the growing urbanization of poverty, African countries needed to ensure that all socio-economic programmes and activities were focused on meeting the basic survival needs of the most deprived groups and that resources were restructured in order to address the challenge. In addition, greater collaboration between national and local governments and inclusion of civil society in local decision-making were required.

B. Special UN-Habitat lecture and panel discussion

72. The United Nations Human Settlements Lecture Series seeks to recognize outstanding and sustained contributions to research, thinking and practice in the field of human settlements. The first UN-Habitat lecture, on "Wealth of Cities: Towards an Assets-Based Development of Urbanizing Regions", was delivered by Professor John Friedmann, Honorary Professor, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Canada and winner of the 2006 UN-Habitat Lecture Award.

73. The session was chaired by Professor Richard Stren, Chair, Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net) and Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Canada. The panellists were Professor Carole Rakodi, International Development Department, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom; Professor Om Prakash Mathur, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, India; and Dr. Peter Ngau, Chairman, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

74. Mrs. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, briefly explained the rationale and criteria of the UN-Habitat Lecture Award, which she presented to Professor John Friedmann, the first winner. In doing so, she cited Professor Friedmann's significant and sustained contribution to research, thinking and practice in human settlements over a period of 30 years. She then invited Professor Friedmann to deliver the 2006 UN-Habitat Human Settlements Lecture.

75. Professor Friedmann highlighted three key arguments. First, he emphasized the fluidity and gradual meltdown of spatial boundaries between cities and their surrounding regions as well as the

organic relationship across these spaces. He proposed the notion of “city-region” as a more appropriate framework within which to examine the growth and development of cities. Second, he critically examined the assumption that exports and external investments are the driving forces of growth in cities of developing countries. Rather, he proposed as an alternative strategy to drive the sustainable development of cities: endogenous development, i.e., a greater reliance on local assets and generation of local savings, complemented by international aid and private investment. He elaborated the notion of endogenous development in relation to seven types of asset – human, social, cultural, intellectual, natural, environmental and urban – which cities should invest in and draw upon to foster sustainable development. Such investment might in turn generate inward foreign investment in the long term. Third, he advocated the need for a strong and visionary leadership to spearhead endogenous development with the backing of city populations. In conclusion, he suggested a number of strategies to enhance urban planning: priority for public investments; cross-sectoral interventions; and consensus-building and dialogue between multiple stakeholders.

76. Comments by the panellists highlighted the need to examine the effects of political processes on the endogenous development of city-regions, including the different interests that often characterize civil-society groups. The reasons for the decline and revival of cities also needed to be understood. The role of the main factors of production in stimulating the development of city-regions, i.e., capital, labour, land and information, was also highlighted. It was further emphasized that the role of the State in the endogenous development of city-regions needed to be reappraised, given the dominance of the neoliberal development paradigm and the powerful forces of globalization. It was emphasized that the endogenous development model should not be seen in isolation and that it could work alongside other development models, including, where appropriate, foreign investment and export-led development.

77. In the ensuing open discussion, a number of issues were raised, including the temporal relationship between the seven different assets highlighted in Professor Friedmann’s lecture. It was emphasized that the endogenous development model was more a vision of the sustainable development of city-regions that was expected to progress into the realm of practice. Other issues discussed included the importance of public space in local community development, the difficulty of determining an optimal size for municipal authorities, the importance of addressing the shelter needs of slum dwellers, and also the property rights and rights in general of women in the process of endogenous development. The importance of building the financial capital assets of poor urban households was also highlighted, as was the need to reverse the brain drain that characterized many urbanizing regions of developing countries. In that respect, it was emphasized that the economic and political democracy gains recently achieved in some developing countries held the promise of reversing brain drain. The challenge of preserving local assets was also emphasized.

C. Partnership and finance

78. The plenary session was moderated by Ms. Katherine Sierra, Vice-President and Head of Network for Infrastructure, World Bank, who warned that such were global population growth trends that the world would require the planning, financing and servicing facilities for a new city of a million people every week for the next 30 years. Also, poverty was becoming an urban phenomenon and cities must become inclusive places that provided welfare, markets for agricultural output, a good business environment, efficient transport, property rights and functioning urban land markets, water and sanitation, which were all public goods. It was to be borne in mind also that cities consumed 75 per cent of the world’s resources and generated 70 per cent of greenhouse gas pollution. Good governance, together with decentralization, were core requisites of development, and consequently the World Bank was promoting them.

79. Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Pashtun, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Afghanistan, said that after 25 years of war, Afghanistan’s cities had been destroyed, many of them literally flattened on a scale unimaginable to people outside the country. He characterized the country’s urban landscape as being in a severe state of post-conflict breakdown: over 70 per cent of all urban infrastructure had been totally destroyed, with the remaining 30 per cent in poor condition. At the same time, between 1978 and 2002 the urban population had grown from 1.5 million to over 5 million. Also, a further 5 million refugees had returned, and together with internally displaced people now streaming back to towns and cities, the country was experiencing a 5 per cent annual urban growth rate. Afghanistan was further beset by rapid rural-to-urban migration, the absence of effective land management policies, and acute shortages of technical and human capacities at the planning and municipal levels. He outlined the urban renewal plan devised at a meeting in 2002 of 150 international experts that two years later had formed the basis of the first National Urban Programme in Afghanistan.

80. The key challenges of Afghanistan's urban development crisis were rapid urbanization, land security and management, a huge national housing deficit, an acute shortage of technical human resources, weak municipal revenue collection, and very slow urban infrastructure growth. The latter had led to the spread of new slums and informal settlements.

81. A large delegation from the Government of Afghanistan was present at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, as had been the case in Barcelona in 2004: that presence signalled that Afghanistan had returned to the international fold, and that the country needed partnerships for development to get the National Urban Programme under way urgently. Thanking UN-Habitat, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union and India, among others, for their support, he warned that Afghans still had an average life expectancy of just 43 years, that traditions still denied women their full potential, that warlords and drug traders remained a threat and that the country's democratic structures were desperately weak. The urban crisis, however, should be seen by Afghanistan's political and business partners as an opportunity for national and international investment, as Afghanistan possessed a reservoir of cheap skilled and unskilled labour. Afghanistan had affordable local construction materials, and a place where investments and new partnerships would generate job opportunities for millions of people. Despite its problems, Afghanistan was gradually becoming more secure: indeed, Kabul was a city in better shape than depicted by the international media, and he invited participants to come and visit it.

82. Ms. Pat Jacobsen, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (TransLink), Canada, explained how Vancouver used partnerships to mobilize funding to improve the infrastructure of that modern Pacific gateway city. She gave the example of a new \$5 million rail service to link Vancouver with its neighbouring American city of Seattle to the south, for which partnerships were being used to help find the funding.

83. In the 1960s and 1970s, the City of Vancouver had been funding its public transport system from the public sector. In 2006, over 70 per cent of that funding was coming from user fees and fuel taxes. A new bridge being planned for the city would be funded from toll fees. \$1.2 billion Canadian of private-sector capital had been used to build new infrastructure, and consequently TransLink had an obligation to involve its stakeholders in planning city transport.

84. In changing the way public transport infrastructure was funded, the main problems included the fact that public officials were not used to working with the private sector, that they often lacked sufficient skills and that both sides had different perceptions of each other. Nevertheless, the benefits of those new partnerships had paid off enormously, and their biggest supporters were their stakeholders: the users of the public transport system.

85. Mr. Robert Williams, Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, said that new partnerships were not an option for his city but rather a requirement in a globalizing world. Policies made in faraway places such as Washington D.C. on terrorism, or on global warming, had financial costs and implications for small countries such as Guyana. New partnerships simply had to be formed to manage cities better because governments and municipalities no longer had the capacity or the means to cope with increasing crime and other problems.

86. Partnerships were key to moving to action on implementing new systems that enabled municipalities to develop the services people expected of them. Local authorities were the true representatives of the people, and it was the people who had to be the real partners of municipalities. Urban safety and security could be ensured only through such partnerships: the way to move forward lay in genuine partnerships between stakeholders.

D. Urban growth and environment

87. The session was moderated by Mr. Chris Leach, President of the Canadian Institute of Planners. The session was addressed by two keynote speakers, Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, and Mr. Enrique Peñalosa, a former Mayor of Bogotá, now serving as a Visiting Scholar at New York University. Both made impassioned speeches calling for more engagement at all levels to make cities more liveable, places where everyone felt safe and where citizens enjoyed human and civil rights.

88. Mr. Leach recalled that the World Planners' Congress in Vancouver on 20 June 2006 had produced a declaration signed by 17 associations from both developed and developing countries. That declaration had laid the groundwork for a new Global Planners' Network to confront the problems of rapid urbanization, the urbanization of poverty and the hazards of climate change and natural disasters.

89. The Canadian Institute of Planners was committed to combining its expertise with the excellent work already being undertaken by its global partners, and the global planning community was committed to taking action to address the problem of the sustainability of human settlements.

90. Ms. Herfkens urged participants to use the Millennium Development Goals as a guide to local planning and research, particularly with regard to urban environmental sustainability. She expressed the view that some might find her remarks provocative because she did not like the phrasing of the agenda on how sound planning and management would become a major factor in ensuring sustainable urban development. In that view she said she agreed with Mr. Klaus Töpfer, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who had always maintained that poverty itself was the biggest polluter. Consequently, pro-poor sustainable growth was required that involved the poor in urban planning: the urban poor should not be viewed as “client targets”, a view that was enshrined in the eight Millennium Development Goals forged in the consensus of world leaders signatory to the Millennium Declaration.

91. UN-Habitat and UCLG had produced a guide to help local and national governments meet the Millennium Development Goals. In that connection, she had been delighted to learn that the Mayor of Montréal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay, had personally undertaken a campaign to publicize the Goals: investing in achieving the Goals was investment in the future, and the current generation was the first with the resources and the knowledge to end poverty.

92. Mr. Peñalosa said that projections showed that the world’s urban population would grow by over 2 billion in the next 30 years, the equivalent of one city the size of Vancouver every week. The world must create an urban environment conducive to human happiness: a major point of principle, one of relevance to the whole world, was that much could be done to make cities more equitable by using existing physical resources, especially road space, for the benefit of the whole community. Doing so did not require large external resource inputs to yield major benefits for cities.

93. Consequently, it was important to keep cities green with parks, cycle ways and better public transport to minimize car use. Human beings needed space, as did animals in their own environments, to realize their full potential. They had a right to green, safe city spaces. Infrastructure in cities could be redistributed so that the rider of a \$30 bicycle, for example, was able to have the same space and respect as the driver of a \$30,000 car. In short, cities should be places where the public good prevailed over private interests. If cars were banned during peak hours – such restrictions had indeed been introduced in Bogotá – most people would be better off. Sidewalks and public parks were the minimum cities must provide for their poor, indeed they were a right. The car restrictions in Bogotá had been voted on in a referendum, and new cycle lanes had been built throughout the city, and a rapid bus transit system had been introduced. Considerable resources for the city had been freed by those changes, all of them small steps leading to large change and a greener, healthier lifestyle.

94. He concluded by saying that he wanted the Third Session of the Forum in Vancouver in 2006 to know that in 1976 he had accompanied his father, Mr. Enrique Peñalosa, who served as Secretary-General of the first Habitat Conference. That Conference had inspired him to take home to Bogotá many of the ideas he had picked up there and been able to implement years later.

IV. Dialogues on “Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action” (dialogue sessions)

A. Social inclusion and cohesion

1. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: slum upgrading and affordable housing

95. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Jacques Bensimon, Government Film Commissioner of the National Film Board of Canada. The panellists were Mr. Noli de Castro; Mr. Jockin Arputham; Mr. Miloon Kothari, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing; Ms. Luz María Sanchez Hurtado, Director, NGO Estrategía, Lima and member of the Huairou Commission, Latin America; Ms. Clarissa Augustinus, Chief, Land and Tenure Section, UN-Habitat; Ms. Rose Molokoane, Chair, South African Homeless People’s Federation, Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI); Mr. Arif Hassan, Chair, Urban Resource Centre, Karachi and Asian Coalition for Housing Rights; Mr. Jerry Trenas, Mayor, Metro Iloilo, the Philippines; Mr. Elioterio Codato, World Bank, Urban Unit, Transport and Urban Development Department, Washington D.C.; Mr. Alfredo Stein, former Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) consultant and advisor to the Local

Development Programme, Nicaragua; and Mr. David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development, London.

96. The objective of the dialogue was to debate the commitments made by the international community and national governments and engaging in urgent policy changes as a foundation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7, target 11, on slums. The dialogue also addressed challenges and opportunities for expediting the implementation of the Goals. The major issues discussed were the need to promote the role of local authorities, the provision of security of tenure and access to affordable land, the provision of funds to developing countries for slum upgrading and urban development programmes, the need to empower the urban poor and the promotion of an inclusive approach.

97. Mr. Bensimon introduced the debate with a nine-minute excerpt from the film “On Borrowed Land”, a documentary produced in 1990 showing the struggle of the residents of “Reclamation”, a 50,000-strong squatter community in Manila, for their “right to the city”. The film showed the plight of the urban poor, who were permanently subjected to the threat of forced evictions, and highlighted the need for them to organize to resist adverse actions and the lack of funding to enable them to upgrade their neighbourhoods.

98. The first segment addressed the issue of security of tenure and land. Mr. Noli de Castro, Vice-President of the Philippines, provided an update on the situation in the Philippines 16 years after the film had been made. He emphasized that some conditions of the poor had improved since the film had been shot; nevertheless, poverty statistics had not improved in absolute terms, as the number of poor people continued to rise. The twin UN-Habitat campaigns on security of tenure and urban governance had, however, had a positive impact in the Philippines: urban development programmes were now people-centred to ensure security of tenure. In that connection, he cited the North-South Railway project, which had involved the relocation of 80,000 families. The Government had also introduced innovative financing schemes through a Community Mortgage Programme and made land available for relocation through presidential proclamations. As a result, 250,000 families had had their tenure regularized.

99. Mr. Arputham spoke about the approach taken by his organization, Slum Dwellers International, in dealing with the issue, the success it had achieved and how governments could learn from its approach. He highlighted the role of women in savings schemes, their ability to identify available land and to request government to provide land for providing shelter for the poor. He emphasized that the community sets its goals for today and not for the future.

100. Mr. Kothari provided a “reality check” on the development of United Nations human rights during the last three decades. He emphasized that land grabbing, forced evictions and homelessness were on the rise. On the subject of forced evictions, he stressed that in developing, as well as in many developed, countries there was hardly any consultation with the communities concerned, no alternatives to eviction were provided and no human rights impact assessment was undertaken. Furthermore, women suffered disproportionately from forced evictions, and forced evictions were making a mockery of the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda. He called on governments to pledge to stop forced evictions.

101. During the ensuing debate it was urged that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be adopted by all States, and there was a consensus that governments must recognize and implement their commitments with respect to the right to adequate housing. The Special Rapporteur noted that not enough was being done, and that there was a culture of silence regarding the situation of women. He urged the international community and national governments to acknowledge the scale of the problem.

102. Participants stressed the need to devolve resources to local authorities so that they could provide access to secure land tenure and housing. It was noted that relocations should be voluntary, and that security of tenure should be provided at relocation sites.

103. The second segment highlighted the necessary empowerment of the urban poor to create appropriate conditions for participatory processes. Ms. Molokoane elaborated on the success which her organization had had with officials of local and national authorities in South Africa in addressing the issue of slum upgrading. Mr. Stein highlighted the issue of creating partnerships with the urban poor: such partnerships strengthened democracy and local governance, and increased the capacities and skills of the urban poor.

104. It was noted that communities needed resources to implement slum upgrading activities that responded to their needs and priorities. It was also noted that the provision of jobs went hand in hand with the production of homes. It was further noted that not all communities were organized, and that governments must admit their responsibilities towards the urban poor.
105. The third segment focused on financing slum upgrading and affordable housing. That segment was introduced with a five-minute showing from the video “Homeless No More”, on a community-based savings scheme in the Philippines, produced by the Homeless People’s Federation and UN-Habitat in 2005.
106. Mr. Trenas noted that more resources were required for local governments to implement slum upgrading activities. He also stressed the importance of consultations, dialogue and community participation in upgrading and relocation projects.
107. Mr. Hassan addressed the issue of the range of financing schemes that are appropriate for slum upgrading and prevention. Sustainable slum upgrading could not be undertaken with contractors and consultants, and there could be no development without consultation. To prevent slums, land-use allocation must be determined by social and environmental considerations.
108. Mr. Codato noted that the World Bank and UN-Habitat had estimated the cost of achieving Goal 7, target 11, of the Millennium Declaration to be approximately \$367 billion. In addressing the issue of how to mobilize those funds, he expressed the view that it was a task that all levels of society must be involved in. Lending for slum upgrading was not the answer; allocation of fair, equitable, and targeted subsidies by national governments might be necessary.
109. In the ensuing debate, some participants expressed the belief that there should be a role for the private sector and that microfinance was part of the solution. Several speakers stressed that the World Bank should work with communities to ensure that its loans reached the urban poor. One speaker noted that policymaking often did not address issues on the ground and that politicians seemed to have their own agendas. Even so, he found it easier to talk with politicians than professionals, as the latter seemed to be poorly trained in terms of communicating with communities.
110. Mr. Satterthwaite observed that in 1976 partnerships between governments and slum dwellers had not existed and solutions for urban problems tended to come from the professionals. The dialogue showed, however, that a new model had taken root which required a new relationship between slum dwellers and local authorities in which the slum dwellers themselves were the main development actors.
111. There was consensus that governments should respect the right to adequate housing and that forced evictions ran counter to Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, and the Habitat Agenda. Also, if the slum improvement target of the Millennium Declaration was to be achieved, communities must be involved in finding solutions and people must participate directly in all decisions affecting their shelter and livelihoods. Further, the provision of funding for the achievement of the slum target should be the responsibility of all.
112. There was general recognition that community savings schemes were an important part of the equation.
113. For financing slum upgrading, it was recommended that national governments should provide an enabling framework to ensure that local governments could respond to the challenges which they faced in addressing the shelter needs of the urban poor.

2. Public engagement: the inclusive approach

114. The dialogue was moderated by Ms. Zain Verjee, Anchor, CNN, Atlanta, United States of America. The panellists were Mr. Peter Oberlander, Professor Emeritus, Inaugural Director, University of British Columbia Centre of Human Settlement and Network Partners, Canada; Mr. Naokazu Takemoto, Senior Vice-Minister for Finance, Government of Japan; Baroness Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General, UCLG, Africa; Mr. Marcello Balbo, Professor, University of Venice, Italy; Ms. Mary Balikungeri, Rwanda Women’s Network, Kigali; and Professor Akinlawon Mabogunje, Professor Emeritus, The Presidency, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria.
115. The dialogue brought together participants from government, non-governmental and community-based organizations, women’s organizations, youth and research and training institutions.

116. It was noted that cities worldwide, whether rich or poor, were faced with the challenge of civic engagement. A key question addressed was how to foster an inclusive governance process at the local level. Recent experiences in both developed and developing countries showed that not all systems for participatory governance actually worked in ensuring urban sustainability. It had become evident that sustainable development was jeopardized when structures of engagement did not provide for mechanisms that eliminated barriers to effective and full involvement of every member of society.

117. The dialogue examined the underlying principles of inclusiveness and empowerment in civic engagement and in local governance. It addressed the operational aspects of fostering inclusion and cohesion for promoting sustainable cities by examining specific experiences in ensuring the engagement of long-term residents, international migrants, the poor, marginalized groups, national minorities and indigenous peoples. The specific issues affecting women, people with disabilities and youth were highlighted. The dialogue also considered alternative methods for fostering engagement.

118. Through story-telling, participants showcased ongoing strategies and practices that enriched the dialogue and provided useful lessons in civic engagement and citizenship, with a particular focus on the integration of migrants and the empowerment of women and youth.

119. In comparison to 1976, when the first Habitat Conference was held in Vancouver and during which the non-governmental organizations organized a parallel workshop in the Jericho Beach area of the city, it was noted that, 30 years on, the Forum was more inclusive. At the national level in many countries, policies had been changed to accommodate more inclusive processes. There was agreement that the underlying basis for promoting sustainable communities and neighbourhoods was through fostering inclusiveness and engagement. The example was given of the United Kingdom, where poverty reduction and livelihood strategies were now focused at community level. Empowerment of the poor had become a key strategy for interventions related to poverty reduction. Integrated planning and area-based programmes such as neighbourhood renewal, which involved the communities in making decisions, had been implemented. A key feature had been coalition-building amongst various groups, specifically civil society, the private sector and government, and partnerships between various spheres of government.

120. It was also noted that women were increasingly claiming their space in decision-making. Women's organizations and networks had been formed at all levels. Nevertheless, local and national governments had still not fully recognized the important role and contribution of women.

121. Local government was the closest public authority to the people, with at least 70 per cent of the responsibility for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, yet no commensurate resources were available for them to deliver basic services, particularly to the poor.

122. It was further noted that inequality in cities was growing. That inequality was particularly visible amongst national and international migrants. Promoting diversity by offering equal opportunities for migrants in job opportunities and in political processes was a key strategy for inclusiveness.

123. Three societal processes were identified which played a positive role in promoting engagement and inclusiveness. If not well handled, however, they could also generate negative consequences. Those processes were democratic representation, application of market principles, and the use of information technology. Representative democracy could become an impediment when it took the place of effective participatory democracy. Similarly, market forces, when left unchecked and unregulated, could lead to negative consequences to social well-being. In that regard, whereas information and communication technology could allow for effective engagement and inclusiveness, it could also generate exclusion and alienation among some social groups and exacerbate both social and digital divides.

124. Historically, participatory democracy had been widely practised by many communities in different societies. Top-down bureaucracy, however, prevented communities from benefiting fully from democratic processes.

125. Some participants questioned whether rural-to-urban migration was inevitable. It was noted that linkages between urban and rural areas should be recognized, and that development in both rural and urban areas should be pursued concurrently.

126. On the issue of engaging the private sector, it was noted that communities needed to be empowered to participate not only in making decisions but also in sharing the benefits of investments equitably. Strong public policies were required to facilitate meaningful engagement between urban poor communities and the private sector.

127. Professional associations such as associations of architects and planners, played a crucial role in engaging with local and central government.

128. The contribution of media in fostering accountability of government was also discussed. Participants highlighted the need for the media to devote less attention to celebrities and address issues of local concern. They should serve as a medium for holding leadership accountable to the people. It was also acknowledged that some sections of the media had played a positive role in promoting engagement and inclusiveness.

129. It was concluded that a key to sustainability was the engagement of all people in decision-making, with special attention focused on low-income and marginalized groups such as national minorities, immigrants and indigenous peoples.

130. Messages emerging from the dialogue were that top-down bureaucracy became the gap between the government and the citizen and that power was not easily devolved. People and their organizations must struggle constantly to have a share of power. Mobilization was a key element in the empowerment process. The processes of building capacity, trust and confidence between and among various groups were key elements of empowerment, and long-term dialogue and exchange amongst key stakeholders were crucial.

131. It was concluded also that transparency and accountability were prerequisites for fostering public engagement and inclusion; they did not, however, happen overnight and required changes in attitudes, values and systems. It was a struggle that involved giving and sharing power, i.e., opening up the space for dialogue for excluded groups.

132. It was recognized that there was a need to empower marginalized groups, including women, youth, people with disabilities, children and indigenous groups.

133. It was recognized also that there was a need to listen to women, and that consequently there was a need to evolve new ways of involving women in decision-making. Numerous innovations existed at the local level, but mechanisms to share them with decision-makers at the local and national level were lacking. The example was given of the Rwanda Women's Network, which had implemented the Local-to-Local Dialogue, in which decision-makers engaged effectively with grassroots women. There was, however, a need to create spaces for dialogue that were gender-sensitive and incorporated both men and women.

134. The need to empower the elderly and people with disabilities was also recognized. It was noted that nearly a fifth of people living in cities suffered from various degrees of disability. Planners should therefore take their needs into consideration and put in place appropriate infrastructure and services.

135. In most developed countries, the elderly were an emerging group requiring attention. Their needs must be fully integrated in the city. An inclusive city was one where everyone, regardless of wealth, gender, age, race or religion, was free to participate productively and positively in governing the city, and where the pursuit of the opportunities which cities had to offer was equitable. The idea of a global network of local authorities supporting people living with disabilities was mooted.

136. It was recognized that young people and children had an important role. The need to include young people and to engage with them in all decision-making processes was emphasized. It was noted that the technological innovations taking place globally, including information technology, made it easier to integrate young people into the development process. Art, culture and environment were key entry points for engaging young people. Providing resources to engage urban young people was essential. Youth funds should be established to support youth-owned initiatives for the improvement of their living environments and livelihoods. Young people should be viewed as a resource in both decision-making and in the implementation of specific programmes. Priority areas of support for youth included mentorships, apprenticeships and skills development.

B. Partnership and finance

1. Municipal finance: innovation and collaboration

137. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Anwarali Versi, Editor, *African Business*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The speakers were Ms. Jacqueline E. Schafer, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, USAID, United States of America; Ms. Ruth Lamine Mbassa, Director-General of Finance, City of Douala, Cameroon; Ms. Zenaida Moya, Mayor, Belize City, Belize; Mr. Jawaid Akhtar, Managing Director, Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation, Bangalore, India; Mr. Júlio Ribeiro Pires, Secretary of Planning and Budget, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Mr. Brian Field, Senior Economist, European

Investment Bank; Mr. Michael Lippe, Senior Urban Advisor, Transparency International and the Partnership for Transparency Fund; Mr. Lin Guoqiang, Mayor, Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China; Ms. Sagira Tayeb Ansari, former pavement dweller from Mumbai, India; and Ms. Katherine Sierra, Vice-President and Head of Network for Infrastructure, World Bank.

138. The major issue discussed was that municipalities around the world were facing a paradox: the need for a strong fiscal base to create and maintain infrastructure and services; and the pressure to lower taxes to attract foreign and domestic investment. Despite those constraints, there were around the world many experiences, reforms, innovations and partnership arrangements which could serve as a remedy. They included public-private partnerships in the provision of urban infrastructure and services that allowed municipalities to finance their increasing expenditures better and manage their financial systems in a more transparent and efficient manner.

139. The main objective of the dialogue was to provide a platform for sharing experiences on innovative ways and partnerships for enhancing municipal finance for the sustainable provision of services. The dialogue was organized in three segments, with speakers addressing the following specific questions:

- (a) Enhancing municipal revenue and access to resources;
- (b) Innovative approaches to financing infrastructure and provision of urban services;
- (c) Reform in institutional and regulatory frameworks to enhance municipal finance.

140. The Moderator opened the debate by saying that sustainable financing mechanisms had become an urgent requirement for urban development. A video highlighting the major issues of the dialogue was shown to the audience.

(a) Enhancing municipal revenue and access to resources

141. Ms. Schafer urged local governments and utilities to become creditworthy and consumer-oriented and pointed to innovations in market-based financing for urban infrastructure in India and Mexico.

142. Mr. Mbassa presented the case of Douala Municipal Bonds, one of the first of such experiences in sub-Saharan Africa. He highlighted the need for strong management and the financial reforms necessary for accessing the market.

143. Ms. Moya spoke of the principles promoted by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum to strengthen local government finance and stressed the need to build the capacity of local governments to deliver services and to negotiate with the national governments.

144. The ensuing debate focused on effective structural reforms in financing and management in order to enhance access to market capital; building self-financing mechanisms such as land-based methods for capturing the enhanced value of land resulting from public infrastructure development; improving the credit rating of cities, including measures to establish benchmarks in order to build investor confidence; legislative changes to empower cities to borrow; and the need for establishment of local credit enhancement facilities.

(b) Innovative approaches to financing infrastructure and provision of urban services

145. Mr. Akhtar presented the case of a pooled municipal bond for eight cities in the Bangalore Metropolitan Area for a major water and sewerage project. He emphasized that shrinking state support presented an opportunity to build sustainable and market-based financing for cities. To overcome the constraints of technically and financially weak municipalities, the state government had set up a pooled finance trust as an intermediary mechanism to facilitate the financing of the project. The bond was rated and had several layers of credit enhancement, including one from USAID.

146. Mr. Peres outlined participatory budgeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Many citizens directly contributed to making decisions on city expenditures. The city was planning to expand the level of participation further through the use of information and communications technologies.

147. Mr. Field explained how the European Investment Bank managed a large investment portfolio both in Europe and in developing countries. He also presented the successful case of e-Thekwani (formerly Durban), South Africa, which had implemented comprehensive financing reforms. He highlighted the factors that had allowed e-Thekwani to succeed: coherent and long-term plans for

integrated infrastructure; interconnectedness of investment; public participation; strong leadership; and sustainable internal cross-subsidy mechanisms between municipalities within the metropolitan area.

148. The debate highlighted the following issues:

- (a) Technical assistance to support municipal finance reforms was critical;
- (b) Caution must be exercised while promoting market finance to protect the interests of the poor and local governments during negotiations with banks;
- (c) The spending capacity of the funds (both internal and external) was very weak and needed to be strengthened;
- (d) Leakages in expenditure must be plugged;
- (e) Relevant ISO certification for local governments and utilities should be applied;
- (f) The participation of citizens in revenue mobilization and not just in expenditure management was necessary;
- (g) Large and small cities needed to pool together in order to reduce risks and interest rates;
- (h) Intergovernmental fiscal transfers needed to be enhanced and made predictable;
- (i) The revenue-raising authority of cities must match functional responsibilities;
- (j) The urban poor must benefit from innovative, market-based financing.

(c) Reform in institutional and regulatory frameworks to enhance municipal finance

149. Mr. Lippe stressed that transparency and accountability were key to creating and sustaining public confidence in municipal finance systems. The key to achieving transparency and accountability was leadership at all levels. He emphasized the need for both internal accountability systems and external mechanisms for involving civil society organizations in order to improve transparency.

150. Mr. Lin Guoqiang presented the experience of Nanning City. He stressed that the city strove to balance the needs of citizens for urban services with the need to attract investors by reducing taxes. The city used multiple sources of revenue, including land-based taxes, sale of development rights, and unified management systems to reduce the cost of services.

151. Subsequent interventions from the floor highlighted the following:

- (a) Excessive regulations could hinder the speedy utilization of available resources;
- (b) A greater share of national tax revenues should be allocated to municipal authorities for the provision of basic urban services;
- (c) The promotion of better governance through public disclosure of municipal finance accounts and strong public participation in municipal management was necessary.

152. Ms. Sagira, a former pavement dweller from Mumbai, India, presented her experience. The video shown at the beginning of the dialogue had featured her journey spanning 32 years from pavement dweller to homeowner. She stressed the importance of organizing communities through savings schemes in order to negotiate with state and municipal authorities. By doing so, her own community had been able to influence the introduction of pro-poor policy and large-scale investment in infrastructure in order to scale up home improvements for low-income households.

153. Ms. Sierra summarized the key areas of consensus of the dialogue as follows:

- (a) There was a need for sound legal frameworks to allow fiscal decentralization that matched resources with the functional responsibilities of cities;
- (b) Governments needed to avoid unsustainable debt crises through good municipal borrowing legislation;
- (c) Central and provincial governments should promote larger and more predictable intergovernmental transfers;
- (d) Domestic capital was the key financial mechanism for sustainable urbanization;
- (e) International donors could play a catalytic role through capacity-building support, transition funding until cities became creditworthy and credit-enhancement support, including financial guarantees;

- (f) Municipal authorities should be made creditworthy through strengthening their capacity to manage budgets transparently, use available resources efficiently and speedily, and also to reduce leakages;
- (g) Cities should formulate and implement coherent and integrated development plans;
- (h) Cities should mobilize land-based resources to capture enhanced values, and should enhance the municipal tax base and make utilities consumer-oriented and financially viable;
- (i) Citizen participation should be enhanced through measures such as participatory budgeting;
- (j) All lenders must be “part of the solution” through wider engagement and promotion of sound governance frameworks;
- (k) All lenders should use measures such as credit ratings and relevant certifications;
- (l) International lenders should provide transition-phase funding while cities gained capacity to borrow in local markets in sustainable ways.

154. The dialogue concluded that the challenge for the future was to shift from reliance on international development finance to tapping into local capital markets. Progress in achieving that goal would be a measure of success towards sustainable urban development.

2. Urban safety and security – taking responsibility

155. The dialogue was moderated by Ms. Anna-Maria Tremonti, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The panellists were Mr. Ian Davis, Visiting Professor, Cranfield University, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ms. Elina Palm, Liaison Officer, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; Dr. Mark Pelling, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, King’s College, London; Dr. Pushpa Pathak, Urban Planning and Policy Advisor, Kabul Municipality; Ms. Suranjana Gupta, Programme Associate, Women and Disaster Reduction Campaign of the Huairou Commission; Ms. Prema Gopalan, Global Facilitator, Women and Disaster Reduction Campaign of the Huairou Commission; Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa, Director of Planning, National and Regional Planning Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan; Dr. Franz Vanderschueren, Director, Urban Safety Programme, University of Urtado, Chile; Dr. Juan Manuel Ospina, Secretary of the Government of Colombia; Mr. Kamal Kashyap, former Director-General of Police, Maharashtra State, India; Dame Carol Kidu, Ministry of Community Development and Urban Member of Parliament, Papua New Guinea; Mr. Michel Marcus, Executive Director, European Forum for Urban Safety, France; Ms. Yasmin Bacus, Head of Department of Community Safety and Liaison, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa; Mr. Clayton Peters, International Projects Manager, YouthBuild USA/International; Mr. Thomas Melin, Head of Division for Urban development, SIDA; and Ms. Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director, Transport and Urban Development, World Bank.

156. Two key constraints were identified to human security, sustainable settlements and achieving the Millennium Development Goals: disasters, and growing crime and violence in towns and cities. Although inherently different, both disaster risk reduction and crime prevention required a holistic and multi-partner approach. They also required the empowerment of national and local governments, civil society and vulnerable groups. It was agreed that the key was to find sustainable responses to reduce risk and vulnerability. For disasters, that entailed reducing risks and vulnerability. For crime and violence, the emphasis must be on prevention and tackling the underlying causes. It was becoming increasingly evident that the way those concerns were integrated into urban development approaches and initiatives would to a large extent determine the sustainability of our urban future.

Disaster risk reduction

157. From the debate the message became clear that while efforts to mitigate risk were increasing in some areas, the high rate of urbanization, combined with environmental factors such as climate change and environmental degradation, were continuing to increase risk and vulnerability globally. There was a need, therefore, to review urban development, land use and physical planning to create safe spaces in the urban landscape.

158. Many disasters occurred as a result of unregulated development activities, where natural habitats such as forests, mountain slopes and coastal areas were exploited in a manner that increased the vulnerabilities of surrounding settlements. Although the corporate ethic was improving in some cases, notably the recent role of large corporations in responding to the Asian tsunami, a greater momentum

must be built within the private sector for responsible development that reduced vulnerability to hazards.

159. The world reacted to disasters primarily through media coverage that could be sensational. Therefore, a robust means of collecting, analysing and reporting hard data related to risk and vulnerability should be integrated into national, local and community-based policymaking and development planning initiatives. Tools drawn from high- to low-technology resources enhanced resilience at all levels. State actors needed, however, to improve dissemination and integration of those resources.

160. The importance of maintaining the pride and dignity of people recovering from calamity was often overlooked and should be built into the post-disaster recovery process. It was paramount in that regard to engage the local community, from faith-based to grassroots organizations, individuals to neighbourhoods. They needed to be involved from the outset through to the long term and in partnership and concert with local, national and international aid organizations. That was the only way sustainable prevention, mitigation, and response could work properly.

161. Many governments limited development planning horizons to coincide with their political cycles, resulting in maximum five-year planning loops that did not envisage investment and development beyond the electoral cycle. In 2005, 168 States had endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015,⁵ a guideline that committed those governments to reducing vulnerabilities to natural hazards through integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning in the coming decade. There was a clear gap, however, between the endorsement and the action, which demanded increased political and budgetary commitment to implementation over the longer term.

162. It was clear that the cost of responding to the aftermath of disaster in human, physical and social terms far exceeded the financial burden of reducing those vulnerabilities; that message demanded far more commitment on the part of policymakers, aid agencies and all stakeholders.

Crime prevention

163. The debate on crime prevention was opened by Dr. Vanderschueren, who outlined the progress of the past 20 years towards decentralization in safety management. That approach called for the participation of civil society and communities, considering safety as a basic service to be delivered to citizens in urban areas. He recalled the strong demand for safety coming especially from the urban poor and slum dwellers, who suffered more than anyone else from delinquency, violence and insecurity in cities and slums.

164. Ms. Plessis-Fraissard informed the meeting that the World Bank was changing policy and moving towards a more comprehensive approach, breaking away from the “silo mentality” in order to be more responsive to the requests of client countries. That should lead to better coordination of prevention and good urban governance programmes. Special attention should be given to the poor and vulnerable groups.

165. Mr. Melin said that global safety, youth violence and violence against women in particular had come to the top of the list of requests from countries, but was not yet on the development agenda. He insisted on the key role of mayors and local governments in finding short- and long-term responses to those challenges. More attention should be given to safety by donors and development agencies.

166. Dr. Ospina gave the example of his city, Bogotá, a place which used to be rife with violence and exclusion problems. He underlined the importance of reinforcing the conditions for an integrated social policy based on an inclusive approach, and of neighbourhood-specific diagnosis and action plans. New forms of community justice must be promoted and targeted partnerships must be developed with institutional and community based actors, including the informal sector. Encouraging results had emerged in various neighbourhoods of his city.

167. Dame Kidu spoke about the devastating impact of crime in Papua, New Guinea over the past five years and the need to depart from the traditional, reactive response of the criminal justice system. A new scheme based on strengthening communities, social inclusion and a shift from a culture of violence towards a culture of peace was being tested in the city.

168. Ms. Bacus, speaking in relation to her native South Africa, stressed the importance of developing and implementing policies that responded to the needs of women, children, youth and the elderly, in the context of participatory democracy. Instruments such as a National Victims’ Charter or a

⁵ *Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18–22 January 2005* (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1), resolution 2.

National Youth Commission were useful in supporting such policies. At the same time, the planning process at the local level must fully integrate safety and crime prevention. Specific tools such as safety audits for women must be used more widely.

169. Mr. Peters said that too much emphasis was put on law enforcement when discussing the issue of youth and violence. A more global approach was needed to foster the social and economic integration of youth, which must include specific measures for marginalized groups and a structured participatory process taking their needs into account in the planning, social and economic processes.

170. Mr. Kashyap emphasized the potential importance of partnership relations in order to develop police accountability and a relationship between the police and the population based on trust and collaboration. That required the establishment of partnerships with youth and women's organizations, the promotion of traditional conflict-resolution processes, and a strategy to promote change in police organizations. In that connection, he called for more networking and discussion of successful partnerships.

171. Mr. Marcus said that the crisis of urban violence offered opportunities to review modes of intervention and institutional processes to develop more comprehensive long-term prevention approaches to crime and natural disasters. He suggested that urban security be given a higher profile at the next World Urban Forum.

172. Other points raised by participants included the impact of migration to cities, the importance of respecting human rights and the necessity to invest more in crime prevention. Increasing gangsterism was becoming entrenched in many cities and towns. Women and children needed to be empowered to avoid being drawn into gangs. Early intervention with vulnerable families, children and young people was seen as an investment. Some participants expressed the view that local policies should be linked with national policies. Others raised concern about the crime, violence, fraud, trafficking of people, organized crime and delinquency that flourished in the aftermath of disasters. Legislation must be developed to prevent those phenomena in post-disaster situations. Many participants called for an integrated approach towards prevention and good governance.

173. The dialogue made the following actionable recommendations:

- (a) That the focus of prevention was becoming broader, for which an integrated strategy was essential, based on reinforcing partnerships and cooperation elements;
- (b) That local authorities and communities themselves should have a more prominent role in security and vulnerability reduction;
- (c) That local policies on safety must link with national policies and approaches;
- (d) That sustainability could be achieved by strengthening and supporting community initiatives from the bottom up and by promoting ownership, partnership and networking: the costs of failure to involve communities were far higher than when communities were involved;
- (e) That livelihood development was key to safety, security and risk reduction and investment in social policy and development promoted safety;
- (f) That mainstreaming safety and crime prevention into integrated local development plans was a social tool for community development;
- (g) That the focus should be on the poor and most vulnerable groups;
- (h) That youth policies should be integrated policies, with emphasis on participation, livelihood opportunities and targeted interventions for vulnerable young people;
- (i) That a generational change of attitudes to safety was required;
- (j) That security and development were interlinked and that security was a human rights issue;
- (k) That crime, violence and insecurity should be placed at the top of the development agenda;
- (l) That mayors should commit themselves to the safety agenda.

174. The dialogue concluded also that the vulnerability of people in settlements to natural hazards and crime signalled the failure of society to govern itself in a manner that addressed the root causes of those problems. A paradigm shift was therefore required to address the many common elements of both those threats to human security. There was a need for an integrated approach to crime and disaster

management whereby the two problems were treated holistically in policy terms, preferably before crises occurred. At the same time, because of the need to achieve better integration of crime prevention within the urban development agenda, and bring in new, relevant partners, UN-Habitat must give security more prominence on the road to the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, in 2008.

C. Urban growth and environment

1. The shape of cities: urban planning and management

175. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Stephen Bradshaw, Producer, BBC-Panorama, Attleborough, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The panellists were Professor John Friedmann, University of British Columbia, Canada; Dr. Ossama Salem, Chief Executive Officer and President, Capacity-Building International, Maadi, Egypt; Ms. Tasneem Essop, Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Western Cape Government, South Africa; Professor Charles Choguill, King Saud University, Riyadh; Mr. Herbert Girardet, Director of Research, World Future Council Initiative, Chepstow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Environmental Consultant and Senior Adviser to Eco-City Dongtan, China; Mr. Dritan Shutina, Executive Director, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Albania; Professor Cliff Hague, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners; Mr. David Siegel, President, American Planning Association; Ms. Lajana Manandhar, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Kathmandu; and Mr. Brian Field, Senior Economist, European Investment Bank. Dr. Deborah Thomas, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, served as rapporteur.

176. The major issues and concerns debated in the dialogue were as follows. While it was true that sustainability was the new watchword of urban development, and, drawing their most recent inspiration from the World Summit on Social Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, many city managers and other stakeholders were seeking to maximize not only environmental but also social and economic sustainability, there were significant differences of opinion about the most important priorities for sustainability. The purpose of the dialogue was to examine the relationships between poverty, economic development, environment and spatial planning in the context of sustainable development. Two cases studies of emerging strategic approaches to planning were discussed. There was a particular focus on the role of urban planning, and what was coming to be referred to as the “new urban planning”, which was proposed as a tool to address those tensions.

177. Tracing the developments in the field of planning and sustainability over the past six or seven decades, with particular reference to North America, Professor Friedmann concluded that while planning had evolved and adapted itself to changing circumstances, it was still not adequate or effective enough in its present form: the tools of planning had succeeded neither in containing urban growth nor in resolving the tensions between environmental, economic and social dimensions.

178. Dr. Salem pointed out that the North American reality was very different from that of the rest of the world, especially the Middle East region, which was characterized by heavily centralized government systems and weak local authorities. He pointed to a number of local and global sustainability issues and the tensions often seen between them, and expressed the view that good local governance was the key to reconciling the green and the brown agendas, a link often not understood or considered by policymakers.

179. Ms. Essop asserted that a key role of local government was to defend the public interest. She also emphasized that there could not be a separation between issues of the environment, social justice and economic development. In response to a question as to whether the sustainability agenda was the same for the developed and developing world, she pointed out that the assumption that there was homogeneity within each of those two spheres was itself incorrect, and the question should not be “which agenda”, but “whose agenda”. The one common factor in both developed and developing countries was that the poor bore the brunt of environmental degradation and poor planning, and their involvement in setting the agenda was therefore crucial.

180. Professor Choguill presented a vigorous defence of planning, reinforcing Professor Friedmann’s point that planning had indeed continually adapted itself to changing realities, though it was still far from perfect. Planning was a necessary condition for sustainability, even if not sufficient in and of itself to ensure it. Pointing out that some so-called best practices, such as “smart cities” or “compact cities”, developed in and for the developed world, could not in fact be easily transferred to the cities of developing countries, he warned against allowing such “best practices” to become a substitute for thinking, analysis and innovation. Urban disasters, he noted, were not a result of planning (or non-planning) alone, but were in fact a product of many factors, including political decisions and policies.

181. A number of issues were raised, including the need for planners to re-educate themselves by living and engaging with communities. Ms. Manandhar called on planners to not just inform the communities or even consult with them but to be accountable to the people. Youth representatives appealed for greater engagement of young people, women and other traditionally marginalized groups in planning processes. Questions were raised as to whether planning education had reformed sufficiently to produce planners who could handle the new and growing challenges facing cities and towns in both developing and developed countries. One speaker pointed out that planning would never be able to resolve all the problems of sustainability unless people and communities and individuals took responsibility.

182. The second segment of the dialogue focused on two case studies, illustrations of emerging planning approaches from two countries on two continents. Mr. Girardet described the case of Dongtan Eco-City in China, a proposed city for 500,000 residents, where environment was envisaged to be at the core of the city's development and was expected to integrate concerns of liveability and sustainability. Questions were raised, however, as to the extent to which both the planning process and the Eco-City itself would be inclusive and pro-poor.

183. Mr. Shutina described the strategic planning process in Albania, which was aiming to build more inclusive and sustainable cities in a complex, transition-country environment, integrating plans with budgets, and helping to create urban citizenship out of the anarchy of a post-communist society. He also reinforced the point made by earlier speakers that without decentralization and local governance reforms, development strategies for cities could go only so far and no further.

184. The final segment of the dialogue focused on the emergence of a new planning approach that was slowly gaining currency among planning associations and networks. A think-piece had recently been developed on the subject. Professor Hague described planning as something which started promisingly, stopped mid way and was abandoned after a few half-hearted attempts to fix it. He spoke about the "New Urban Planning" and its 10 guiding principles as a possible way to fix some of the problems of the traditional approaches to planning: to address new challenges of slum formation; post-disaster and post-conflict recovery; to bring the big picture into sharper focus; and to achieve sustainability, inclusion and pro-poor development. He also touched upon the outcomes of the recently concluded World Planners' Congress, organized in the run-up to the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, and stressed that the shift from rhetoric to reality would require development of planning skills as well as institutional strengthening of planning associations.

185. Responses from participants included proposals to add transparency and ethics to the 10 principles, to include rural as well as urban human settlements in the discourse, and on the need to engage with the private sector. It was suggested that urban design could be used as a tool for negotiation and for engaging different stakeholders, especially the community, in decision-making. The example of Seville, Spain was used to illustrate how planning was being linked with budgets.

186. In that connection, Mr. Field, speaking for the European Investment Bank, asserted that the Bank would no longer respond to wish-lists of ad hoc policies produced by cities but would only support municipalities whose budgets were informed by coherent plans developed in consultation with the citizens. Planning, therefore, did matter. A private-sector developer argued, however, that the "New Urban Planning" was no more than rhetoric from planning institutes and associations, and that planners needed to recognize that wealth creation and poverty reduction were the same side of the same coin.

187. Mr. Siegel presented an action plan for taking the "New Urban Planning" agenda forward. The objectives of the action plan were to develop a knowledge base and share it widely; develop global capacities for planning; define and promote concepts of sustainability and sustainable development; promote human equity and empowerment in planning; and engage in outreach to bring other stakeholders on board.

188. The rapporteur highlighted the shift from planning being an agent of the State to an agent of the communities and issues such as accountability of planners and political leaders alike, especially their accountability to communities; the importance of decentralization and good local governance in bridging the green and brown agendas; the importance of modernizing planning systems; and the use of planning as a tool for negotiation.

189. The dialogue concluded that rapid urbanization, the urbanization of poverty and an unprecedented growth of slums formed the backdrop to the discussion on planning. The question was whether planning was responsible, alone or at least in part, for the problems faced by cities. Some felt that planning tools were limited and outdated, and the developed-world model had not been successful in other parts of the world. Others were of the view, however, that planning had adapted along the way

and could certainly contribute to tackling issues of sustainability, poverty reduction and inclusion. Given the scale of the problem, it was clear that there could be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanization and no sustainable urbanization without effective planning, even if other powerful forces were at work.

190. The discussion clearly brought out that planning was not just a technical issue; it must also have a strong ethical basis, and planners needed to see themselves as agents of change. Values such as a pro-poor orientation, inclusion, transparency and environmental sustainability must form the backbone of new forms of planning, and the role of young people, especially young planners, in setting those values was critical. Consequently, a change in planning education and training was warranted.

191. Development was characterized by tensions and conflicts between competing interests and required an effective mechanism for negotiation and mediation. The feeling of the meeting was that urban planning and design could be powerful mechanisms to resolve conflicts at different scales in cities. Balancing the interests of the private sector and the community at the same time required strong local government and good governance, of which planning was an integral component.

192. A set of principles that addressed both the ethical basis of planning and also the ways in which it effectively mediated between competing interests was on the table. They would be discussed and reviewed in the months to come and revised before the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum. Planners, and their associations and networks, were invited to contribute to the discussions to develop the new agenda for planning further. It was held to be essential that other stakeholders – civil society, the private sector, indigenous groups and others – should participate in that process.

2. Energy: local action, global impact

193. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Kevin Newman, News Anchor, Global Television News, Burnaby, Canada. The panellists were Mr. Vijay Modi, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University, New York, United States of America; Ms. Harriette Amissah-Arthur, Director, Kumasi Institute of Technology and Environment (KITE), Ghana; Professor Mark Jaccard, School of Resource Management, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada; Mr. Enrique Peñalosa, Visiting Scholar, New York University, United States of America and former Mayor of Bogotá; Ms. Mary Jane C. Ortega, Mayor, City of San Fernando, the Philippines; Mr. Todd Litman, Executive Director, Victoria Transport Policy Institute, Victoria, Canada; and Ms. Anumita Roychowdhury, Coordinator, Policy Research and Advocacy on Vehicular Pollution in India for the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

194. The main objective of the dialogue was to contribute to the debate on the importance of sustainable energy and transport solutions for sustainable human development and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The dialogue was structured in two modules.

195. The first module focused on access to modern energy services and a sustainable energy future. Its main objectives were to discuss affordable and successful energy solutions, and the constraints which cities faced in implementing such solutions.

196. Sustainable transport was the focus of the second module of the dialogue. The key aims of the module were to consider the shape and form of a new urban transport which took into account the needs of all urban dwellers, how cities could take the lead in promoting energy-efficient and cleaner transport, and the types of technology options available.

(a) Energy services and sustainable energy

197. Following introductory remarks by the moderator, panellists identified key challenges in energy efficiency and the provision of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to the urban poor.

198. Professor Modi said that the principal challenge was to identify reliable and affordable energy supplies and technologies for poor slum dwellers, most of whom relied on unsustainable energy sources such as firewood and charcoal, which also had adverse health consequences. He particularly highlighted the acute energy requirements of the urban poor for the purposes of cooking, noting that the poor paid disproportionately high prices for energy.

199. Ms. Amissah-Arthur identified a number of constraints in the provision of affordable and reliable energy to the poor in developing countries. They included the lack of leadership at various levels of government; the absence of long-term planning and vision; the unreliability of energy service provision and consequent unwillingness of the public to pay for those services; and the inadequacy of present systems to communicate the right information effectively to stakeholders and the public at large.

200. Mr. Jaccard stressed that the key issue was not the rapid depletion of fossil fuels but rather the finite availability of easy oil. The extraction and consumption of fossil fuels were likely to remain the cheaper option for the foreseeable future, but the challenge was to use those resources efficiently. Whereas the need for energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy was evident, non-renewable energy sources should not be discarded: the cleaner use of non-renewable fuels remained a cheaper option for energy provision in developing countries.

201. The debate that followed examined key issues relevant to the provision of affordable, reliable and clean energy services, including climate change, international declarations, multinational companies and their investment strategies, government subsidies, decision-making and leadership, and also public awareness and engagement.

202. The importance of political responsibility on the part of developed countries and their commitment to international declarations (including the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) was highlighted. In that respect, it was noted that whereas the poor in developing countries were victims of climate change, they were not the key contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

203. On the role of multinational oil companies and their investment strategies in renewable energy sources, it was noted that the bulk of their research and development still focused on fossil fuels.

204. It was also noted that the main responsibility in the provision of affordable and reliable access to energy services lay with national governments, which should be held accountable in that regard. The importance of government in mobilizing key actors to develop relevant energy policies, thereby creating the necessary environment for the various players to do their part, was also stressed.

205. Regarding the role of government subsidies in promoting access to reliable and affordable energy sources by the poor, it was noted that the privileged segments of society, rather than the poor, often benefited from such schemes. It was also noted that energy subsidies could still play a crucial role, as the strategies to ensure that they reached the poor existed. The example was given of Brazil, where the State had, over a matter of two or three decades, enabled the public to use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Recently, subsidies for the rich had been cancelled and those for the poor increased.

206. The lack of adequate management of information as a key leadership challenge in developing countries was identified, and the need for adequate public information and awareness – with a view to enlisting effective community participation – was emphasized. It was pointed out that civil society organizations were increasingly engaged in raising awareness on energy issues, solutions and potentials, although the question was whether they were resourced adequately enough to be effective.

(b) Sustainable transport

207. Ms. Ortega made a strong statement on how mayors could use information, education and advocacy to change the transport structure in cities. In her home town of San Fernando, Mayor Ortega had convinced the operators of two-stroke tricycles to use four stroke engines and renew their fleet. That had led to a significant reduction in health problems caused by air pollution and at the same time reduced greenhouse gas emissions. No new legislation had had to be introduced to achieve the change.

208. Mr. Litman spoke in favour of mixed-use plans for cities. Current planning was focused on the automobile, leading to perverse subsidies, roadway capacity expansion, price distortions and zoning codes that prohibited mixed use. Smart, win-win transportation solutions would result in reduced tax costs and fewer accidents, and would help non-drivers, improve the health of urban residents and also result in reduced air pollution and energy consumption.

209. Ms. Roychowdhury said that one death took place every hour as a result of air pollution in India. The air pollution was caused by the rapidly rising number of vehicles running on conventional fossil fuels. She argued that it was necessary for developing countries to leapfrog and, instead of repeating the mistakes of developed countries, capitalize on their own appropriate solutions. The fact that there was still a high reliance on non-motorized transport in countries such as India should be used to the advantage of public transport solutions. She drew attention to regulatory measures which inhibited progress in that direction, such as higher taxes on public transport than on private cars.

210. The ensuing debate focused on questions such as conflicts between local and central government, the barriers to adopting sustainable transport solutions, how to steer consumers' choices towards environmentally friendly behaviour, and fiscal instruments.

211. It was pointed out that transport in the developing world was a matter of status. It posed mayors with huge political conflicts and marketing challenges to convince the rich to move to public transport.

It was agreed, however, that every city was unique and required its own solution. It was also recognized that it was a mistake to accommodate unlimited private vehicles, as to do so would lead to a social trap that would leave everyone worse off in terms of security, health, costs and climate change. There were a number of smart growth solutions to improve urban density and attract families to live in old, high-density neighbourhoods, for example, by providing affordable housing, services, schools and workplaces.

212. It was observed that mayors could do much, even where the central government had an opposing policy. Local governments were urged to become members of the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change or join mayors' associations in their home countries. It was stressed that a way to solve conflicts between levels of government was to achieve local autonomy through decentralization.

213. Fiscal instruments were highlighted as effective in boosting sustainable transport. It was noted that much could be learned from congestion taxes, which were being used with some success in Europe to reduce traffic jams in city centres. The example of Bogotá, where a 25 per cent surcharge on gasoline paid for road infrastructure and where cross-subsidies (with the rich paying more for public services than the poor) on energy costs had led to full coverage of electricity and gas in the city. The benefit of market reforms was also noted.

214. It was noted that the issue of sustainable transportation in developing countries was a political one in which the vested interests of privileged segments of society were likely to be prioritized at the expense of those of the urban poor.

215. It was emphasized that cities in developing countries required a rapid increase in energy production and consumption to accelerate economic development, alleviate poverty and meet the basic needs of low-income urban populations. The primary challenge was to provide equitable and affordable access to clean, modern energy services for all urban residents in an economically efficient and environmentally sound manner.

216. It was also emphasized that land-use planning, urban transport service provision and energy consumption patterns in human settlements must be at the forefront of responsible planning in order to minimize trip distances and reduce the ecological footprint of transport. While rapid urbanization was associated with an attendant rise in energy demand and its problems, many of the negative effects of urbanization could be at least partially mitigated by innovative and more environmentally responsible energy policies, such as densification and co-locating business, residential and commercial land uses.

217. The following were among the most salient recommendations that emerged from the dialogue:

(a) Leadership was seen as crucial to the successful promotion of access to both sustainable energy and transport services;

(b) In seeking sustainable solutions to energy services for the urban poor, there was a need to explore and develop advanced technologies immediately to achieve an immediate impact on their lives;

(c) As the world would depend on fossil-fuel technologies for some time to come, measures to encourage energy conservation and efficiency in both the developed and developing worlds must be considered alongside renewable energy options;

(d) There was a pressing need to promote non-motorized transport infrastructure in cities by building pedestrian and cycling ways;

(e) Congestion charging was highlighted among best practices for improving transport systems in both developed and developing countries;

(f) Urban transport policies should be put in place to stop the aggressive expansion of car-friendly cities;

(g) Every city was unique and should have energy and transport solutions appropriate to the local context.

V. Government and partner round-table sessions

A. Ministers' round table – Vancouver +30: the changing role of cities and global sustainable development

218. Mr. John Pombe Magufuli, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Co-Chair, Third Session of the World Urban Forum,

and Mr. Ted Menzies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation, on behalf of Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Government of Canada, co-chaired the round-table discussions. Ms. Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International and Chancellor, University of Ottawa, served as moderator.

219. Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, made introductory remarks in which she emphasized the important role of government in promoting sustainable urban development. Governments needed to assume a leading role in working with other key stakeholders in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly targets 10 and 11 on water and sanitation and on slum upgrading and prevention. Governments needed also to consolidate development regulatory frameworks and assist civil society and the private sector in scaling up the various initiatives for promoting sustainable urban development.

220. Over 25 ministers from all regions of the world addressed the three thematic issues of the round table: the role and responsibility of central governments in supporting sustainable cities and communities; collaboration between different spheres of government in promoting sustainable development; and how national governments led their international agenda within the local context.

221. In the context of the role and responsibility of central governments, Co-Chair Magufuli cited the example of his own country, the United Republic of Tanzania, where the main challenges of rapid urbanization without the provision of services included urban poverty, urban sprawl, urban and housing finance, and urban management.

222. Throughout, the leading role of national governments was reiterated and the need to promote sustainable urban development was underscored. Through citing national experiences and initiatives, ministers illustrated different approaches applied in different countries in confronting the challenges encountered and in fostering sustainability in its broader scope.

223. An issue raised by all speakers was that both developed and developing countries faced a myriad of challenges which necessitated the adoption of innovative approaches and the building of new types of relationships between spheres of government and stakeholders. Different initiatives on providing adequate and affordable housing in urban areas, particularly for those who were less endowed financially, were described. Examples of infrastructural development, energy conservation, sustainable communities and neighbourhoods, and overcoming challenges of post-conflict reconstruction were given.

224. Ministers shared their country experiences on modalities of mobilizing financial resources for sustainable development. Attention was drawn to paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the need to capitalize the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. It was recognized that private-sector investment was required to supply the enormous amount of resources needed for infrastructure development. A call was made for changes to allow for investments to be depreciated over extended periods so as to reduce the impact on fiscal balances. Similarly, the need to include issues relating to sustainable urban development within international cooperation, and particularly in poverty reduction strategies, was underscored.

225. Emphasis was placed on the development of dynamic intergovernmental relationships that would foster partnerships, promote subsidiarity and local engagement, and ensure efficiency and effectiveness. A number of speakers emphasized the importance of capacity-building at all levels and the need to include a pro-poor bias in policy formulation and implementation. One speaker emphasized the need to focus sharply on extending the “right to the city” to all the citizens, and the need to consider social inclusion as an essential part of urban planning and management.

226. All participants expressed appreciation for the usefulness of the round table, which was described as serving as a catalyst for further collaboration in transforming ideas into action.

B. Parliamentarians’ round table — human settlement legislation developments +30: good laws for a better Habitat

227. Mr. Adrian Alanis, Senator, Mexico, and Mr. Lee Richardson, Member of Parliament, Canada, co-chaired the round-table discussions. Mr. John Reynbolds, Privy Councillor, former Member of Parliament, Canada, served as moderator.

228. The round table afforded parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss legislative initiatives on human settlements, urban development and affordable housing. The discussion was divided into two segments: a retrospective of the past 20 years on urban legislation, and emerging priorities and future policies in support of urban sustainability.

229. Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, described the history and activities of UN-Habitat. Noting the dire conditions in urban slums, she highlighted the commitments of the Millennium Development Goals on improved water and sanitation and slum upgrading. She called for the adoption of pro-urban-poor policies and stressed the importance of lawmakers in translating development objectives into action.

230. Parliamentarians from Germany and the Netherlands drew attention to the results of a study of urban policies in Europe over the past decade, stressing differences between countries in the use of various tools, including centres of expertise for regional development, the consolidation of municipal self-government, waste management and environmental assessment.

231. In sharing experiences from their own countries, delegates emphasized family planning, national legislation for urban planning instruments, an integrated approach between cities with overlapping spheres of influence, and success criteria for urban policies. Some participants cautioned that slums and shanty towns had the potential to deepen segregation and generate extremism. Others lamented the fact that sustainable habitats had not become a global priority, and said that the responsibility for improvement rested on the shoulders of legislators.

232. In looking to the future, participants emphasized the importance of putting urban poverty on the political agenda and taking an integrated multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach. They suggested that financial resources directed toward slums and squatters should accompany foreign aid packages. The creation of a fund, similar to the post-Second-World-War Marshall Plan, was also proposed to support housing and urban development in African countries.

233. Mrs. Tibaijuka invited delegates to present the Habitat Agenda to their own parliaments.

C. Private sector round table — business round table on corporate leadership for sustainable urbanization

234. The round-table discussions were chaired by Dr. John Wiebe, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Globe Foundation of Canada. Mr. Christopher Henderson, Chief Executive Officer of the Delphi Group, Ottawa, served as moderator and rapporteur.

235. The format of the round table included brief presentations on key issues and best practices in attracting private sector investment in sustainable urban development. The participants included senior members of the private sector from several countries, and development agencies. Several participants highlighted success stories and opportunities.

236. The round table identified major constraints for scaling up private investments. Those constraints included lack of enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; lack of expertise on the part of local authorities; an inadequate income base among the poor; cultural differences; and difficulty in finding local partners.

237. The participants agreed that there was tremendous market potential for private-sector investment in sustainable housing and services for the poor. The round table discussed the acknowledged significant role being played by the domestic small-business sector in urban development and advocated strengthening that sector. Participants clearly acknowledged that businesses were transforming themselves fundamentally through “bottom-of-pyramid approaches” in which low-income markets presented a prodigious opportunity for the private sector to expand its markets while bringing much-needed products and services to the poor. In the emerging markets of Brazil, China and India, private sector companies had repackaged their products and services in that way. Similarly, utility companies were beginning to drop their requirements for recognized tenure to provide water and energy services to the urban poor living in slums, using community groups as their intermediaries.

238. The round table concluded that the poor represented a large potential market but that it would take time for the private sector to penetrate that segment of the population. The participants concluded also that scaling up private investment must be done through bottom-of-pyramid approaches, organizing demand through community organizations, as was taking place in several countries with the work of Slum Dwellers International and through public policy reform.

239. The participants requested UN-Habitat to continue the dialogue and develop appropriate mechanisms to strengthen international and local private-sector engagement in sustainable urbanization.

240. The Chair concluded that the private sector had a long way to go in reaching low-income groups and that they should explore the opportunity to develop new business models to reach out to the poor.

241. In her concluding remarks, the Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, speaking as Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, emphasized that the United Nations would be in a position to back up the private sector in the political arena to help foster an environment which favoured trade, investment and open markets. UN-Habitat, through its close links with local and central governments, was in a position to help business work with a wide range of public, private and community actors to support sustainable urbanization.

D. Researchers' round table – planning and managing sustainable cities: from research to practice

242. The round-table discussions were chaired by Ms. Paola Jirón, Housing Institute, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, University of Chile, Santiago de Chile and moderated by Professor Patrick Wakely, Emeritus Professor of Urban Development, Development Planning Unit, University College, London. Dr. Winnie Vivianne Mitullah, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, served as rapporteur.

243. The purpose of the round table was to bring researchers and policymakers together to discuss and propose ways of translating research on planning and managing sustainable cities into action. As stated by several participants, researchers in developing countries generally believed that the key reason for ineffective outcomes following decades of urban planning could be attributed to the neglect of their research findings. On the other hand, governments were of the view that such research findings hardly met their needs.

244. In order to make urban-related research more relevant to local authorities, the seven presentations made during the round table and subsequent discussions underscored several observations which revolved mainly around the constraints or challenges facing researchers, and how to rectify them.

245. One of the key constraints was the failure on the part of researchers to undertake policy-relevant applied research. That failure was attributable to the fact that universities and research institutes (where most researchers were based) tended to emphasize theoretical research, which was often seen as more prestigious than applied research. While recognizing the importance of theoretical or pure research as a means of advancing the frontiers of knowledge, the round table recommended that applied research with the potential to solve immediate problems should be given priority. In that regard, it was proposed that local governments should encourage and fund research that had an impact on key problems. In support of that view, the example of Vienna was given: the City of Vienna promoted, funded and used research by local universities on sustainable housing and construction, resource management and waste disposal.

246. Another barrier to translating research into action was the fact that researchers were often disconnected from the community or stakeholders that ought to benefit from the results of research. In addition, research agendas were frequently driven by funding organizations. One way of resolving that problem was to build targeted partnerships and permanent dialogues with potential users of research results. Researchers also needed to develop close critical ties with local authorities. Closely related to the development of such ties was the building of trust between researchers and clients, and also with the various stakeholders. Various examples, including from the City of Nanjing, China were used to illustrate that point.

247. The need to present research findings in a user-friendly manner was also emphasized. Good-quality research often remained unused by city governments because of the esoteric nature of research outcomes, which were often not easily understood. In addition, it was stressed that research findings must be made available to policymakers in a timely manner.

248. In order to transform research into action, the round table urged international organizations to facilitate easier access to the results of research by supporting the creation of knowledge centres and other platforms capable of serving as reliable sources of research-based solutions to problems of sustainable urban development.

E. Women's round table – empowering the Millennium Development Goals: grassroots women meet the challenge – women's lives, women's decisions

249. The round table was organized by the Huairou Commission, a global partnership of grassroots women's organizations devoted to attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

250. The discussions were chaired by Ms. Erna Witoelar, United Nations Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

251. Ms. Violet Shivutsa, a community leader supported by GROOTS Kenya, represented 1,200 home-based women caregivers who worked with HIV/AIDS-affected families in her village in Kenya. They had begun in 1996 by training traditional birth attendants in maternal care and linking them to hospitals, and had initiated savings schemes that allowed pregnant women to pay for maternal health-care services. With the rise of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, women were trained in home-based caregiving. They had begun to work with men too to raise awareness of women's property and inheritance rights. Ms. Shivutsa urged governments and international agencies to recognize and support the volunteer work of grassroots women, and enable them to scale up their innovations.
252. Ms. Andrea Laux, a founder member of the Stuttgart Mother Centre, Germany, which had started with women reclaiming public facilities to address the isolation and impoverishment of mothers in Stuttgart, represented a movement centring on caring community development that had grown to 800 mother centres across 15 countries. They had created a public living room where women had trust, learned how to manage child care, how to change policy about child care and promote family-friendly cities. The Stuttgart Mother Centre, in partnership with the local authorities, had built an intergenerational house.
253. Ms. Penny Irons of the Aboriginal Mother Centre, Vancouver, had learned through a peer exchange with the German mother centres about claiming public space for the aboriginal indigenous women who made up a large proportion of the poor and homeless population in Canada. She noted that the Millennium Development Goals also applied to the poor in Canada. The Mother Centre represented an inclusive, safe space where women did not have to make an appointment to come. The Aboriginal Mother Centre had a social enterprise programme called Mama's Wall Street Studio, which had manufactured the conference bags for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.
254. Ms. Arlene Bailey, Fletchers Land Parenting Association and Sistren Theatre Collective, Kingston, and a founding member of GROOTS International, had organized parents against crime and violence, which were major issues in Jamaica. They had organized a peace walk and appointed street mothers and street fathers to ensure children were off the streets at night. They had partnered with government and with United Nations programmes to reach out to 12 inner city communities. Community leaders volunteered their time.
255. Ms. Marlene Haydee Rodriguez, Director of Unión de Cooperativas de Producción Agrícola Las Brumas in Nicaragua spoke of how Nicaraguans were rebuilding their communities after years of conflict. Partnering with the Government of Canada, women had been able to construct their own homes for 40 families in a number of municipalities. Of the 30 women organic coffee farmers, eight were being certified in organic coffee production. Emphasizing the contribution of women in rural communities and calling for public policies that benefited rural women, she said that women cultivated the land and it was necessary to get support: if women did not cultivate food there would be no food in the cities.
256. Ms. Chandrasekaran Kasthuri, President of the Mahakalasm Self-help Group Federation linked to Covenant Centre for Development in Tamil Nadu, India, represented 16,000 women in four districts. The federation acted as a community-owned bank for women, as neither banks nor the government provided credit for women. They had now saved and given loans worth 3 million rupees and leveraged over 10 times that amount from local banks. Since most loans were taken for health problems at home, women started kitchen gardens to grow medicinal herbs. Women became healers and promoted a green health programme assisting 1,700 families. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 they had been given a best practice award for their work on herbal medicines. The Federation had created a company of women to scale up that enterprise, which now marketed 600 tonnes a year of semi-processed medicinal herbs.
257. Ms. Srilatha Batliwala, Senior Fellow at the Hauser Centre for Non-profit Organizations at Harvard University, United States of America, emphasized the scale and huge impact of initiatives that countered the myth that grassroots initiatives were small and with minimal impact. Grassroots women bore huge opportunity costs in overcoming the odds and barriers they faced in their daily lives. She proposed that development economists should find a way to cost grassroots women's contributions to development and ensure that they got 50 per cent of the resources.
258. Ms. Lisa Jordan, Deputy Director, the Ford Foundation, said that women were directly concerned by each of the Millennium Development Goals. She recommended scaling up and scaling across grassroots practices to influence policy at the local, national and global levels. She also pointed out how the experiences discussed had evolved from local to global and then back to local, thus emphasizing the importance of peer learning and women participating in global forums, which had a direct impact in terms of raising awareness of the challenges grassroots women face on the ground.

259. Dr. Janine Haddad, Chair of the UCLG gender equality committee, said that the experiences recounted must not remain on the ground but must be transformed and reach out to men, women and children everywhere in the world, and expressed the conviction that women, being more pragmatic than men, had been implementing Millennium Development Goals well before the formulation of those Goals. She expressed the view that one of the principal ways to reduce poverty was to provide day care centres to enable women to work and to train women for jobs. Access to credit, and to food, were all means to fight poverty. She recommended that grassroots women's initiatives be translated into policy.

260. The actionable ideas emerging from the round table discussions were:

- (a) That grassroots and indigenous women should be consulted as key experts;
- (b) That new funds for grassroots women's peer exchanges, public spaces and organizing should be established;
- (c) That international aid agencies should schedule dialogues with grassroots women leaders and local authorities to redirect funds and programmes;
- (c) That grassroots and local authority collaborations and local-to-local dialogues to sustain women's participation in local decision-making should be supported.

F. Non-governmental organizations' round table – assets and struggles: 30 years after the Vancouver Habitat Forum – realizing the right to adequate housing, sustainable habitat and inclusive cities

261. The round-table discussions were chaired by Mr. Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow in Residence: Public Policy, The Wellesley Institute, Canada and Ms. Evaniza Lopes Rodrigues, União Nacional de Moradia, Brazil.

262. It was evident that since the first Habitat Conference, in 1976, international summits on human settlements had discussed the need to confront the magnitude of the problems and devise solutions, and that humankind had witnessed continued suffering from problems of inequality, sustainability, violation of internationally agreed rights and the rise of private interests over people's well-being. The round table addressed the following issues.

Ending forced evictions that violate human rights

263. Forced evictions were cited as a negation of the essential human notions of respect, dignity, well-being, safety, equal treatment before the law and privacy. Governments had violated the rights and liberties of low-income communities, under the guise of restoring order, to make way for development.

Supporting community-based values and initiatives

264. Many civil society organizations were committed to reversing the trend towards ever-increasing human settlement problems such as inequality, violation of basic rights and other forms of social, political, cultural and economic deprivation. They worked on many fronts, with the homeless, people who had been evicted, low-income tenants, women, disabled people, minority groups, migrants, youth, children, old people and others. The question was how to move forward as a movement to link community values and initiatives in an articulate way as a pressure group.

Confronting the negative effects of habitat privatization

265. Participants said that current economic values had led to the "commodification" of habitat issues. The State had lost the capacity in some countries to provide and regulate housing and land markets. Globalization and privatization focusing on capital expansion eroded people's ability to participate and to be included in decision-making. The main challenge for civil society organizations was to defend public ownership and control of all elements of housing, infrastructure and services. There was a small group of very large international corporations which were privatizing social housing on a massive scale at the global level.

Protection, rights and durable solutions for displaced people

266. Human settlements were endangered by military operations, political violence, wars, forced evictions or migration, and related acts. Corporate investments, megaprojects and lack of attention to rural settlements had also led to economically forced migrations. Huge numbers of people were being displaced either nationally or internationally. That type of landlessness was also linked to the "criminalization" of the poor and homeless people. Civil society organizations, as independent actors, had a special role in monitoring and developing measures for advocacy and relief.

Involving local people in all aspects of post-disaster reconstruction

267. Participants said that people facing disaster had the right to return, rebuild their homes and livelihoods according to their own needs and values, and that they should initiate and lead the process. The role of development agencies should not predetermine the needs of the people, but put their interests first.

268. Civil society, in its diversity, must enhance coordination and articulate joint actions. New challenges and emerging issues that needed to be addressed by joint efforts included the “Right to the City” and HIV/AIDS.

269. Land rights were increasingly being violated or ignored. Governments had lost control of the housing sector, which was now in the hands of private developers. Current housing concerns were no longer marginalization, but criminalization of the poor. A rights-based approach, holding governments accountable to international standards, was considered essential. Further action must be focused on a global struggle against forced evictions, on allocating resources and political backing to support community-based initiatives, and on the implementation of international standards, including monitoring governments failing to comply with human rights.

G. Indigenous people and media round table – picturing ourselves: video as a tool for defining community

270. The round table discussions were chaired by Mr. Tom Perlmutter, Director-General, English Programme, National Film Board of Canada and Mr. Fred Caron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Government of Canada. Ms. Monika Ille, Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network, Canada, served as moderator.

271. The round table, organized by the National Film Board of Canada and the Office of Indian and Northern Affairs as lead partners, was attended by representatives of indigenous urban communities, film-makers and other media persons, and a diverse group of stakeholders. The aim of the round table was to demonstrate how media could be a powerful tool for supporting social inclusion and cohesion; social and political action; and sustainability in the development of indigenous peoples.

272. The co-chairs recalled that indigenous peoples constituted an important segment of society in Canada and stressed the need to tell stories of the past and present to build a better future. Such stories, through films and the other media, facilitated dialogue between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

273. Videos entitled “Wapikoni Mobile”, “Our Cities, Our Voices” and “Video in the Villages” were shown. Discussions following the screening highlighted that language was a great barrier for exclusion, and that indigenous people’s lives were often destroyed by the trends in and influence of the mainstream society. Media could reflect the social, political and economic realities of a community in a way that supported social inclusion and cohesion. It was highlighted that the videos which had been shown gave voice to communities and had become a catalyst for broader social and political change. It was suggested that that tool should be sustained and offered around the world, particularly in developing countries. Encouraging indigenous people to develop their own media (radio stations, multimedia centres and so on) would lead to increased social inclusion.

274. During the discussion, it was pointed out that there were about 300 million indigenous people living in over 70 countries worldwide. Although such peoples were extremely diverse, there were two characteristics that helped define them as a group. The first was that they had a historical continuity with societies that resided in their territories before the development of colonial societies and modern States. The second was that their social and cultural identities were different to those of the dominant groups in their societies. Indigenous groups might vary considerably in their traditions and circumstances, but they all wanted to protect their unique cultures. For a host of political and historical reasons, indigenous peoples tended to suffer from neglect and discrimination. In the past, paternalistic development schemes had often tried to assimilate indigenous peoples into mainstream cultures. Not only were those efforts unwelcome, they were unsuccessful. To overcome poverty, indigenous peoples needed special assistance that was based on their own objectives, that addressed the barriers they faced, and helped them protect their heritage and cultural identities.

275. Visual media could take up topics that were not usually discussed in society. In that way, it could promote discussions and deeper understanding of the plight of indigenous people. It was highlighted that video served as a medium for reversing the stereotype of the city as “non-native” space. Media could promote networking and solidarity between indigenous peoples around the world and overcome challenges confronted by indigenous peoples. Efforts were needed to promote indigenous

people's access to the dominant media so as to enable them to exercise their freedom of expression and participate in multicultural dialogue within the global knowledge society.

H. Universities' round table – universities and urban sustainability: the Millennium City University

276. The round-table discussions were chaired by Professor Anthony Dorsey, Director, Centre for Human Settlements and School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor Erminia Maricato, Faculty of Architecture, University of São Paulo, Brazil; and Professor Pietro Garau, Director, Centre for Urban Studies for the Developing Countries, of La Sapienza University, Rome.

277. The round table was divided into two sessions. The first related to current status and the second to the way forward.

To date: guiding principles for partnering and examples

278. It was noted that universities were not being used to their full potential, one of the reasons being a lack of resources. It was also noted that funding was often available on a project-to-project basis, and that the lack of both resources and their continuity prevented universities from contributing fully to change and development. National governments, donor agencies and other actors also failed to recognize the potential of universities. The different objectives of those actors were also seen as a barrier to partnerships, as was a lack of trust between the different types of institution. Where they were not bound by time and resource constraints, however, as well as by different political agendas, universities were freer to explore issues and new areas of thought.

279. Exchange of knowledge and experiences through twinning universities and other centres of learning was strongly recommended. It was noted that that type of exchange should occur at both the international and local levels. It was stressed that universities needed to be actors in their local communities and to engage in partnerships with civil society and the private sector. By being actors within their local communities, universities could disseminate knowledge as well as listen and cater to the demands and needs of those communities, thus becoming relevant to their surrounding environments. It was further noted that students had the potential of becoming agents of change, able to link research to service and engagement, as well as connecting theory and practice.

Future: learning and diffusion initiatives

280. The role of universities as critics was discussed, and it was stated that not only did universities need to examine the world around them critically, they must also examine the accepted model of what a university was "supposed" to be. Universities were often seen to back away from taking action on the results of their research, thus refraining from being actors in the political field. Similarly, the existing knowledge base needed to be examined, and it was also noted that there was a lack of up-to-date knowledge on land issues, informal settlements and the urban sphere as a whole.

281. While universities needed to support the Millennium Development Goals, they also had to be critical of them, adding to their definition and focus. It should also be the role of universities to provide independent monitoring of governments' progress in their work towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and to develop indicators for that purpose.

282. The session ended with the introduction of the Millennium Cities University initiative, a partnership of universities aiming to combine resources for the achievement of the goal of the "Millennium Cities". It was agreed to follow up on those discussions at the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, with specific and concrete cases illustrating progress made and issues raised during the round table.

I. Youth round table: youth, leaders of today and tomorrow

283. The round-table discussions were chaired by Mr. Avi Lewis, award-winning documentary filmmaker and television journalist, Canada; Mr. Doug Ragan, Manager, Adult Ally Environmental Youth Alliance; and Mr. Kelly L'Hirondelle, Executive Director, Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Alliance, Canada.

284. The discussions opened with an appreciation by the Mr. Lewis of the location of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum on Coast Salish land. He expressed recognition of the fact that youth were experts on youth engagement, and that over 50 per cent of the world's population were young people under the age of 25.

285. Much of the discussion focused on the need to move from token involvement of youth to mainstreaming youth engagement across all stages of policy and programme planning, design, implementation and evaluation. It was stressed that that model of engagement should be applied at the international level as well as at the municipal level and that it should also involve diverse methods of inclusion that were both formal and informal. Youth participants highlighted the importance of education and training opportunities and the use of sports, music, arts and culture as means of engaging youth in addressing social challenges.

286. It was pointed out that youth were diverse and faced many challenges and barriers, including socio-economic disparities, exploitation, disability and discrimination on the basis of gender. In particular, participants highlighted the issues faced by indigenous youth in both developed and developing countries.

287. It was emphasized that youth-led initiatives needed increased access to resources and support structures. That could be achieved through mini-grants and community-based partnerships. Youth-led initiatives enabled self-organization, a sense of belonging, and peer-based leadership and creativity, while at the same time addressing critical development issues. There was also a need to increase outreach in order to provide youth with information on how to access available resources and project support systems.

288. A range of issues related to representation were raised. The media often portrayed negative images of youth, including those of youth as criminals. Youth were often underrepresented in decision-making platforms and processes at the local, national, and international level. Youth participants applauded UN-Habitat for engaging youth in the World Urban Forum and also suggested increased representation of youth at opening plenary sessions and across all panels, round tables, dialogues and networking sessions.

289. A general sentiment expressed was that it was not enough to have youth talking to youth about youth issues and, in that context, youth-adult partnerships were considered critical. It was highlighted that true engagement came from representation and participation across sectors, institutions and stakeholder groups. Youth involved in decision-making processes, who were often more articulate, also needed to consider issues pertaining to children and other youth who were marginalized and lacked a voice in dialogues affecting their lives.

290. Participants recognized the importance and power of creating international networks of both individuals and organizations: that would ensure greater outreach, information sharing, mentorship and intergenerational dialogue.

J. Gendering land tools round table – Global Land Tool Network

291. The round-table discussions were chaired by Dr. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, South Africa.

292. The round table was held a day after the launch of the Global Land Tool Network. Public-sector, private-sector and civil-society partners engaged in a detailed discussion on a draft gender framework aimed at supporting strategies that the new network could use to enhance women's rights and security of tenure. Features built into the mechanism were a multi-stakeholder approach anchored in a process led by women themselves.

293. Mrs. Tibajuka informed the participants that access to land by women had declined in recent decades. It was important therefore to transform "paper rights" into real political, economic and social rights for women: the principles must be translated into action. The new Global Land Tool Network must have a clear road map, backed up by agreement among partners on its priorities and real commitment by all stakeholders to real change.

294. Participants agreed that the obstacles confronting women on land ownership, secure land tenure and access to adequate housing must be addressed systematically. The complex social, political and economic structures which land tenure entailed, however, made it difficult to transfer models and tools without clear guidelines. It was noted that legal frameworks on land tenure and land ownership varied considerably in national constitutions and legislation around the world, making general applications of new frameworks difficult.

295. Structures guiding land and housing inheritance in many societies were mentioned as obstacles which obstructed the realization of women's rights. In addition, discriminatory practices hampering the realization of women's rights were often rooted in assumptions on gender, geographical location (such as discrimination against rural women), and culture (especially unequal treatment of indigenous

groups). Several speakers said that international declarations on human rights were largely underutilized at the national and subnational level; often they were not applied because individuals had poor or insufficient knowledge of them. That involved not only women being unaware of their rights, but also weak political will by governments at various levels, a problem mentioned by many speakers.

296. The obstacles faced by women in realizing their rights to access land and housing had been identified, by and large, by the global community. Participants felt that dialogue among partners must continue to ensure that that information was shared and that successful tools were used. They agreed that the new network's gender mechanism should be adopted and suggested a pilot study in Rwanda. The secretariat of the Global Land Tool Network urged them to provide regular reports on progress and implementation through its website. It was agreed to review progress in 2008 at the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum.

K. Spirituality round table – bridging the gap: spirituality and sustainability in the urban context

297. The round-table discussions were chaired by Ms. Angela Hryniuk, Executive Director, Interspiritual Centre of Vancouver Society, Canada and moderated by Ms. Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director, Global Community Initiatives, Montpelier, United States of America.

298. The 30-member panel explored the role of spirituality in urban sustainability. Ms. Barbara Charlie, Mackmacklout, Elder, Squamish Nation, opened proceedings with an opening prayer in which she said that no matter what nations people came from, they were all one. The Chair spoke about the efforts made to include spirituality in the programme of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.

299. A three-minute period of meditation was held.

300. Presentations were made on various aspects of the topic by Mr. Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogotá; Dr. Samuel Luboga, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Makerere University, Kampala; Mr. Surinder Kumar, General Manager, Management Services Group, Sahara India Pariwar, India; Ms. Mae-Chee Sunsanee Sthirasuta, Buddhist nun and spiritual leader, Thailand; and Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr., Chief Executive Officer, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Seattle, United States of America, and International Coordinator, Four Worlds International.

301. It was stressed that a good city was one that promoted human happiness, and that the ultimate goal of human beings was achieving happiness. Participants expressed delight that spirituality was being discussed at a forum organized by the United Nations. They observed that too much money was being spent on armaments, particularly by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. They further noted that important changes did not have to do with money, but with how people could change their ways of life. They stressed the importance of the soul. In addition, they observed that all great religions taught how to make people happy and that happiness had to do with the development of human potential: a bird was happier when set free than when in a cage.

302. It was emphasized that human beings could dream, create a vision and achieve it. In that context, participants called for the use of the built environment to support human happiness. Vision extended beyond technical rationality and political agenda to include the landscape of the spirit.

303. It was pointed out that millions of people were migrating to cities in order to escape rural poverty. Unfortunately, many of them were often trapped by the rapid urbanization of poverty. Noting that spiritual development was a basic need of human beings regardless of any religious practice, participants called for the inclusion of spirituality in all UN-Habitat conferences. In that connection, it was observed that the round table was itself a significant development.

304. The round table closed with mantra chanting and songs accompanied by First Nations drums.

L. Environment round table – strategic eco-innovation: integrating health and environment into sustainable urban practices

305. The round-table discussions were chaired by Ms. Arciris Garay, Coordinator, Youth for Social Justice Network and National Chair, Canadian Environmental Network and Health Caucus Steering Committee, Canada; and Ms. Hayat Redi, Deputy Director, EVERYONE, Ethiopia. Ms. Amelia Clarke, past President, Sierra Club of Canada served as moderator.

306. The round table was aimed at fostering strategic alliances within the environment sector, including Canadian and international non-governmental organizations, health professionals, labour unions, indigenous and youth groups, universities, the private sector and governments. The round table drew from participants' experiences and particular areas of expertise to identify the challenges and

opportunities to achieving sustainable cities and developing cross-sectoral partnership projects to address those challenges.

307. The round table was attended by organizations undertaking focused discussions in five different working groups (community capacity-building; energy and resource management; food; safe environment and health communities; and youth). The intentions of the round table were to identify areas of commonality; better understand existing partnerships and the steps involved in forming new partnerships; and identify initial partnership projects and ideas designed to come up with solutions to overcome the challenges identified.

308. Each working group reached conclusions specific to its topic, including a list of challenges, resources which each could provide to tackle the challenge, initial partnership project ideas, goals and strategies, and the way forward. The working groups also identified other potential partners that were missing from the workshop but should become involved in the follow-up.

309. The initial partnerships and project ideas included:

- (a) Establishing four model projects related to community capacity-building;
- (b) Piloting a public-private partnership called Net Zero Resource Use in Urban Areas and studying its progress as a potential model;
- (c) Creating an arts-based approach to youth engagement to be piloted in Nigeria and Canada;
- (d) Developing an online resource centre on healthy-food-related issues and engaging with more partners in that endeavour;
- (e) Conducting three model projects related to a new model on healthy communities in Peru, Egypt and Canada;
- (f) Creating a North-South partnership related to the health impacts of asbestos.

M. Mayors' round table⁶ – local government at the crossroads: approaching the Millennium Development Goals through practical innovation and local action

310. The round-table discussions were chaired by Mayor Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of the City of Montréal, Canada, Vice-President, Association Internationale des Maires Francophones and Vice-President, UCLG; and Mayor Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Councillor of Tshwane, South Africa, Co-President, UCLG. Ms. Dominique Dennery, President, Dennery Resources, Canada, served as moderator.

311. The mayors' round table brought together local government elected officials, members of the UN-Habitat Governing Council representing national governments, and representatives of donor countries. Local governments stressed their increased roles as key participants in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals: they were not only responsible for the provision of services directly linked with targets of the Millennium Development Goals, but also for strengthening governance through the engagement of civil society and partnership with the private sector. During the discussion, they focused on actions and solutions required to address the challenges facing local governments in achieving the Goals.

312. Mayor Mkhatshwa reminded participants of the challenges of urbanization, particularly in Africa, and said that the Millennium Development Goals might not be achieved unless local democracy was in place. A radical change of paradigm was necessary in order to move away from aid to integrated economic development in urban areas.

313. Mayor Tremblay highlighted the latest steps taken by networks of local authorities regarding the Millennium Development Goals. Given the urbanization challenges, cities needed technologies, financial resources and expertise. Cities needed to take full responsibility and gain credibility before their partners, showing them that they could actually deliver. The current development of information technology should provide a great opportunity to engage in new, innovative partnerships, particularly with the private sector. He informed participants that consultations had been carried out with financial

⁶ Organized in cooperation with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

institutions that might lead to the establishment of a World Bank of Cities jointly with the cities themselves.

314. Ms. Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, said that achieving the Millennium Development Goals was linked to the promotion of decentralization and good local urban governance. In partnership with UCLG and the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), UN-Habitat was developing guidelines on decentralization which would be adopted at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council, in 2007. That framework would assist countries in their efforts to devolve power to their local governments.

315. Mayors and other participants exchanged views on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in cities, emphasizing the need to adopt rights-based approaches and the importance of city-to-city cooperation. Some best practices were highlighted, including projects on renewable energy and improvement of urban infrastructure.

316. Participants stressed the essential role of leadership and vision to prepare the city for the future. Without the participation of the citizens, that could not be achieved. It was therefore crucial to strengthen solidarity and build capacity among communities. Some participants expressed the view that decentralization constituted the first step towards creating jobs, attracting investors and alleviating poverty. In order to sustain that process, the principles of decentralization should be entrenched in national constitutions.

317. Mayor Sullivan of Vancouver also reminded participants that, given the way Vancouver was functioning at that time, if all cities of the world followed the same path, it would take four planets to sustain the present urban population. That fact had made his proposal to enhance Vancouver's density and reduce its ecological footprint a necessary one.

318. Representatives of local authorities urged mayors to focus more clearly on the Millennium Development Goals' target 10, related to water and sanitation, and target 11, to improve the lives of slum dwellers.

319. The Chair stressed the importance of measuring progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to developing and using appropriate indicators at the city level. He also expressed the hope that the World Bank could start a policy of sub-sovereign loans. He urged local authorities to take an active part in the twenty-first session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to facilitate the adoption of decentralization guidelines.

VI. Special sessions

A. Trialogue on water, sanitation and human settlements

320. The round-table discussions were moderated by Ms. Magaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, Canada. The panellists were Ms. Ana Teresa Aranda Orozco, Minister of Social Development, Mexico; Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, India; Mr. André Juneau, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Canada; Ms. Anne M. Stenhammer, State Secretary, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Chairman, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, Visiting Professor, Indian National Institute of Advanced Studies and first Executive Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements; Mr. Arjun Thapan, Deputy Director-General, Mekong Department, Asian Development Bank; Mr. Ronald Carlson, Urban Programmes Team Leader, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States of America; Professor Albert Wright, United Nations Millennium Task Force on Water and Sanitation; Ms. Prabha Khosla, Advisor, Gender and Water Alliance, Canada; and Mr. Malick Gaye, ENDA Tiers Monde, Senegal.

321. The major issues and concerns were that at the turn of the millennium, 47 per cent of the world's population of 6 billion was living in urban areas. Over 900 million people lived in slums. With the proportion of the population living in cities projected to increase to two thirds by 2030, there was a need to develop a new perspective for water, sanitation and human settlements. In a world where 1.1 billion people lacked access to safe water and 2.4 billion lacked access to basic sanitation, both water and sanitation remained at the centre of reducing poverty and other related Millennium Development Goals. There was a need to focus on slums and squatter settlements, which were an integral part of urban areas. Provision of water and sanitation was an essential prerequisite for sustainable human settlements. The Millennium Development Goals' target on water and sanitation was therefore important, both as a strategic entry point to slum upgrading and also for achieving other Millennium Development Goals.

322. The session discussed new approaches to develop pro-poor governance frameworks and new strategic partnerships and to introduce new delivery mechanisms which would not only give the poor a central place in the decision-making process but also facilitate pro-poor investment in the water and sanitation sector. It also highlighted the need for sectoral reforms, the development of new and participatory monitoring mechanisms with the involvement of the poor, especially women, to enhance efficiency, accountability and transparency in public spending.

323. The discussion sought to bring governments at the national, regional and local levels together as important partners responsible for budgetary support, governance and regulatory policies to meet the challenge of providing water and sanitation for human settlements. The private sector in a globalizing world had a major role to play in mobilizing resources and improving delivery. International lending agencies such as the World Bank and regional development banks, and also non-governmental organizations involving communities at all levels, used the Third Session of the World Urban Forum to build a new consensus on water and sanitation for sustainable human settlements.

324. Ms. Selja described two initiatives designed to promote inclusive approaches to the provision of water and sanitation for the poor: the national urban renewal programme, which focused on reconstruction of cities and establishing good governance structures; and the initiative on basic services encompassing integrated approaches to infrastructure development. The programmes were currently being implemented in 60 cities in India, of which four were megacities. The programme practiced inclusive and participatory approaches. Minister Selja spoke in favour of gendered budgeting for water and sanitation to ensure that the special needs of women and children were catered for.

325. Ms. Orozco said that national governments should delegate the responsibility for action to local authorities and should encourage flexibility in how they used funding. Success depended on effective local policy developed with community involvement. By standardizing service provision, greater economies of scale could be achieved. Local authorities should provide serviced land to poor communities.

326. Ms. Stenhammer raised the issue of the roles and responsibilities of women and men in slum upgrading. Although women were often involved in the planning process, they were usually excluded from implementation. She cited the example of a World Bank evaluation showing that projects involving women were six to seven times more effective in delivering services. She spoke in favour of gender action plans as a condition of loans from development banks and urged the Asian Development Bank to put those ideas into practice.

327. Ms. Khosla warned that households headed by women and elderly people were often neglected by policymakers and called for better funding allocation to meet their specific needs.

328. Mrs. Tibaijuka said that water and sanitation were today as high a priority as they had been at the first Habitat Conference in 1976. She explained how the UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Trust Fund had effectively leveraged public, private and community resources to improve access to water and sanitation for the urban poor.

329. Mr. Thapan emphasized that the conditions of the Asian Development Bank stipulated the inclusion of women and pro-poor approaches in all projects. He cited the need to improve the financial capacity of local government to attract more investment and to set tariffs attractive to investors, and outlined two novel approaches where alternatives had improved service provision: the development of small-scale piped systems and zonal approaches.

330. Mr. Carlson, referring to the initiatives of the Cities Alliance, called for further leveraging of support and tools to promote sound business practice. He also highlighted the need to assess the creditworthiness of local authorities to enable lower-risk investment and effective sharing of risk between the private sector and local authorities.

331. Mr. Juneau stressed the importance of conditions for investment in water demand management, and tariffs in sector investments. Public-private partnerships were not popular in Canada, however, and that needed to be changed.

332. Professor Wright and Mr. Gaye discussed neighbourhood-centred approaches to water and sanitation provision. Mr. Gaye said that attaining the Millennium Development Goals would be driven by improved governance structures. Best practices from India, Thailand, Pakistan and Brazil could be replicated elsewhere. Such replication could best be achieved through documentation, dissemination and technical training.

333. Dr. Ramachandran said that there were innovative models and multiple routes to attain the water and sanitation goals, particularly in smaller urban centres. There was a need to promote good planning practices in smaller centres, before they suffered uncontrolled expansion. He stressed the need for national government policies promoting women in decision-making. He also stressed that rural areas should not be neglected, because they too needed access to basic services to attract investments.

334. The session concluded that the promotion of neighbourhood approaches to the provision of water and sanitation should be considered a novel way to improve access for the urban poor. In addition, funding from donors and governments should be conditional on the participation of women.

335. Although local action plans emphasized water and sanitation as a priority, national policies did not always support them. Increasing the scale would require novel financing mechanisms and leveraging to ensure the promotion of good practices. Although there were many examples of successful community-based approaches, capacity needed to be built among local authorities to fulfil their commitments.

336. Although privatization of services carried the benefits of improved technical capabilities and investment opportunities, it was also considered appropriate to empower public utilities to perform better, particularly in approaches to serving the poor. Novel approaches in which risks were shared between local authorities and external investors would also go a long way to promoting increased domestic and foreign investment.

337. There was a need to identify the special needs of HIV/AIDS sufferers and develop specific capacity-building interventions to improve provision of water and sanitation, which greatly increase their life expectancy. In addition, the role of youth in the vision of basic services should be promoted. Youth involvement in related areas such as solid waste management increased the potential for income generation and livelihood development.

B. The role of local governments: leadership in sustainability

338. The session was chaired by Mr. Wim Deetman, Mayor of The Hague, President, Association of Netherlands Municipalities, and moderated by Ms. Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary-General, UCLG, Spain. Speakers included Mrs. Tibaijuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Mr. Simon Compaoré, Mayor of Ouagadougou, President of the Association des Maires du Burkina Faso; Mr. David Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary, Canada; Mr. João Avamileno, Mayor of Santo André, Executive Secretary of Mercociudades, Brazil; and Ms. Sebilla Dekker, Minister of Housing, the Netherlands.

339. It was felt that the session came at a significant moment in the international dialogue on decentralization. As a result of many years of local-government lobbying towards a world charter on local self-government, draft guidelines on decentralization had been developed through close partnership between local governments and UN-Habitat. Local governments were calling on central governments not to let the opportunity pass and invited all their partners to carry out lobbying work to facilitate the adoption of the guidelines by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-first session, in 2007.

340. Local governments wanted to engage in a closer relationship with the United Nations, as the world's mayors had experience to share, a role to play and a vision to offer in addressing the Millennium Development Goals, and disseminating the global values common to all.

341. Municipalities around the world were looking for new and innovative ways to achieve sustainability. The session focused on the local government experience and leadership in sustainable development. Effective decentralization was the starting point for local leadership and was one of the key areas for the discussion, in addition to basic services for all and local government fiscal autonomy.

342. The Chair stressed the importance of financial autonomy of cities and local governments, in particular with respect to appropriate tax systems allowing local governments to raise their own financial resources. He also noted the importance of provision of basic services for all, as a precondition of good governance, although he observed that experiences in one city might not always be transferable to another because of variations in governance systems. He stressed that the promotion of effective decentralization had been and remained one of the key priorities for the world's mayors, as it was important for decisions to be taken by the level of government closest to the citizens. Decentralization must be based on core principles such as subsidiarity, accountability, transparency, equity, citizenship, predictability and the rule of law.

343. Ms. Dekker, as a representative of a national government, noted that within the framework of decentralization, the role of local governments was essential. Nevertheless, national governments had important roles to play with respect to establishing appropriate legislation and provision of financial support to local governments. She also noted the important role of partnerships with all relevant stakeholders and in particular the contributions of housing associations and communities.
344. Mr. Compaoré noted that one of the cornerstones of decentralization was the transfer of financial resources from central to local government. Local governments had important responsibilities, but could not fulfil their roles without fiscal autonomy and partnership with regional and national governments. Local governments needed those resources to carry out their mandates and develop services, but also to ensure that human resources were available to serve their citizens.
345. Mr. Bronconnier noted the importance of partnerships between different levels of governments and described the experience in Calgary with participatory planning processes.
346. Mr. Avamileno observed that the introduction of decentralization policies had changed the role of mayors, in particular in terms of increased responsibilities. Increased financial resources for local governments were essential. Recently formed international networks of local governments were increasing the productive interchange of information and lessons learned between cities.
347. Mrs. Tibajuka reflected on the collaboration between local governments and UN-Habitat, in particular during and after the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1996. She noted that UCLG had already made significant progress and had facilitated the role of UN-Habitat. She also noted the importance of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, in which local governments were able to enter into dialogue directly with national governments.
348. In the discussion that followed it was stressed that, as the responsibilities and importance of local governments were increasing, the process must be carried out in a spirit of cooperation and partnership, with the full involvement and participation of citizens. It was noted that local governments were responsible for implementing policies to respond to changing conditions in increasingly multicultural societies.
349. Several participants stressed the importance of fiscal autonomy for local governments. While central governments were transferring tasks to local governments, it was essential that funds were made available for local governments to undertake those new tasks; otherwise, the result would be increased dissatisfaction and alienation among urban citizens. It was also noted that as decentralization was beginning to take place in some countries, technical assistance might be required to allow local governments to discharge their new responsibilities with success. It was also noted that there was a need to find new ways of sharing power between citizens, local leaders and central government. The important contribution of the developing partnerships between local governments in different parts of the world was highlighted by several participants.
350. Several participants requested representatives of local governments to pay particular attention to the concerns of various vulnerable groups such as indigenous people, immigrants and ethnic and other minorities. Policies should therefore focus on approaches for ensuring social inclusion. It was also noted that local governments should increase their efforts to involve women and youth in local governance.
351. Local governments were also advised to take steps to train the leaders of the future. In that connection, Mr. Bronconnier shared his own experience as Mayor of Calgary, where he dedicated one morning each week to communicate with students at the City Hall school. Several representatives of local governments highlighted the importance which they attached to construction of youth centres. There were also calls for interventions to ensure adequate representation of various segments of society among elected local government officials.
352. A representative of the private sector encouraged local governments to ensure that they were facilitating the contribution of all stakeholders in the development process. Rather than just saying “no”, local governments should strive to facilitate what was possible. Other participants highlighted the importance of engaging all segments of the population, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and women. One participant noted that decentralization of government had been accompanied by a decentralization of corruption, and several participants asked representatives to pay particular attention to ways of reducing corruption within local government.
353. The Chair, drawing on the questions and observations made during the debate, highlighted the need to secure balanced territorial development in order to prevent the emergence of slums and informal human settlements. He stressed the need for fiscal autonomy, as the world needed stronger local

governments. Participants were encouraged to create a culture of solidarity which was conducive to social inclusion and peace.

354. The session concluded that the promotion of effective decentralization was one of the best ways to strengthen the role and the capacities of local governments. The guidelines on decentralization prepared by UN-Habitat in collaboration with UCLG must be given full support by local and national governments to allow for their smooth adoption by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in 2007.

C. From Vancouver to Nanjing

355. The session was chaired by Mr. André Juneau, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Canada, and moderated by Mr. Brock Carlton, Director, International Centre for Municipal Development, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada. Speakers were Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, United Nations, Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Mr. Michael Harcourt, Co-Chair of the Canadian National Advisory Committee for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, former Mayor of Vancouver; former Premier of British Columbia, Current Chair, External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, Canada; Mr. Marten Lilja, State Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Sweden; Mr. Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, President, Association of Mayors, People's Republic of China; Mr. Wu Zhiqiang, Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, People's Republic of China; Mr. Wu Tinghai, Deputy Director, Institute of Architectural and Urban Studies, Qinghua University, People's Republic of China; Mr. Ping Fu, Assistant President, Shanghai Land Development Group, People's Republic of China; and Mr. Lu Bing, Deputy Mayor, City of Nanjing, People's Republic of China.

356. The session reflected on the challenges ahead, as identified in the various dialogues, round tables and other events at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, as participants looked forward to the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, to be hosted by the Ministry of Construction of China and the City of Nanjing in 2008. The session explored the changes and opportunities for urbanization in China and elsewhere, in particular with respect to sustainability, and provided insight on the issues that would be put before the Fourth Session.

357. The session was organized in two segments, the first focusing on issues of urban sustainability and the challenges ahead, and also on reflections on the changes that had occurred since the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements convened in Vancouver in 1976. The second segment focused on the achievements and challenges ahead in China as it prepared to host the Fourth Session.

358. Mrs. Tibaijuka noted the importance of analysing how the discussion during the Third Session of the World Urban Forum could chart the way forward to Nanjing. The fact that some 10,000 participants had met in Vancouver and discussed urban sustainability was in itself a major achievement. She also noted that the various sessions had engaged and involved all Habitat Agenda partners. She cited the gender balance in participation: about half the participants in Vancouver had been women. An extensive evaluation of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum was under way, through a variety of means, ranging from questionnaires to focus-group discussions. That evaluation was an essential part of ensuring that the World Urban Forum could continue to evolve. The discussions held during the Forum had proved the critics wrong, those who had been sceptical about the need for "another" United Nations meeting. The Forum had proved that there was need for dialogue, for exchange of experience and for learning from others, leading to actionable ideas, and indeed, actions on the ground.

359. Mr. Harcourt reflected on the enthusiastic and exciting atmosphere during the first Habitat Conference in 1976, with its focus on dialogue and consultation. Despite all the nice statements made in 1976, however, he noted that by the time the Habitat II Conference was convened in Istanbul in 1996, there had been a general lack of progress, particularly with respect to the involvement of women, youth, indigenous and other vulnerable groups. Among the issues raised during the Forum sessions he highlighted the importance of devolution of authority to local governments, and the need to engage and involve the various groups that constituted communities, including the disabled, indigenous groups, youth and women. The current session of the Forum had been an opportunity to share and learn from experiences in other parts of the world, good and bad, including those that had come out of the Habitat Jam internet discussion. The Fourth Session of the Forum would be an opportunity to measure improvements in the conditions of an increasing urban population living in poverty.

360. In the discussion that followed, a number of issues were raised by participants. Several participants noted the need to ensure adequate representation of all at all levels at the Fourth Session. In particular, it was noted that the panel of the Nanjing special session included eight men and one woman, no youth representatives, or those representing vulnerable groups. There were also calls for increased

participation of the private commercial sector. The panellists noted that several prominent Chinese women were already involved in the preparation of the 2008 session of the Forum, and that the private sector was indeed welcome to participate. Representatives of the private sector noted that they were already acting, and called upon the participants of the Forum to follow. It was noted that sister-city programmes were already in place between cities in Canada and China which were facilitating the contribution of the private sector. Such programmes were in line with the spirit of partnerships between cities, as well as North-South cooperation.

361. One participant noted that the secretariat might consider rethinking the organization of the Fourth Session as she felt that there were too many events taking place during the first three days of the Session as compared to the last two days. Mrs. Tibajuka noted that organization of the sessions was based on the experiences of the Second Session, and that it had been arranged to avoid dialogues and round tables clashing with networking events.

362. Several participants noted the importance of rural areas, and that those should not be marginalized in addressing the consequences of urbanization. Mrs. Tibajuka noted that UN-Habitat was indeed focusing on rural areas as well, as part of its mandate, and highlighted programmes on urban-rural linkages in the Lake Victoria region and in the Mekong Delta.

363. In the second segment of the session there were five presentations. Mr. Wang gave an extensive presentation on the activities and achievements within the field of human settlements in China as it had moved from a planned to a market economy. He cited the importance of women, the preservation of cultural and historical heritage, and the need for better urban planning, in particular land-use planning. He stressed the importance of balanced development between rural and urban areas, and pointed to cities as engines of growth, while stressing the importance of small and medium-sized cities, and noted also the importance of balancing economic growth and environmental concerns.

364. Mr. Wu Zhiqiang noted that the Chinese Government had come to realize in recent decades the true meaning of development, as it moved focus from economic to social development. He also noted that the challenges faced in urban areas of developing and developed countries were different. He informed participants that China was not only about to host the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing in 2008, but also the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010. For the first time in its history, the latter would focus on urban issues. The Forum and the Expo would there provide opportunities to discuss urban issues in China over a period of several years.

365. Mr. Lilja noted the importance of sustainable urbanization, and sustainable cities. Rural-to-urban migration was creating a lot of problems, including scarcity of resources, but he stressed that it also provided a number of new opportunities for people. It was essential to integrate economic, social and ecological issues and concerns in the planning process; in that connection, he informed the meeting that Sweden was at the forefront of reducing dependence on fossil fuels. He pointed out that there must be a focus on the development of housing that was attractive as well as affordable.

366. Mr. Fu described development in Shanghai during the past 160 years, and noted that its growth posed major development problems. He highlighted the importance of infrastructure development and the importance of balancing economic, social and environmental concerns in urban development. He outlined details on the development of a new city, Gucun, north of Shanghai, which was to be completed by early 2008. It would be appropriate to report on that project at the Fourth Session.

367. Mr. Lu informed participants concerning the historic and cultural background of Nanjing, a former national capital, and outlined its unique geography and its role as a centre of research and development. He stressed the importance of preserving its historical heritage and cultural assets, and the importance placed on developing Nanjing as a green city. Green areas already covered 45 per cent of the city and all citizens had less than 500 metres to walk to a green area. In the process of increasing the size of green areas, the city was demolishing shacks and slum-like structures to make it even more beautiful. He called on participants to meet again in Nanjing in 2008, and informed the participants that the theme of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2008 would be "A harmonious city".

368. Mr. Juneau noted that the panel had not been able to address all the questions placed before it. He concluded, however, that the balance between urban and rural development was essential, and that it was necessary to follow up that issue.

369. Other major issues raised during the session were the importance of moving from ideas to actionable ideas, and that that was a major challenge to the next session of the Forum, in particular how to ensure security of tenure and how to operationalize the rights of various vulnerable groups. The need

for development to take account of economic and social as well as environmental concerns was also highlighted by most speakers.

D. Future of cities

370. The session was facilitated by Mr. Ben Malor, Chief Executive Producer, United Nations Radio, United States of America. Speakers were Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Professor John Friedmann, Honorary Professor in Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Canada; Dr. Janice Perlman, Founder and President, Megacities Project, United States of America; Dr. Xuemei Bai, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan; Ms. Kalpana Sharma, Mumbai Bureau Chief, the *Hindu* newspaper, India; Professor David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow, Human Settlements, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ms. Rose Molokoane, Shack Dwellers International, South Africa; Mr. Shri Ajay Maken, Minister for Urban Development, India; and Mr. Clive Harridge, President, Town Planning Institute, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

371. A presentation was given of the main conclusions of the State of the World's Cities Report 2006–2007. The panellists were then asked to give their main impressions on what they saw as the major trends and challenges facing cities in the twenty-first century.

372. The facilitator reminded participants that urbanization was an unstoppable trend, and according to many accounts, cities seem to be in trouble. What could cities do to cope? What were future cities likely to look like? Was the future all bleak or was there hope?

373. Further to the main findings of the State of the World Cities Report 2006–2007, Ms. Björk-Klevby wondered whether the picture was one of hope or despair. The findings of the Report showed both positive and negative prospects. On the positive side, cities were contributing significantly to gross domestic product, and were centres of culture, human interaction, new thinking and innovations. If not properly managed, however, they could exacerbate deprivation, exclusion and inequality. The report showed inequality between regions: Asia currently had 50 per cent of the world slum population, while Africa had the highest slum growth rate and the worst slum conditions. Inequalities within cities were also rising.

374. The State of the World's Cities Report 2006–2007 introduced a score card that ranked countries on their performance in slum upgrading and prevention. Countries that were doing well had several things in common, including long-term political commitment backed by appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks. They also combined slum upgrading programmes with economic growth, and were largely reliant on domestic resources. Such approaches linked the wealth of cities with improved well-being of their poorer residents.

375. Professor Friedmann stated that it was an impossible task to predict what future cities were likely to look like. The tendency was to get trapped in one of two extremes: utopia on the one hand, and doomsday scenarios on the other; avoiding the temptation to prophesy, he described a visit to a city in China, where, after observing the mix of new technology and ancient lifestyle, he had concluded that despite mushrooming modern architecture, increased traffic and new technology, the city was in essence the same as it had been for the last century. The point was that irrepressible human life would survive, adapt and ultimately triumph.

376. Dr. Perlman said that there would be no one city of the future; cities would continue to be rooted in their specificity. Indeed, people must all fight to preserve the diversity of cities. She noted that in some favelas of Rio de Janeiro, residents had been forcibly evicted and their dwellings replaced by apartment blocks for the middle class. In other areas, the favelas had been gradually transformed for the better by the residents, using their own resources. The residents' prime concern was employment and reliable incomes. Most of those residents and their offspring felt that the democratic space had opened up over the years but that it had yet to lead to more participation by the poor. Similarly, while there had been improvements in the physical environment, access to livelihoods had worsened. Nevertheless, the majority still expected that their lives would improve in the future.

377. Dr. Bai, in response to a question as to the sustainability of the Chinese model of urbanization, established the Chinese context: 40 per cent of the population was urban, and in the past 25 years the number of cities had grown from 200 to 660. If present trends continued, there would be 900 urban centres in 20 years' time. China had also become the manufacturing centre of the world, with negative environmental consequences, including diminishing farm land, polluted land as a result of dumping, and heavily polluted air and water. One result of that pollution had been a rise in the incidence of respiratory

diseases and also lung cancer. The question to ask should be how to make the Chinese process more sustainable, and in that connection she suggested several actions: city decision-making needed to be more sensitive to environmental concerns; appropriate policies and monitoring mechanisms needed to be put in place; and cities must be made aware of their ecological footprints. The good news was that there was a generation of younger mayors who were more environmentally conscious, and an emerging civil society that was becoming more active.

378. Ms. Sharma spoke as a resident of an exciting and complex city, Mumbai, but wondered why Mumbai was being asked to emulate Shanghai: each city was unique in its history and context. What was needed was to study the strengths and survival mechanisms of each city so as to support and build on them. In Mumbai, there was a need to manage competing demands in a context of financial constraints. Currently, structures intended to attract global capital competed with those that could improve liveability for the residents. Similarly, a significant amount of resources had been put into improving access for private cars, yet car owners represented only 8 per cent of Mumbai's population. Thus, planning appeared to be disconnected from reality. To ensure a more sustainable future, more affordable rental housing was needed; land should be freed from the "land mafias"; and there should be an increase in affordable and safe public transport.

379. Professor Satterthwaite said that there was increasing poverty largely because of government inaction. City governments continued to see the poor as a problem, and there was increasing polarization of city populations. More appropriate intervention models would be based on real partnerships between city governments and poor residents. Many federations of slum dwellers were forming savings groups and using their own resources to upgrade their houses and neighbourhoods. When city governments supported such networks, the scale of improvement increased exponentially. It was essential to give more space to such organizations, listen more effectively to what they said, and give them wider recognition. An indicator of success should be the quality of the relationship between city governments and associations of poor residents.

380. Ms. Molokoane wondered who the city belonged to: the poor were the majority, the most visible, the service providers, and yet the most marginalized. What the poor wanted were security of tenure and freedom from evictions. They wanted their existence and rights recognized, and they wanted to be included in development planning. She informed participants that she came also from an organization called "FED UP", of people who were fed up of poverty and homelessness, were fed up of being subjects of other peoples' agendas, but were not and would not be fed up of pressuring for their rights.

381. Mr. Maken highlighted the urgent need for more energy-efficient cities. That could be achieved through city planning as well as through the provision of adequate and energy-efficient city public transport. Slum upgrading must be implemented in situ and mixed land uses promoted so as to improve opportunities for livelihoods.

382. Mr. Harridge noted that there were two kinds of cities: the western, high-consumption, congested, environmentally unfriendly city, and the city of increasing slums in the developing world. Both types were unsustainable. In addition, cities were faced by climate change, urban terrorism and increasing violence. There was also strong resilience in city communities, however. Cities could be sustainable, but they needed to be planned in collaboration with their residents.

383. The session concluded that the problem was not population growth but unsustainable consumption patterns; that there was no model city of the future – each city must survive on the basis of its history and strengths; planning must be an agent of the people, not the State; and in most situations there were no either/or answers. While it was true that people and communities were resilient, sustainability must be planned for.

VII. Networking events

384. A series of over 160 networking events was organized on themes relevant to the Forum. Those events provided an opportunity to the participants to build knowledge, strengthen partnerships and share ideas and best practices. In addition, training events were organized to impart professional skills to urban practitioners.

VIII. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum

A. Provisional agenda

385. Under the terms of paragraph 11 of the objectives of and working arrangements for the World Urban Forum adopted by the First Session of the World Urban Forum,⁷ the provisional agenda for each session of the Forum must be prepared by the secretariat in consultation with national governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners at least six months in advance of the session.

B. Dates and venue

386. At the invitation of the Government of China, the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Nanjing, China in 2008. The precise dates will be confirmed after consultations with the United Nations Committee on Conferences to avoid conflicts or overlap with other United Nations meetings and events.

IX. Presentation of the summary report of the Session

387. The Advisory Group endorsed a report on the work of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum⁸ for submission by the Chair to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The Advisory Group presented that report at the closing session. At that session, Co-Chair Magafuli announced the endorsement of the report of the Forum for presentation to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat who, in turn, would submit it to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2007. A report of the Third Session would subsequently be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

388. The present report is based on that document and on the annexes to it reflecting the discussions.

X. Closure of the Session

389. Speakers at the closing session were Mr. John Pombe Magafuli, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Co-Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum; Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Mr. John Kaputin, Secretary-General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group Secretariat, Belgium; Ms. Marième Sow, ENDA Tiers Monde, Dakar; Ms. Ana Lucy Bengochea, Coordinator, Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras; Ms. Kim Jawanda, Terra Housing Consultants, South Africa; Ms. Memosh Tajhizadeh, ENJEU (ENvironnement JEUnesse), Quebec, Canada; Mr. Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, People's Republic of China; Mr. Lu Bing, Deputy Mayor of Nanjing, People's Republic of China; Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Ms. Lois Jackson, Chair, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Canada; and Mr. James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works; Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, Government of Canada.

390. Co-Chair Magafuli said the Third Session of the World Urban Forum had shown that it was a conference that had truly come of age because it had not merely involved the adoption of another report, but rather because it symbolised the sharing of a vision, the forging of new relationships, and the charting of a new way forward. It was wonderful testimony to what had changed in the past 30 years since the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver. He thanked the Government of Canada, UN-Habitat and the participants for making the conference a success.

391. Mr. Sané said that, unlike other United Nations conferences, the World Urban Forum was not an event where declarations and plans of action were drafted or negotiated, but rather one which allowed people from various sectors of society to meet and exchange ideas. People leaving the Forum should commit themselves to turning the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights into a reality, an objective to which UNESCO was dedicated.

392. Mr. Kaputin congratulated UN-Habitat and the Government of Canada for hosting the Session. The Forum was important to the 48 African, 16 Caribbean, and 15 Pacific States in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, the largest organized entity representing the developing world. The

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Report of the First Session of the World Urban Forum, Nairobi, 29 April–3 May 2002, annex IV.

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Available through <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=41> in English and French.

Forum had underlined the importance of exchanging experiences and best practices among cities, local authorities and development partners.

393. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group was committed to fighting against inadequate living conditions in slums and their adverse impact on achieving several of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to health, education and unemployment. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group had agreed to contribute funding to slum upgrading projects in its member countries which would be implemented by UN-Habitat. Slums were the result of policy failure and lack of appropriate planning, and the project on slum upgrading funded by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group would address those challenges, and would be implemented with the active participation of the beneficiaries. He noted that the African Caribbean and Pacific Group had commemorated its thirtieth anniversary on 6 June 2006, coinciding with the thirtieth anniversary of the Habitat I Conference, which had led to the creation of UN-Habitat.

394. Ms. Sow said that it was paradoxical that 30 years after the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver, and better global awareness of urban problems, the challenges confronting cities had become even more acute. Cities today were factories of social, economic, and political exclusion. There were greater numbers of poor people in cities than ever before, and their access to basic services remained very limited, even for the most basic needs. With all the means at the disposal of UN-Habitat, governments, local authorities, non-governmental and community organizations, she wondered what the measuring stick should be for lasting improvement in cities of developing countries, and whether the world had succeeded in bringing about large-scale change, and whether it had found workable, replicable standards for change. The Millennium Development Goals were often presented as a miracle solution. Yet, in most cases, the problems of handicapped groups, indigenous people, excluded castes, AIDS victims, refugees, displaced people and victims of forced evictions were not really taken into account. In addition, bureaucracy and corruption were major roadblocks to progress. The Habitat Jam internet discussion, backed up by her organization ENDA Tiers Monde and the Nairobi-based non-governmental organization the Mazingira Institute, exemplified how people around the world could participate directly in policy making.

395. Ms. Bengochea said that if the world paid more attention to women as equals in society, the Millennium Development Goals and much more would be achieved. She outlined a six-point framework for progress:

- (a) Support small and medium-sized businesses and home-based enterprises of women;
- (b) Support indigenous, aboriginal and third-world women and promote and respect their traditional knowledge;
- (c) Recognize and consult grassroots women as experts;
- (d) Establish new funds for grassroots women's peer exchanges, public spaces and organizing;
- (e) Promote dialogue between the international aid agencies, grassroots women's leaders and local authorities to redirect funding and programmes;
- (f) Support local authority collaboration and local-to-local dialogues to sustain the participation of women in local decision-making.

396. Ms. Jawanda said that the international community had only scratched the surface of public-private partnerships in a world where it was the private sector that provided jobs. There must be more public-private-people-sector partnerships for slum upgrading. She urged participants to involve the private sector more in planning and in addressing sustainability issues.

397. Ms. Tajhizadeh, speaking on behalf of the World Youth Forum which had met in Vancouver on the eve of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, said that although young people might be considered the leaders of tomorrow, the challenges existed today, and that young people could be the leaders of today. Presenting the Declaration of the World Youth Forum, she said UN-Habitat had recognized young people as key partners in solving urbanization problems. The question was no longer about whether but rather how ideas for action could incorporate youth. Further memorandums of understanding were being prepared by youth groups for the 2007 session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, and in that connection she asked UN-Habitat to broaden its engagement with young people. The Youth Forum had felt it important, both for UN-Habitat and the broader international community, to improve field research and reporting on the social and economic impact of young people in their societies.

398. Mr. Wang said that the City of Vancouver had close ties with China and that he was happy that his country would be hosting the Fourth Session of the Forum. The City of Nanjing, host for the next session of the Forum, had a rich and ancient history and was a showcase of the future of Chinese cities. He invited all participants to the next session of the Forum in China.

399. Mr. Lu said that the City of Nanjing was nearly 2,500 years old and was one of the four most historical Chinese cities. In addition to its rich cultural heritage, the city was a transportation hub that had experienced high levels of economic growth in the past few years and was seeking to harmonize economic development with environmental sustainability.

400. Mrs. Tibaijuka expressed her thanks to Prime Minister Harper, Mayor Sullivan, Ms. Jackson, and also to Mr. Campbell, Premier of the Province of British Columbia, and the people of Vancouver for hosting the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. Like all participants, she had had high expectations for the Forum, and Vancouver had ably demonstrated that it was a model of sustainability and inclusiveness for the world. She also thanked the Canadian secretariat, Global Staff and the hundreds of volunteers who had given their time and energy to ensuring that the Forum was a success. Under the able leadership of the Forum Chair, Ms. Finley of Canada, and the Co-Chair, Mr. Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Forum had greatly benefited from members of the Advisory Group led by Chair Finley and by the Acting Chair, Mr. Munir Sheikh. She also thanked those donor countries which had enabled participants from all over the world to take part in the Forum.

401. The Fourth Session of the Forum had provided all participants with a wide range of practical and innovative solutions which had been informed by collective past failures. UN-Habitat would constantly strive to make the biennial event a continuing success. She said that she was leaving Vancouver inspired not only by the substantive discussions, but also by the richness and variety of the various events.

402. Mr. Moore said that since Vancouver had been voted the world's most liveable city, it had grown in the right direction, and it was fitting that it should hold the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, 30 years after the first Habitat Conference had been held in the same city. He had been pleased to learn that the work which the Canadian International Development Agency was doing in cooperation with UN-Habitat to foster clean water and proper sanitation in Africa had been highlighted at the Forum. It was true that sustainable cities required cooperation between different people from a broad range of disciplines and the Forum had provided participants with new potential partners who could work with them in making communities better places to live.

403. Canadians were proud of the success of the Forum, in which nearly 10,000 people had participated, twice as many as at the Second Session of the World Urban Forum in 2004. Canada would assist in handing over the torch to China, which would host the Fourth Session of the Forum in Nanjing in 2008.

404. Ms. Jackson closed the Forum, stating that as cities sought to accommodate ever-growing populations, sustainability would become a growing challenge. Achieving a sustainable future would not only require concerted effort, but also concerted action. She thanked participants for visiting Greater Vancouver, and expressed the hope that they would take good memories back home with them.