

## **“The World Urban Youth Assembly 2010: a Groundbreaking Global Platform for Youth Voices in the United Nations Year of Youth”**

UN-HABITAT is proud to announce the World Urban Youth Assembly 2010, a key element of the much-anticipated Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil”. This year’s Forum theme, “The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide” has special relevance for youth, who make up the largest proportion of marginalized city dwellers across the developing world.

UN-HABITAT’s commitment to youth engagement and to supporting youth to be agents of positive change has been demonstrated through various programs throughout the years, but is exemplified in the groundbreaking “World Urban Youth Assembly”, formerly known as the World Urban Youth Forum, a global platform for advancing collective knowledge around issues of urbanization from the youth perspective. The upcoming World Youth Assembly carries special significance, 2010 being the United Nations “Year of Youth”, and UN-HABITAT anticipates vibrant engagement from youth leaders across the globe.

This year’s Youth Assembly, to be held March 19 and 20, 2010, immediately preceding the main body of the World Urban Forum, will include Dialogue Sessions arising from the central theme of “Right to the City”, exploring the following areas:

- Youth Training and Policy Discussion
- A Tale of Five Cities: Launch of Special Supplement to State of the World Cities Report, “Leveling the Playing Field”
- Inclusive Cities: Youth as Agents of Change
- Child and Youth Friendly Cities
- Equal Opportunities and Obligations: Right to the City
- UN HABITAT Youth Advisory Board
- Youth and Violence in Urban Context
- Youth Access to Affordable Housing and Land
- Bridging the Urban Divide through poetry
- Youth, Cities and Climate Change: Ideas to Action
- Economic Empowerment through Improved Livelihoods
- Bridging the Digital Divide
- The Role of the Arts for Social Change
- Governance and Active Citizenship
- Resources for Youth led crime prevention Initiatives

The Youth Roundtable, a highlight of the main World Urban Forum, will this year explore the role of sports in peace and development in the urban context. This event will feature a panel of key stakeholders – including private sector, civil society, government, academia, sports organizations and the public sphere – engaging in discussion around the transformational potential of sports in youth development, as well as its challenges and areas of growth.

Last but certainly not least, this year's World Urban Youth Assembly will include the introduction of a special supplement to the State of the World Cities Report, entitled "Leveling the Playing Field: Inequality of Youth Opportunity," which will be formally launched at the World Urban Forum.

We encourage youth-development oriented organizations interested in supporting one or more youth representatives to attend, as well as interested youth across the globe individually, to register their names online at

<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=584&cid=7311>.

Please note that due to funding and resource limitations, all registrants are strongly encouraged to work with relevant local and national organizations and donor agencies to seek support for their attendance at the Assembly if they are unable to self-fund.