

## Announcement and Invitation to the European Celebrations of World Habitat Day 2009 and UN-HABITAT Exhibition

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Representation Office to the European Union and Belgium has the pleasure to invite you to the 2009 European Celebrations of World Habitat Day on Monday 5 October at the European Parliament.

The United Nations designates the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind us of our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

This year, the United Nations chose the theme *Planning our urban future* to raise awareness of the need to improve urban planning to deal with global challenges currently being faced. This is because urban settlements are being influenced by new and powerful forces. In both developed and developing countries, cities and towns are increasingly feeling the effects of climate change, resource depletion, food insecurity, population growth and economic instability.

On World Habitat Day, UN-HABITAT launches its 2009 Global Report on Human Settlements, *Planning Sustainable Cities*. The report assesses the effectiveness of urban planning all over the world and identifies innovative approaches that are more responsive to the challenges of sustainable urbanization.

Now, more than ever, there is an increasing need to improve urban planning to deal with new major challenges of the 21st century. We hope you will be able to join us on this occasion.

### UN-HABITAT EXHIBITION

The UN-HABITAT Exhibition will be hosted by the European Parliament from 5 to 8 October 2009.

In accordance with the United Nations Millennium Declaration, UN-HABITAT is the UN Agency mandated to help attain the millennium target set by world leaders *to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 (Millennium Development Goal No: 7, target 11)*.

The exhibition will therefore offer the opportunity to acquire further information about UN-HABITAT's initiatives and programmes which have a measurable impact upon urban poor around the world. The exhibition also aims to highlight the importance of urban planning, slum upgrading, cities and climate change towards achieving sustainable urbanization in light of the rapid urban population growth currently being witnessed on a global scale.

### PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

09:00	Registration
09:30	Introduction
09:35	Presentation of message from the Secretary General of the United Nations
09:45	Presentation of message from the UN-HABITAT Executive Director
10:00	Statements by Representatives of European Parliament, European Commission, EU Presidency, Committee of Regions
11:00	Keynote address
11:25	Coffee break
11:40	Roundtable 1: Addressing Challenges of Rapid Urbanisation by Improving Urban Planning and Policy
13:15	Lunch
15:00	Roundtable 2: Sustainable Cities and Climate Change: Better Planning for a Liveable Urban Future
16:45	Closing session and conclusions
17:00	Reception to launch UN-HABITAT Exhibition, European Parliament, 5-8 October 2009
18:30	End

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

**WHEN:** Monday 5 October 2009

**WHERE:** European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz, 1047 Brussels

**REGISTRATION:** To register for the 2009 European Celebrations of World Habitat Day, please use the attached registration form.

UN-HABITAT Representation  
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**Please confirm your attendance by 25 September 2009**

PLEASE USE THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM



## REGISTRATION FORM

World Habitat Day, 5 October 2009  
European Parliament, Room TBC

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE BY 25 SEPTEMBER 2009**

In line with European Parliament security regulations and in order to guarantee your access to the World Habitat Day Celebrations 2009, kindly provide us with the information requested below:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Full home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

**WILL ATTEND**     **YES**     **NO**

Please indicate which session(s) you wish to attend:

09:30 - 18:30	ALL SESSIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>
09:30 – 11:25	OPENING SESSION AND KEY ADDRESS	<input type="checkbox"/>
11:40 – 13:15	ROUNDTABLE 1 Addressing Challenges of Rapid Urbanisation by Improving Urban Planning and Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
15:00 – 17:00	ROUNDTABLE 2 Sustainable Cities and Climate Change: Better Planning for a liveable future	<input type="checkbox"/>
17:00 – 18:30	RECEPTION	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY E-MAIL OR FAX TO:**

E-mail : [info@unhabitat.be](mailto:info@unhabitat.be)

Fax: +32 2 503 46 24 (Tel: +32 2 503 35 72)



Cities embody some of society’s most pressing challenges, from pollution and disease to unemployment and lack of adequate shelter. But cities also present real opportunities for increasing energy efficiency, reducing disparities in development and improving living conditions in general. History demonstrates that integrated urban policy can be a solid path towards development”.

*UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2008*