

## **SUMMARY REPORT E-DEBATE INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

This e-Debate was moderated by Prof David Simon, assisted by Ms Hayley Leck (both of Royal Holloway, University of London) and ran for the scheduled three weeks, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009. It attracted sustained interest and contributions from a worldwide pool of participants. Over the three weeks of the eDebate, a total of 171 postings were received from 104 unique participants.

The Dialogue on Inclusive Sustainable Urbanization develops the notion that in order to tackle the real and adverse impacts of climate change, cities and governments must develop policy responses and effective measures that deal directly and simultaneously with physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural vulnerabilities.

In other words, priority must be given to flexible physical/spatial planning and access to land and housing that will promote adaptive strategies to guide the evolving forms and structures of cities in ways that help to reduce social, economic and spatial segregation and inequality. The determination of sites and locations where people live and economic activities take place, as well as the means to enable the urban mobility needed to mitigate spatial and social inequality, are all part of the same equation. These need to be dealt with within a framework that recognises social inclusiveness as paramount for achieving more sustainable urbanisation under conditions of rapid environmental change and considerable uncertainty.

Residents of slums and informal settlements are usually the principal victims of floods, landslides, and anthropogenic disasters because they can find or build their own accommodation only in unsuitable and risky locations. Social and environmental vulnerability generally coincide. Highlighting these connections and promoting mitigation and adaptation measures to promote equity and environmental sustainability are likely to produce better and more resilient cities.

Over the three weeks of this e-Debate, a series of questions were discussed, designed to address different aspects of inclusivity in relation to sustainable urbanization. In particular, the following questions were addressed:

- General issues on sustainable urbanization
- Improving local resilience in cities
- Environmental impacts on the urban poor
- How can we engage communities effectively?
- Mainstreaming vulnerability reduction measures
- Localising adaptation policies and plans, and
- Climate change and human rights

A detailed listing of issues under each question, as well as an overview of the original submissions can be found in the full report of the e-Debate.