

URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH CULTURE AND IDENTITY

INTRODUCTION:

Globally, towns and cities are growing at unprecedented rates, making sustainable urban development one of the most pressing challenges facing the global community in this century. High levels of poverty, social inequity and inequality are reflected in the poor housing conditions, and lack or insufficient access to basic services that most urban populations are exposed to.

The urbanisation process is increasingly affecting Indigenous Peoples. If the majority of Indigenous Peoples across the world still live in rural areas, the numbers of Indigenous Peoples living in urban areas is on the increase worldwide.

This event brings together Indigenous Peoples' representatives, governments, UN agencies, academics and NGOs and CSOs to discuss the role of national governments and local authorities towards sustainable urban development, in addressing challenges facing Indigenous Peoples in cities, and affecting their well-being, culture and identity.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of the roundtable is to generate discussions on **sustainable urban development that promotes culture and identity**. The event will aim to reach a common understanding on how to improve the living conditions of Indigenous Peoples living in cities, towards sustainable urban development with culture and identity.

The event will also seek to elaborate follow-up actions regarding Indigenous Peoples, sustainable urban development with culture and identity. This will include identifying additional partners, building on existing initiatives and agreeing on research and priority areas for tool development to support national and local authorities in responding to Indigenous Peoples' issues, in particular with regards to the right to adequate housing, considering Indigenous Peoples' cultures and identities.

The output of this roundtable will directly contribute to theme of the 9th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2010. Recommendations arising from the roundtable will be used to strengthen urban Indigenous Peoples' perspectives in the discussion on development with culture and identity.

This roundtable will also be an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and to discuss the on-going implementation at a regional level of the 'Policy Guide to Housing for Indigenous Peoples'.



VENUE:

Room: W3-7

Time: 4.30pm - 7pm

Date: 23 March, 2010

ORGANISERS:

The roundtable is co-organised by the Government of Canada, the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, and UN-HABITAT. **For more information, contact:**

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REGISTRATION:

Participants must register for the Forum

Registration is free, online at: www.unhabitat.org/wuf

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

The event is a roundtable. A limited number of selected participants and experts will share experiences and findings through brief presentations, followed by an open discussion. Participants will be invited to discuss the following questions:

- What is the meaning of sustainable urban development with culture and Identity?
- How best can indigenous communities contribute to the realization of sustainable urban development?
- How partners can support the Habitat agenda and Indigenous Peoples' right to the city?

STRUCTURE OF THE ROUNDTABLE:

PART 1: URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND MIGRATION

Lead expert and presenter: Dr. Anne-Marie Tupuola, International expert, United Kingdom

PART 2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

Lead expert and presenter: Dr. Irene Bellier, Director of research, LAIOS, CNRS, France

PART 3: INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Lead expert and presenter: Dr. Alexandra Ocles, Minister, Secretariat of Peoples, Social Movements and Citizen Participation, Ecuador

The panel of the roundtable will be composed of Indigenous Peoples representatives, members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ministers, international experts and UN agencies representatives.

