



PLANNING
OUR **URBAN** FUTURE
World Habitat Day | 5 October 2009



INVITATION

YOUTH ROUNDTABLE

“Investing in Youth-led Development as strategy to promote sustainable growth and tackle climate change in urban areas.”

Room AIE-2- Altiero Spinelli Building
European Parliament, Brussels

15:00 - 16:30 - Monday 5th October 2009

As part of the celebrations of the “World Habitat Day” in Brussels, MEP Fiona Hall, member of the European Parliament Development Committee, will host a Youth Roundtable with Ambassador Inga Björk-Klevby, UN-HABITAT’s Deputy Executive Director and young people from Peace Child International.

Young people constitute a large proportion of the population living in rapidly growing urban centres. Any effective intervention to improve the living conditions of the urban poor and slum dwellers must, therefore, address the challenges facing youth. The recognition of young people as important stakeholders and a precious resource is crucial. In order to succeed, youth must be engaged not as part of, but rather as partners in, - all local development efforts. This is the rationale behind the emerging concept of “Youth-led Development” – community development projects designed and delivered by young people.

For the roundtable, MEPs, European Commission representatives, development professionals, UN officials and youth-led development practitioners will meet with young people to reflect on, and discuss, the most effective roles that youth can play in development and the importance of their engagement as equal partners in future low carbon development efforts.

At the event, representatives of Peace Child International will present the evidence of different youth-led projects and initiatives from around the world to prove that Youth-Led Development works. Ambassador Björk-Klevby will explain UN-HABITAT’s commitment to Urban Youth-Led Development and also announce the winning projects from the First Call of the UN-HABITAT Youth Opportunities Fund. Representatives of DG Development and the Commission’s Youth Department will respond, reflecting on how the Commission can do more to work with young people as partners in development.

*For further information on the Youth Opportunities Fund: www.unhabitat.org/opfund
For more information on the Youth Roundtable, contact David Woollcombe: david@peacechild.org*



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