



UN-HABITAT

International Youth Crime Prevention & Cities Summit

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Feature 1

Crime and violence are important dimensions of urban development and poverty reduction. UN-HABITAT's research shows that by the year 2050 humanity will be living in an urban planet with six billion people – or two-thirds of the human population – settled in towns and cities. As these urban centers grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities. This urbanization of poverty is clearly one of the major challenges of our time.

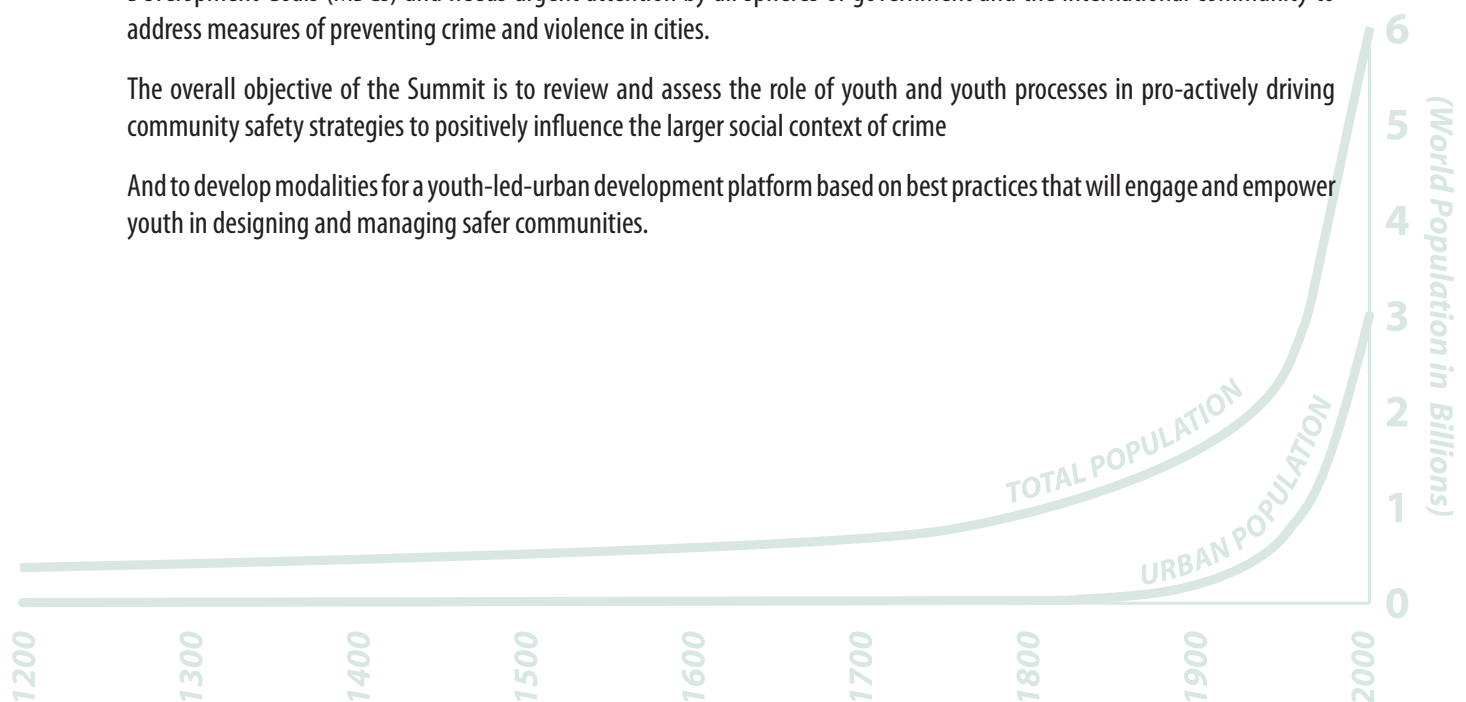
Although crime levels vary widely across cities, and neighbourhoods in the same cities, it is acknowledged that crime and violence are transforming our societies and cities in an unprecedented way. The multifaceted impacts of insecurity on cities can be synthesised in loss of urban development opportunities through loss of human resources, social capital, investment and democratic space. In addition, important transformations of city form and functionality come about due to fear of crime and people's adaptive reactions to crime and violence. If urban development is to be sustainable, crime and violence need to be addressed in a long-term perspective, linking directly safety concerns with the sustainable urban development agenda.

The International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summit is a culmination of a series of regional forums held since June 2002 that has resulted in the development of regional strategies on urban youth crime and violence in Africa and Latin America. In addition, it is a build-up of the development of global partnerships with youth organizations which participated in the 2nd and 3rd World Urban Forums held in Barcelona, Spain in 2004 and Vancouver, Canada in 2006. The Summit is organized in partnership with UN-HABITAT and the Government of South Africa

This Summit is of special significance as it addresses the fundamental issue of safety and security in our world cities. The upsurge of crime and violence, particularly in developing countries poses a great threat to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and needs urgent attention by all spheres of government and the international community to address measures of preventing crime and violence in cities.

The overall objective of the Summit is to review and assess the role of youth and youth processes in pro-actively driving community safety strategies to positively influence the larger social context of crime

And to develop modalities for a youth-led-urban development platform based on best practices that will engage and empower youth in designing and managing safer communities.



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Youth and Children Championing Community Safety for a Better World