UN-HABITAT

WORLD URBAN FORUM

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REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

VANCOUVER, CANADA
JUNE 19-23, 2006

CONTENTS

OVERVIEW

With some 10,000 participants from over 100 countries, the Third Session of the World Urban Forum paved the way for a new drive forward on the international urban agenda in a world of rapidly growing cities. Just as the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver in 1976 placed local community concerns on the international agenda and highlighted the critical importance of inclusiveness, the Forum in Vancouver, 30 years later, lived up to its promise of moving ideas to action. It symbolized inclusiveness, with balanced participation from public, private and civil society sectors. Compared to previous sessions of the Forum, there was a notable increase in private sector participation.

The quest for innovative ideas and practical solutions – rare for a meeting convened by the United Nations – was underscored in the six Dialogues, 13 Roundtables and more than 160 Networking Events. Ministers, mayors, academics, community-based organizations, federations of non-governmental organizations, and the private sector shared their insights and experiences on what would improve the quality of life in the world's growing cities. The inclusive approach followed at the Forum is a model for cities. Some are already following this model while others would benefit from doing so.

It was promising that participants, in such large numbers and from all walks of society, began to converge towards an outline for the way forward:

• They agreed on the need for all urban players – citizens, local governments, state and provincial governments, national governments, the private sector and civil society organizations – to work harder to solve urban problems and challenges. There was widespread agreement that they all must do their part, rather than simply transfer responsibility to others.
• They agreed that risk-taking and the pursuit of innovation must characterize municipal leadership if cities are to achieve sustainable development. Vancouver's example in taking the lead in such areas as air and water quality, public transit and planning was mentioned often in this context.
• They agreed that appropriate engagements, partnerships and relationships need to be built in an inclusive manner to better understand challenges and develop practical solutions. Participants from many parts of the world presented examples that can serve as guideposts for these strategies.
• They agreed on the importance of transparency and accountability. Citizens need to be informed of challenges and steps taken by governments to address them. Transparency goes hand-in-hand with accountability, which speeds up the process of enhancing actions that work and curtailing those that do not work.

Highlights and emerging issues are summarized below.

• **Coming to terms with the Urban Age**: A new message resonated from Vancouver: urban issues have become a major challenge of our time. The urban population of developing countries is set to double from 2 to 4 billion in the next 30 years. Ensuring that these people do not end up in slums requires the planning, financing and servicing of the equivalent of a new city of 1 million people every week during the same period. The investment required to plan for and provide decent shelter and basic services should be viewed as a major impetus for socio-economic development.

•   **From exclusion to engagement**: **All partners showed a willingness to build effective coalitions to address the needs of the urban poor**. The Forum witnessed a dramatic and fundamental shift in the willingness of governments and local authorities to engage with all urban actors to improve the quality of life of people, their communities and cities. In several keynote addresses and in various dialogues, government representatives showed a keen interest in being actively engaged with civil society organizations and their representatives, and in supporting initiatives that improved their housing and access to basic services. Most governments represented in Vancouver 2006 cited the need to engage with and support community initiatives to improve the living conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable groups, and to improve the urban environment. This willingness to be engaged with all urban actors and to drive the process of urban renewal and poverty alleviation reflects a change in government attitudes towards the need to move beyond participation to concepts such as inclusiveness, empowerment and active engagement with urban citizens.

•   **Meeting the financing challenge of slum upgrading and sustainable infrastructure development.** The Forum recognized the critical need for increased financial resources to attain the slum upgrading target of the Millennium Declaration. It further recognized that the challenge is to shift from relying on international development finance to tapping local capital markets. In this context, the Forum acknowledged the need for international donors to play a catalytic role in building the capacity and improving the credit-worthiness of cities, and to package such assistance with seed capital, as piloted by UN-HABITAT's Slum Upgrading Facility, in line with paragraph 56(m) of the 2005 Millennium Summit Outcome which calls for investments in pro-poor housing and urban infrastructure.

•   **Re-inventing planning: applying new paradigms for sustainable urban development**. The Forum placed a strong emphasis on planning as a tool for urban development and environmental management, and as a means of preventing future slum growth. This view was accepted not just by government officials and urban planners themselves but also by civil society groups that wanted planning to be more inclusive, transparent and ethical. The Forum stressed the important role of planners as agents of change and underlined the importance of sustainability as the backbone of new forms of planning.

A number of observations were made at the Forum, some of which are described below:

•   **"Beautiful speeches, awful reality" – The Millennium Development Goals are not having an impact on the ground in many countries**. The commitments made by governments at the Millennium Summit in 2000 and the adoption of national poverty reduction strategies in several countries have not necessarily resulted in improved living conditions among the urban poor. For instance, the increasing incidence of forced evictions goes against the Millennium Development Goals aimed at reducing poverty. Participants felt that there was still a wide discrepancy between what governments said and what they did, and this discrepancy needed to be addressed if the Millennium Development Goals are to be met in cities.

•   **Converging approaches to sustainable urban development policies between developed and developing nations**. The traditional North-South divide was not evident

at this Forum, as countries from both developed and developing countries seemed united in the view that sustainability – and its link to poverty – was a major challenge facing all cities. There was, however, recognition that each region faced particular challenges that were best addressed by a more systematic exchange of best practices and good urban policies among all stakeholders at the local, national and international levels.

• **Particular emphasis was placed on the needs of women, youth and people with disabilities**. The Forum was marked by a strong participation of women and youth. It was recognized that youth represented a large proportion of people living in cities and their participation in large numbers infused a welcome energy in the deliberations. Youth representatives encouraged participants of the Forum to adopt strategies bearing the specific needs of youth in mind and to engage youth in decisions affecting their lives. The Forum further recognized the ongoing investment and resource contribution of grassroots women to the sustainability of cities and communities.

• **The emerging reality of public-private partnerships**. The Forum recognized that cities are largely the product of private investment. The strong presence of the private sector and its active participation in the Forum underscored their interest in engaging in the quest for sustainable cities.

• **The success of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum lay not just in what was discussed but in what was learned**. Participants were keen to share ideas, network and forge new alliances through both formal and informal meetings with partners, and viewed the Forum not as a place where declarations and plans of action were endorsed but where experiences were shared.

The Way Forward

The spirit and enthusiasm evinced at the Forum in formal sessions and in the interstices are difficult to capture in words. But it was very clear that every participant was committed to the basic theme of the Forum on turning Ideas into Action. Hundreds of actionable ideas were proposed, described and exchanged. No doubt they will provide the basis for renewed vigour and commitment to a sustainable urban development that is inclusive.

Guidelines and policies for decentralisation and the empowerment of local authorities are required to enable them to engage civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in transforming their respective cities, as Vancouver did in the follow-up to the first Habitat Conference in 1976.

All spheres of government need to prioritize the urban agenda in their respective plans and policies. UN-HABITAT will take the outcomes of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum to its Governing Council and, through it, to the UN General Assembly, with a call for a strengthened role of the United Nation system and international agencies in meeting the urban sustainability challenge.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.   The World Urban Forum was organized and convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements in which the Commission requested the Executive Director "to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the co-ordination of international support to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda." Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly decided, in its resolution 56/206, that the Forum would be a "non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet." At the same session, the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 56/205, encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

2.   The theme of the Third Session of World Urban Forum was 'Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action'. Six dialogues on the three sub-themes of 'Social Inclusion and Cohesion', 'Partnership and Finance', and 'Urban Growth and the Environment' were held. In addition, 13 roundtables brought Habitat Agenda partner in peer group sessions to share experiences and views on the Forum theme. Over 160 networking events, training events were also held.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
A. Attendance

3.   The Third Session of the World Urban Forum was held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006. A total of 11,418 people registered for the Forum, including 9,689 participants and 1,847 support staff and volunteers. The gender ratio of participants was 46.7 per cent female and 52.1 per cent male (the remaining did not specify their gender). The table below outlines the type of participants based on the affiliation indicated at the time of registration on site.

	Attendance at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum		Attendance at the Second Session of the World Urban Forum	
Participants by partner category	Number	%	Number	%
Governments	1,497	15.5	446	17.8
Parliamentarians	63	0.7	27	1.1
Local Authorities	1,534	15.7	414	16.4
Non-Governmental Organizations	2,289	23.5	535	21.2
Private Sector	1,187	12.3	203	8.0
Professional and Research Institutions	1,442	14.8	201	8.0
Foundations	95	1.0	33	1.3
Media	346	3.6	51	2.0
Inter-Governmental Organizations	31	0.3		
United Nations	379	4.0	196	7.7
Other Participants	753	7.8	416	16.5
Canada Secretariat	73	0.8		

No Affiliation Indicated			1,867	
Total number of participants	9,689	100.0	4,389	100.0

4.   The list of participants is contained in document HSP/WUF/3/INF/9.

B. Opening Ceremony

5.   The Third Session of the World Urban Forum opened with a welcoming ceremony followed by statements by dignitaries and key partners. The Keynote Address was delivered by The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister, Government of Canada. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, was read, on his behalf, by Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. Statements were also delivered at the opening ceremony by the following dignitaries and partners. A summary of these statements is provided in **Annex I**.

    (a)   Mr. Charles Kelly, Commissioner General, World Urban Forum III, Government of Canada
    (b)   Mr. Sam Sullivan, Mayor, City of Vancouver, Canada
    (c)   Hon. Gordon Campbell, Premier, Province of British Columbia, Canada
    (d)   Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General, United Nations, and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
    (e)   Hon. Noli de Castro, Vice President, Government of the Philippines
    (f)   Hon. Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice President, Government of Tanzania

C. Opening Plenary Session

6.   The session was chaired jointly by the Hon. Ms. María Antonia Trujillo, Minister of Housing, Government of Spain; Chair, Second Session of the World Urban Forum and Hon. Ms. Diane Finley, Minister, Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada; Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.

7.   Statements were delivered by the following dignitaries:

    (a)   Hon. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of the United States of America
    (b)   Hon. Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India
    (c)   Hon. Naokazu Takemoto, Senior Vice Minister of Finance, Government of Japan
    (d)   Mr. Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments
    (e)   Mr. Enrique Ortiz, President, Habitat International Coalition

    Summaries of the above-mentioned statements are provided in **Annex II**

8.   At its first plenary session, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for its Third Session:

    1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Establishment of an Advisory Group for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum
3. Organization of work
4. Government and Partner Roundtable Sessions
5. The Dialogues on "Sustainable cities – Turning ideas into action"

      Session I: SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COHESION
          (a) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing
          (b) Public Engagement: The Inclusive Approach
      Session II: PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCE
          (a) Municipal Finance: Innovation and Collaboration
          (b) Urban Safety and Security: Taking Responsibility
      Session III: URBAN GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
          (a) The Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and Management
          (b) Energy: Local Action, Global Impact
6. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fourth session of the World Urban Forum.
7. Presentation of the summary report of the session

D. Establishment of an Advisory Group

9.   The Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, **the** Hon**.** Ms. Diane Finley, Minister, Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada, at the request of the Executive Director, announced the names of the members of the Advisory Group for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. The terms of reference of the Advisory Group were to advise and assist the Executive Director with the organization, management and conduct of all the meetings and events which took place during the Third Session of the Forum. The members of the Advisory Group were:

(a)   Hon. Ms. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada, who will serve as the Chair of both the Third Session of the World Urban Forum and of the Advisory Group. Minister Finley requested her Deputy Minister, Mr. Munir Sheikh, to replace her as the Chair.

(b)   Hon. John P. Magufuli, Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, who will serve as the Co-Chair of both the Third Session of the Forum and of the Advisory Group.

(c)   Hon. Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, Government of China and host for the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum.

(d)   Hon. M. Shannon H. Sorzano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America.

(e)   Hon. Senator Ernesto Gil Elorduy, President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH), Mexico.

(f)   Mr. Allan Lloyd, Founding President of United Cities and Local Governments, (UCLG)

(g) Mr. Alejandro Florian Borbon, representative from the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Colombia
(h) Ms. Esther Mwaura-Muiru, Groots Kenya, representing the Huairou Commission and Women at WUF.
(i) Architect Alexander P. Farvorsky, Chief, Design Department, ARCHITEK, (Moscow), Russian Federation.
(j) Ms. Rachel Wariko, Kenya National Council for Youth for Habitat, Kenya.

E. Organization of Work

10.   The Forum adopted its organization of work as proposed by the Executive Director in document HSP/WUF/3/Add.1 entitled "Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work" which contained logistical arrangements for the dialogues, and documents HSP/WUF/3/INF/1 and HSP/WUF/3/INF/2, which contained, respectively, the conference programme and the schedule of training and networking events.

F. Plenary Session 20 June 2006

11.   The plenary session on Social Inclusion and Cohesion was moderated by Ms. Margaret Cately-Carlson, Chair of Global Water Partnership, Canada. The session discussed key challenges related to marginalization, social exclusion and urban poverty facing cities. Speakers at this plenary session were:

(a) Hon. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of the United States of America
(b) Mr. Jockin Arputham, founder and President, National Slum Dwellers Federation of India
(c) Hon. Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, Government of South Africa

   A Summary report of this session is provided in **Annex III**.

G. Special UN-Habitat Lecture

12.   The United Nations Human Settlements Lecture Series seeks to recognize outstanding and sustained contributions to research, thinking and practice in the field of human settlements. The first UN-HABITAT lecture on "Wealth of Cities: Towards an Assets-Based Development of Urbanising Regions" was delivered by Professor John Friedmann, Honorary Professor, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Canada. A Summary report of this lecture is provided in **Annex IV**.

H. Plenary Session 21 June 2006

13.   The Plenary session on Partnership and Finance was moderated by Ms. Katherine Sierra, Vice-President and Network Head, Infrastructure, World Bank. The speakers at this plenary session were:

(a) Mr. Mohammad Yousaf Pashtun, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Afghanistan
(b) Mr. Pat Jacobsen, Chief Executive Officer, TransLink, Canada

(c) Mr. Robert Williams, Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana

A summary report of this session is provided in **Annex V**.

I. Plenary Session 22 June 2006

14.   The Plenary session on urban growth and environment was moderated by Mr. Chris Leach, President of the Canadian Institute of Planners. The speakers at this plenary session were:

(a) Ms. Evelyn Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Millennium Campaign
(b) Mr. Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, now serving as Visiting Scholar at New York University, USA

A Summary report of this session is provided in **Annex VI**.

J. Dialogues

15.   The report on the results and conclusions of the dialogues which were held on the six sub-themes of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum is contained in **Annex VII.**

K. Roundtables

16.   The report on the roundtables which were held at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum is contained in **Annex VIII.**

L. Special Sessions

17.   A number of special sessions on specific subjects relevant to the Forum theme were organized. A report on these special sessions is contained in **Annex IX**.

M. Networking Events

18.   A series of over 160 networking events were organized on theme relevant to the Forum. These events provided an opportunity to the participants to build knowledge, strengthen partnerships and share ideas and best practices. In addition, training events were organized to impart professional skills to urban practitioners.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

19.   According to paragraph 11 of the "Objectives of and Working Arrangements for the World Urban Forum" which were adopted by the First Session of the World Urban Forum, the provisional agenda for each session of the Forum is to be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with national governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners, at least six months in advance of the session. Accordingly, and in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, the Secretariat will consult, prepare

and circulate the provisional agenda for the Fourth Session at least six months in advance of the session.

20.   At the invitation of the Government of China, the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Nanjing, China in 2008. The precise dates will be confirmed after consultations with the United Nations Committee on Conferences to avoid conflicts or overlap with other United Nations meetings and events.

IV. ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION

21.   The Advisory Group endorsed in its entirety the present report on the work of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum for submission by the Chair to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

V. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

22.   The session opened with the tabling and presentation of the report by the Advisory Group of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. Thereafter:
   (a) Hon. John Pombe Magufuli, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Government of Tanzania; Co-chair, WUF III
   (b) Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO
   (c) Mr. John Kaputin, Secretary General, African Caribbean and Pacific Group Secretariat, Belgium
   (d) Ms. Mariama Sow, ENDA Dakar, Senegal, representing civil society
   (e) Ms. Ana Lucy Bengochea, Coordinator, Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras, representing women groups
   (f) Ms..Kim Jawanda, Terra Housing, South Africa, representing the private sector
   (g) Ms. Mernosh Tajhizadeh, ENJEU (ENvironnement JEUnesse), Quebec, Canada, representing youth
   (h) Hon. Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, China
   (i) Mr. Lu Bing, Deputy Mayor of Nanjing, China
   (j) Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General, United Nations; Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
   (k) Ms. Lois Jackson, Chair, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Canada
   (l) Mr. James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works; Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, Government of Canada (TBC)

   A summary of the closing statements is provided in Annex X.

Annex I.

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE OPENING SESSION

a. <u>Opening remarks by Mr. Charles Kelly, Commissioner General, third session of the World Urban Forum, Government of Canada.</u>

The Commissioner General opened the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. In welcoming delegates from around the world, he said the Government of Canada, the City of Vancouver and UN-HABITAT had worked together for two years to prepare the conference which marked the 30th anniversary of the first Habitat Conference in Vancouver in 1976. That occasion also marked significant engagement of civil society at the Habitat Forum which had a profound effect on people and laid the foundations for more sustainable development of cities.

Four years ago, he said, Canada offered to host the third session of the World Urban Forum. He thanked the 17 Canadian Government departments and agencies, the City of Vancouver, and the Province of British Columbia for making it possible. He paid tribute to UN-HABITAT's Executive Director Mrs. Tibaijuka for opening up the decision-making process and seeking the engagement of cities and civil society. He also acknowledged the partnership and cooperation of the UN-HABITAT team.

He paid tribute to the hundreds of organizations which had participated in the Habitat Jam – a global Internet discussion on urban sustainability held prior to the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. He commended the grassroots women's organization, the Huairou Commission, youth organizations, Slum Dwellers International and over 400 partner organizations for their input.

He recalled the pioneering work of the late writer and thinker Jane Jacobs, who described cities as organic for the way they grow, decay and rejuvenate. Thirty years later, the world has learned that the planet is also organic in this sense. Today, the need for engaging the poor, women and young people in addressing the urbanization of our planet could not be greater, he said.

b. <u>Statement by His Worship, Sam Sullivan, the Mayor of Vancouver</u>

The Mayor of Vancouver, His Worship Sam Sullivan, thanked the Prime Minister of Canada for recognizing the importance of cities by addressing the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. The Mayor said that the city of Vancouver had made concerted efforts to be sustainable, meaning that the city core was being managed to develop in a balanced manner that included residential, commercial and green spaces, such as parks and pathways. He also mentioned the city's strategy to make the transportation system sustainable, with focus on public transport. He noted that as a result of this strategy, Vancouver is the only city in North America that did not have a freeway running through it and where the number of people using non-motorized transport was increasing. Mr. Sullivan thanked the former mayor of Vancouver, Gordon Campbell, for initiating policies that made it one of the most environmentally-friendly cities in the world.

However, despite good initiatives, he said, many Canadian cities were sprawling. The mayor said that cities needed to decide whether they should continue to invest in conventional infrastructure or to develop what he called "eco-structure" for greener, healthier cities. He made reference to Vancouver's "EcoDensity" Initiative, which will engage citizens in the process of increasing housing densities as a way of reducing the city's ecological impact and make home ownership more affordable. The outcome of this World Urban Forum, he added, was crucial to ensuring the health of the planet.

   c. Statement by Rt. Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, Province of British Columbia, Canada.

Mr. Gordon Campbell said the Third Session of the World Urban Forum was aimed at turning ideas into action by learning from one another to make cities human and healthy. He said it was essential to plan in such a way as to create cities in which people enjoy living.

The task at this Forum was to plant the seeds for sustainable, welcoming cities with clean air, and clean water. Sustainable urbanization is deliverable but it requires one to see the world differently, and the task of this event is to plant the seeds that will ensure a cleaner urban environment. The challenge, he said, was not a just a question of dialogue, but of follow-up in cities and countries around the world.

He noted that the pursuit of a more sustainable City of Vancouver was rooted in and defined by its geography and natural environment including its mountains, the sea, and rivers. He described major initiatives relating to green space, public transit, and sustainable development based on public consultation that have been taken place in Vancouver over the least 30 years.

   d. The Message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan.

The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was delivered at the opening session by Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. The Secretary-General said the Third Session of the World Urban Forum was an historic occasion for the United Nations, marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of an agency dealing with where and how we live.

He said cities, now home to half of humankind, were among the greatest users of natural resources and major emitters of greenhouse gases. More than half the urban populations in the developing world lived in slums, with little or no access to decent housing, clean water, basic sanitation, regular jobs or steady income. Such was the deprivation, he said, that families were forced to choose between sending their children to school or to fetch water.

In this interdependent world, opportunity and deprivation are interlinked. He noted that the consequences of over-consumption and pollution, hunger and deprivation, crime and insecurity, knew no borders. If not handled well, they could generate intolerance and migration, instability and extremism.

The Secretary-General noted that the Third Session of the World Urban Forum was well placed to address the challenges facing cities. Wishing the meeting success, he urged delegates to scale up efforts and make the urban world more just, equitable and sustainable for all its inhabitants.

   e. Statement by Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General, United Nations, and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, began by asking delegates to observe a moment of silence for the late urbanist Jane Jacobs and the late Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri. Referring to Ms. Jacobs as "the mother of inclusive cities", the Executive Director said that Ms. Jacobs was an irrepressible champion of integrated urban communities. She said that Mr. Hariri had been recognized by the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour at the Second Session of the World Urban Forum for his efforts in fostering people-centred post-conflict reconstruction of Lebanon.

Mrs. Tibaijuka said that the period from 1950 to 2050 will be remembered by future generations as one that led to the greatest social, cultural, economic and environmental transformation in history – that of the urbanization of humanity. She emphasized that the future of humanity was tied to the city and that the UN General Assembly, in recognising the complexity of cities, had decided to establish the World Urban Forum as a means of engaging and learning from all social actors to further the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

The Executive Director noted that when the UN was born in 1945, environmental and urban problems were not on the development agenda and that it was not until the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm and the 1976 Habitat I Conference in Vancouver that key actors came together to seek consensus on how to govern our cities more effectively and to pursue policies to make cities more sustainable.

Despite impressive gains in raising awareness about urban issues, slums were growing at a rate that outpaced attempts to deal with them and urban sprawl and over-consumption of energy had severely hindered efforts to make cities sustainable, she added.

Citing the late Deputy Secretary-General of the Habitat I Conference, Duccio Turin, the Executive Director noted that lack of political will had resulted in lack of support for proper urban planning and urban development institutions, especially in the area of housing and infrastructure finance. The failure of political will, she added, had also led to a failure to recognize that cities and the people who live and work in them are integral to national development.

Mrs. Tibaijuka stated that "if the evolution of urban governance is to keep pace with the revolution of urbanization, our politics must also become urbanized". She said that new urban policies and new approaches to urban finance, tenure reform and participatory decision-making could place the city in the mainstream of national and international politics. The current process of United Nations reform, she added, is evidence that Member States of the United Nations are eager to debate new approaches involving

civil society and local authorities. If implemented in an open and inclusive manner, these approaches would offer political leaders at all levels bold strategies that would carry them and their constituents safely into an urbanized world.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Tibaijuka thanked the Government of Canada for hosting the Third Session of the World Urban Forum and for extending its hospitality to all participants.

f.   Statement by Rt. Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

The Prime Minister welcomed all participants to the forum. He said that Canadian cities were attracting more migrants in quest of better economic opportunities. He said the rural-urban migration, which had occurred in the developed world for two centuries, was the most important and irreversible trend of our times. He recalled the words of the late Canadian urban visionary, Jane Jacobs, who said that creative workable cities had always been at the core of human success.

He noted that the *Economist* magazine had named Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary among the top 10 major cities in the world, with Vancouver ranking first. He added that healthy neighbourhoods and healthy families constituted the foundations of healthy cities with voluntary, neighbourhood-based groups at the core of their political organization. Fair taxes, the responsible exercise of personal freedom, and a commitment to community and volunteerism were modest prices to pay for a country and cities that work. Like all countries, Canada had its challenges and struggled with issues such as drug abuse, family breakdown, homelessness, poverty and crime – problems for which there were no quick fixes. Failed neighbourhoods, he added, were like failed states – breeding grounds for crime and violence. He noted the role of various levels of government in Canada and the contribution of the Government of Canada in energising cities, including its commitment to dealing with fiscal imbalance, which was constraining provincial and city financing.

He said the most serious challenge in the modern world was the threat of terrorism. Although the country had so far been spared the horrors visited on New York, Madrid and London, some had expressed the view that Canada's open and culturally diverse society made it more vulnerable to a terrorist attack. He stressed, to the contrary, that Canada's diversity, properly nurtured, was its great strength. He noted that the commitment to diversity had avoided the formation of ghettoes - the bane of urban existence in so many other places. Canada would ensure that terrorism found no comfort in its territory by preserving and strengthening cultural diversity.

g.   Statement by Hon. Noli de Castro, Vice President of the Philippines

Hon. Noli de Casto said that the theme for this session of the World Urban Forum, "Sustainable Cities: Turning Ideas into Action" reflected the important role that cities played as agents of local development. He said that the Forum offered a real opportunity to bring the fight against poverty to the local level, the "ground zero of development" where poverty is felt and seen.

Noting that most of the world's population growth in the 21st century will occur in cities of the developing world, the Vice President said that the next decade with see an

increase in the urbanization of poverty, where nearly one billion people living in cities will remain poor if currents trends continue. Hon. de Castro said that if the world's nations are united, they could prevent a further decline in living conditions of the urban poor. He said that his country was committed to waging a battle against urban poverty.

Hon. de Castro told participants that in the year 2002, the Government of the Philippines had launched campaigns on secure tenure and good urban governance. These campaigns and the Millennium Development Goals and targets, especially target 11, are now fully mainstreamed in the national and local development plans.

h. <u>Statement by His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Shein, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania.</u>

The Vice-President commended UN-HABITAT's Executive Director for transforming the World Urban Forum into a formidable movement which was gaining momentum with each session, drawing in more and more people from every walk of life in pursuit of the noble objective of sustainable urban settlements.

Underlining the fact that he was addressing the Forum from the perspective of the developing world, especially Africa, he said the outcome of the event was important for improving lives of millions of poor people living in urban areas. Given the colonial roots of urban centres in many developing countries, he said, ways had to be found to make human settlements organic and dynamic parts of the national landscape and development. He said experience in the developing world showed that sustainable urbanization needed to look at rural and urban as parts of an interconnected system.

He said the Millennium Declaration target seeking to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 represented only one-tenth of the projected slum population by that year. A situation in which 72 per cent of the population lived in slums needed urgent remedial measures. He highlighted the critical importance of increased financial resources in meeting the Millennium Declaration target on slum upgrading, as well as preventing the formation of new slums through the provision of affordable housing and related infrastructure, as emphasized in paragraph 56(m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which calls for the capitalization of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility. He called for greater allocation of resources and strengthening UN-HABITAT's role in meeting the slum target and in preventing new slums.

Finally, he stated that at their Summit of 2003, African Heads of State and Government had adopted a decision to promote and prioritize the development of sustainable cities and towns, as a result of which the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) had been established, with a commitment of working with similar organs in other developing regions.

Annex II.

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION

a. Statement by the outgoing Chair of the second session of the World Urban Forum, Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, Minster of Housing, Government of Spain

The outgoing chair of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum, Hon. Maria Antonia Trujillo, said that the World Urban Forum constitutes a global initiative aimed at facing the challenges of the new millennium. She added that the Forum allowed participants to share new ideas and experiences. She urged participants to go beyond statements and move to action on housing and urban development issues. She said that the Ministry of Housing in Spain was facilitating low-income people's access to housing by reforming its laws to enable production of more affordable housing. The Government of Spain was also supporting UN-HABITAT and the Ibero-American Forum on Best Practices, she said, adding that the identification and dissemination of best practices and their transfer was an effective means of turning good ideas into action. Ms. Trujillo said that her government had also committed 500,000 Euros to support women in sub-Saharan Africa, in line with UN-HABITAT Executive Director's efforts to improve the lives of women in the region.

b. Statement by the Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, Hon. Ms. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada

Hon. Diane Finley noted that 30 years after the first Habitat Conference was held in Vancouver, it was appropriate that the city was the venue for assessing progress made to respond to the challenges of urbanization. She said that over the past 30 years, Canada had been successful in responding to the challenges of urbanization. As a result, Canadian cities, she said, are recognized worldwide as some of the best in which to live, work and invest. This World Urban Forum has brought together more than 8,000 government representatives, mayors, practitioners, civil society groups and citizens from more than 100 nations.

She said that Canada's population was relatively small but the country was highly urbanized with nearly 80 percent of the country's population living in urban areas. She also said that maintaining the role of big cities as engines of growth and keeping them liveable was a major challenge facing the world. She said that efforts to provide cities with stable and predictable funding, reinvesting in urban infrastructure, ensuring air and water quality, tackling crime and improving access to affordable housing were key priorities of national government.

c. Statement by Mr. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of the United States of America

Mr. Alphonso Jackson said that the mission of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development was to increase home ownership free from discrimination, support community development and to increase people's access to affordable housing. He said that over 70 per cent of the population of the United States already owned his or her own home and as Secretary it was his job to reach the 30 per cent of Americans who did not.

Mr. Jackson said that the President of the United States believed that home ownership was the key to wealth accumulation and financial independence as it led to greater freedom and optimism, and created stronger, healthier communities. He added that home owners not only enjoyed economic benefits, but social benefits as well. Studies had shown that home owners were more engaged in their communities and that their children did better at reading and mathematics than children of tenants. They were also more likely to graduate from high school.

The Secretary added that housing was a key to economic growth and that the housing market made up nearly one-fourth of the United States' Gross Domestic Product last year and the housing industry had created more than five million jobs. He stated that both President Bush and himself were committed to providing greater opportunities for housing and home ownership.

    d.   <u>Address by Ms. Kumari Selja, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Republic of India.</u>

Ms. Selja said the people of India eagerly looked forward to the outcome of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. She said reforms initiated by the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi during 1985-1990 had promoted the systematic empowerment of local governments, and that new initiatives in the financial management of state and local governments were emerging in a gradual and systematic manner, complete with a scientific and performance-based system of funding allocation to city governments through Finance Commissions.

In the last two decades, India's private sector had gradually emerged as a partner in providing municipal waste management, water delivery, community services and road transport. Citing various examples, she said the Government was encouraging cities to take up poverty alleviation and slum improvement in a systematic and inclusive manner.

She said cities not only had to ensure local economic development, but also had to serve as service centres for their rural hinterlands. It was therefore essential to recognise and understand the role of cities for the development of sustainable human settlements. India, she concluded, would work hard with the international community in promoting the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

    e.   <u>Remarks by Honourable Mr. Naokazu Takemoto, Secretary-General of the Japan Parliamentarians on HABITAT.</u>

Addressing the opening plenary on behalf of the Japan Parliamentarians on HABITAT and in his capacity as Deputy Chairman for the Asia Regional Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on HABITAT, Hon. Takemoto thanked the Government of Canada for hosting the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. He said that the Forum provides a good chance to review progress and harness global partnerships for development, especially in housing and urban development.

Hon. Takemoto said the problems of urban slums were getting worse despite efforts to curb them. Citing the alarming projections that the number of slum dwellers would grow from 1 billion today to 3 billion by 2050, he said, swift and urgent action was

needed to create secure, safe, environmentally friendly and sustainable cities. Efforts had to be redoubled if the world was to attain the Millennium Declaration slum target.

The Japanese Government considered "human security" a pillar of its foreign policy. Noting that Mr. Keizo Takemi of Japan was a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, he said Japan appreciated this effort to make UN operational activities more efficient and effective so that the UN system, including UN-HABITAT, could respond to the complex and diverse problems confronting the modern world.

He recalled that Japan had provided funding to various UN-HABITAT projects for people in war-torn countries and those recovering from natural disasters. In Iraq, for example, Japan had granted aid through the agency for schools and other infrastructure. In Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Japan supported the victims of the tsunami and the earthquake. Japan, which had provided financial contributions to UN-HABITAT amounting to US$54 million since the Second Session of the World Urban Forum in Barcelona two years ago, would continue to support the agency, he concluded.

f. Statement by Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Co-President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), South Africa.

The Co-President said United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was currently present in over 120 countries around the world with members in more than 1,000 cities representing half the world's population. It therefore had the capacity to bring a "new revolution" for peace, and social and cultural reforms. Support from the international community is required to transform this capacity into meaningful action on the ground.

Central governments were simply not close enough to the citizenry at large, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) had therefore been working to adopt new guidelines for decentralization. Decisions had to be taken by the level of government closest to the people in cities and towns. The United Nations should stimulate and build ties with local authorities on the ways and means to implement the Millennium Development Goals. For this to happen, the citizens themselves need to be involved in change so that local communities could be "micro-players" at the "macro level". This had to be accompanied by financing.

g. Statement by Mr. Enrique Ortiz, Habitat International Coalition

Mr. Enrique Ortiz noted that the first Habitat Conference was not only a vibrant and creative encounter, it also constituted a significant milestone in raising global awareness of human settlements problems in both urban and rural areas, and the strategies to address them. He said that the Vancouver Declaration recognized that "housing and adequate services constitute a basic human right which imposes on governments the obligation to assure their obtainment by all inhabitants".

He noted that the dream of facilitating adequate housing for all by the year 2000 was frustrated by the imposition of policies that viewed housing as a commodity rather than as a right, which made the city as the sphere of financial and real estate speculation.

This resulted in growing numbers of homeless and inadequately housed people. These policies led to the prioritization of housing markets and privatization of basic services.

Mr. Ortiz said that the Millennium Development target of reducing the number of slum dwellers by at least 100 million was insufficient as it only addressed one-tenth of the slum population, which was set to grow in the next 15 years. He said that intervention is required by governments at the highest possible level to facilitate the participation of organized civil society groups. He further highlighted the important contribution of UN-HABITAT in recognising and disseminating "best practices" and stressed the need today of rewarding good policies.

Annex III.

SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY SESSION ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COHESION
20 June 2006

The session was moderated by Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, Canada. Ms. Catley-Carlson set the tone for the session by emphasizing that poverty and social exclusion were interlinked and that one often led to the other.

Mr. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of the United States of America, highlighted the importance of home ownership as a means to make the world's cities stronger, safer and more prosperous. He said that the mission of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was to increase home ownership in the country as currently some 30 per cent of the American population did not live in their own homes. Many of these people were from groups that had been discriminated against in the past.

Secretary Jackson said that his Department was working hard to ensure that Americans were aware of the benefits of home ownership and his job under the Bush administration was to promote what he called an "ownership society", especially among low- and middle-income minorities. The United States had also dedicated the month of June as Home Ownership Month.

Mr. Jackson noted that the housing market made up nearly one-fourth of the United States' GDP in 2005 and for every home built, 3.5 jobs were created, adding that the private sector plays the major role in the growth of the housing market and the national economy.

He said that the lesson other countries could learn from the United States' experience was that the achievement of decent, safe and sanitary housing for low- and middle-income families required the joint efforts of both the public and private sectors because the level of investment required to meet the enormous demand for housing, particularly in urban areas, was beyond the scope of donors and governments. In recognition of this, the Government of the United States had awarded more than US $1 billion to faith-based and community groups to help combat homelessness, which was becoming a chronic problem in the country.

He told delegates that both President Bush and he were committed to partnering with government officials to create greater opportunities for people in other countries to improve their housing. But, he warned, while his country was willing to help, the initiative to bring about change had to come from countries themselves.

Mr. Jockin Arputham, founder of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India, began by thanking UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, for allowing slum dwellers like him to participate in the World Urban Forum, adding that some 35 slum dwellers and two pavement dwellers were among the participants at the Forum.

Mr. Arputham said that many conferences have been held to address the problem of slums, but few have resulted in tangible changes in the lives of slum dwellers. He challenged delegates to let slum dwellers take control of their own lives instead of just talking about their problems at conferences and seminars. Slum dwellers, he said, needed to take development into their own hands by getting organized and coming up with their own housing solutions, as they were closest to the problem.

He said that for many years the United Nations and national governments had paid mere lip service to the plight of slum dwellers and had not pledged sufficient funds to improve their lives. He noted that every year millions of people in Asia and Africa were evicted from their homes, but UN-HABITAT and other international organizations are unable to prevent evictions and intervened only after the evictions had taken place.

Mr. Arputham urged governments to follow the example of the Government of South Africa, which had allocated 235 million rand to Shack Dwellers International to enable the urban poor to build their own homes, and which was working closely with organized groups of the urban poor to come up with housing solutions.

Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, Government of South Africa said that in order to fully understand social exclusion, it was necessary to bring poverty, urban poverty in particular, back into the centre of discussions on development. She noted that the international community currently devoted only between 2 to 12 per cent of donor funding to urban areas, as the bulk of assistance was still focused on rural areas. Referring to the High Level Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (HLCLEP), she added that exclusion had worsened the plight of the poor, as they lacked access to services that directly affected their economic wellbeing.

Ms. Sisulu said that just as the world had united in the fight against Nazism during the Second World War, it must now unite against the common scourge of poverty. Urbanization, she added, had thrown up new challenges as urbanization of poverty was escalating. Minister Sisulu said that nothing defined the reality of the urban poor more starkly than their living conditions; people living in shacks not only lacked services, but also suffered from high levels of unemployment, illiteracy and ill health.

She said South Africa's experience had shown that the inclusion of the communities involved was essential. Shack Dwellers International and other organizations therefore needed government support. This support could be in the form of "meeting the efforts of community-based savings and loans schemes halfway". Ms. Sisulu said African governments at the inaugural meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing

and Urban Development in South Africa in February 2005 had committed themselves to pay more attention to housing because this was at the core of urban poverty. Quoting the Holocaust survivor and Nobel peace laureate, Elie Wiesel, she warned that indifference to the plight of the poor was tantamount to a crime.

Ms. Sisulu said that in order to halt the growing urbanization of poverty, African countries needed to ensure that all socio-economic programmes and activities on the continent were focused on meeting the basic survival needs of the most deprived groups and that resources were restructured in order to address the challenge. This would include greater collaboration between national and local governments and inclusion of civil society in local decision-making.

Annex IV.

SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL UN-HABITAT LECTURE

The Wealth of Cities: Towards an Assets-Based Development of Urbanizing Regions
20 June 2006

Chair: Professor Richard Stren, Chair, Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net) and Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Presenter: Professor John Friedmann, Winner of the 2006 UN-HABITAT Lecture Award, Honorary Professor, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Panelists**:**
Prof. Carole Rakodi, International Development Department, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK
Prof. Om Prakash Mathur, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, India;
Dr. Peter Ngau, Chairman, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Professor Richard Stren, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net) opened the event by welcoming Professor John Friedmann and all participants, as well as introducing the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Tibaijuka who briefly explained the rationale and criteria of the UN-HABITAT Lecture Award. She then presented the Award to Professor John Friedmann, the first winner of this recently launched award series. In doing so, she cited Professor Friedmann's significant and sustained contribution to research, thinking and practice in human settlements over a period of 30 years. She then invited Professor Friedmann to deliver the 2006 UN-HABITAT Lecture.

Professor Friedmann highlighted three key arguments in his lecture. First, he emphasized the fluidity and gradual meltdown of spatial boundaries between cities and their surrounding regions as well as the organic relationship across these spaces. He proposed the notion of *city-region* as a more appropriate framework within which to

examine the growth and development of cities. Second, Professor Friedmann critically examined the assumption that exports and external investments are the driving forces of growth in cities of developing countries. Rather, he proposed *endogenous development*, or a greater reliance on local assets and generation of local savings, complemented by international aid and private investments, as an alternative strategy to drive the sustainable development of cities. He further elaborated the notion of *endogenous development* in relation to seven types of tangible assets (human, social, cultural, intellectual, natural, environmental, and urban assets) which cities should invest in and draw upon to foster sustainable development. Such investment may in turn generate foreign investments in the long term. Third, he advocated the need for a strong and visionary leadership to spearhead endogenous development with the backing of city populations. In closing, Professor Friedmann suggested a few strategies to enhance urban planning. These were priority for public investments, cross-sectoral interventions and consensus building and dialogue between multiple stakeholders.

Comments by the panelists highlighted the need to examine the effects of political processes on the endogenous development of city regions, including the different interests that often characterise civil society groups. The reasons for the decline and revival of cities also needed to be understood. The role of the main factors of production in stimulating the development of city regions, i.e. capital, labour, land and information, was also highlighted. It was further emphasized that the role of the state in endogenous development of city regions needed to be reappraised, given the dominance of the neo-liberal development paradigm and the powerful forces of globalization. It was emphasized that the endogenous development model should not be seen in isolation and that it could work alongside other development models, including, where appropriate, foreign investment and export-led development.

In the ensuing open discussion, a number of issues were raised, including the temporal relationship between the seven different assets highlighted in Professor Friedmann's lecture. It was emphasized that the endogenous development model was more of a vision of the sustainable development of city-regions that was expected to progress into the realm of practice. Other issues discussed included the importance of public space in local community development, the difficulty of determining an optimal size for municipal authorities, the importance of addressing the shelter needs of slum dwellers, as well as the property and overall rights of women in the process of endogenous development. The importance of building the financial capital assets of poor urban households was also highlighted, as was the need to reverse the brain drain that characterizes many urbanizing regions of developing countries. In this respect, it was emphasized that the economic and political democracy gains recently achieved in some developing countries held the promise of reversing brain drain. Finally, the challenge of preserving local assets was also emphasized.

Annex V.

SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY SESSION ON PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCE
21 June 2006

The session was moderated by Katherine Sierra, Vice-President and Network Head, Infrastructure, at the World Bank. Her opening statement carried a new warning for humanity: such are global population growth trends that the world will require the

planning, financing and servicing facilities for a new city of one million people every week for the next thirty years. Moving from global projections and trends, this session was given a picture of two cities at opposite sides of the world and opposite ends of the development spectrum – Kabul, Afghanistan, and Vancouver Canada. Yet, from construction and rebuilding, to cutting edge development using the latest technology, each of the three keynote speakers, including the Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, Guyana, gave numerous examples of how partnerships can be the best engines of urban development.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Sierra said poverty was becoming an urban phenomenon and that cities had to become inclusive places that provided welfare, markets for agricultural output, a good business environment, efficient transport, property rights and functioning urban land markets, water and sanitation – all of which she described as public goods. She said cities consumed 75 percent of the world's resources and generated 70 percent of greenhouse gas pollution. The World Bank was promoting good governance as a core requisite of development, and decentralization. She then handed the floor to the first keynote speaker.

Afghanistan's Minister of Urban Development, Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Pashtun, said that after 25 years of war, Afghanistan's cities had been destroyed, many of them literally flattened on a scale unimaginable to people outside the country. He characterised the country's urban landscape as being in a severe state of post-conflict breakdown: more than 70 percent of all urban infrastructure had been totally destroyed, with the remaining 30 percent in poor condition. At the same time, between 1978 and 2002 the urban population had grown from 1.5 million to over five million people. He also said a further 5 million refugees had returned, and that with internally displaced people now streaming back to towns and cities, the country was experiencing a 5 percent urban growth rate. Afghanistan was further beset by rapid rural to urban migration, the absence of effective land management policies, and acute shortages of technical and human capacities at the planning and municipal levels, he said. He outlined an urban renewal plan devised at a meeting in 2002 of 150 international experts that two years later formed the basis of the first National Urban Programme.

Mr. Pashtun listed the key challenges of what he called an urban development crisis: rapid urbanization, land security and management, a huge national housing deficit, an acute shortage of technical human resources, weak municipal revenue collection, and very slow urban infrastructure growth. The latter had led to the spread of new slums and informal settlements.

He further noted that the presence of a large Afghan government delegation at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver this year, as well as in Barcelona two years ago, signalled that Afghanistan had returned to the international fold, and that the country needed partnerships for development to get the National Urban Programme underway urgently. Thanking UN-HABITAT, the World Bank, USAID, the European Union and India, among others, for their support, he warned the audience that Afghan people still had an average life expectancy of just 43 years, that traditions still denied women their full potential, that warlords and drug traders remained a threat, and that the country's democratic structures were desperately weak. The urban crisis, he said in conclusion, should be seen by Afghanistan's political and business partners as an opportunity for national and international investment, a reservoir of cheap skilled and unskilled labour.

He stated that Afghanistan was a country with affordable local construction materials, and a place where investments and new partnerships would generate job opportunities for millions of people. Despite its problems, he said the country was gradually becoming more secure and he invited delegates to visit Kabul and see for themselves a city in better shape than depicted by the international media.

The second speaker, Ms. Pat Jacobsen, Chief Executive Officer of TransLink, Canada, explained how Vancouver used partnerships to mobilise funding to improve the infrastructure of the modern Pacific gateway city. She gave the example of a new US $5 million rail service to link Vancouver with its neighbouring American city of Seattle to the south. Partnerships were being used to help find the funding.

In the 1960s and 1970s, she said the city of Vancouver was funding its public transport system from the public sector. Today, over 70 percent of this funding was coming from user fees and fuel taxes. A new bridge being planned for the city would be funded from toll fees. She said that 1.2 billion Canadian dollars of private sector capital had been used to build new infrastructure, and therefore Translink had an obligation to involve its stakeholders in planning city transport.

In changing the way public transport infrastructure is funded, Ms. Jacobsen said the main problems included the fact that public officials were not used to working with the private sector, that they often lacked sufficient skills, and that both sides had different perceptions of each other. Nevertheless, the benefits of these new partnerships, she added, had paid off enormously, and that their biggest supporters were their stakeholders – the users of the public transport system.

Taking the floor in a brief intervention from what he called the perspective of a small nation, Mr. Robert Williams, the Deputy Mayor of Georgetown Guyana, said that new partnerships were not an option for his city, but a requirement in this globalising world.

He said policies made in far away places like Washington on terrorism, or on global warming, had financial costs and implications for small countries. New partnerships simply had to be formed to manage cities better because governments and municipalities no longer had the capacity or the means to cope with increasing crime and other problems.

Partnerships were key to moving to action on implementing new systems that enable municipalities to develop the services people expect of them. Local authorities were the true representatives of the people, and it was the people who had to be the real partners of municipalities, he said. Urban safety and security could only be ensured through such partnerships. Genuine partnerships among stakeholders were the way to move forward.

Annex VI.

SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY SESSION ON URBAN GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT
22 June 2006

Moderator: Chris Leach, President of the Canadian Institute of Planners

Mr. Leach opened the plenary session. This session was addressed by two keynote speakers, Evelyn Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, and Enrique Peñalosa, the former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, now serving as Visiting Scholar at New York University. Both keynote speakers made impassioned speeches calling for more engagement at all levels to make cities more liveable – places where everyone feels safe, and where citizens enjoy human and civil rights. Mr. Peñalosa was cheered and given a standing ovation by the packed auditorium.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Leach recalled that the World Planners Congress in Vancouver on 20 June 2006 had produced a declaration signed by 17 associations from both developed and developing countries. This declaration laid the groundwork for a new Global Planners Network to confront the problems of rapid urbanization, the urbanization of poverty, and the hazards of climate change and natural disasters.

He said that the Canadian Institute of Planners was committed to combining its expertise with the excellent work already being undertaken by its global partners. He said that the global planning community was committed to taking action to address the sustainability of human settlements.

Ms. Herfkens urged participants to use the Millennium Development Goals as a guide to local planning and research, particularly with regard to urban environmental sustainability.

Ms. Herfkens opened her remarks by saying she wanted to be "provocative" because she did not like the phrasing of the agenda on how sound planning and management will become a major factor in ensuring sustainable urban development. She said she agreed with Klaus Toepfer, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who, she said, always maintained that poverty itself was the biggest polluter. This necessitated pro-poor sustainable growth that involved the poor in urban planning. She said the urban poor should not be viewed as "client targets" – a view that was now enshrined in the eight Millennium Development Goals forged in the consensus of world leaders signatory to the Millennium Declaration.

Ms. Herfkens said that UN-HABITAT and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) had produced a guide to assist local and national governments to meet the Millennium Development Goals. She added that she was delighted to learn that the Mayor of Montréal, Gérald Tremblay, had personally undertaken a campaign to publicize the Goals. Investing in the Goals, she said, was investment in the future, adding that the current generation was the first one with the resources and the knowledge to end poverty.

Mr. Peñalosa told participants that projections showed that the world's urban population would grow by more than two billion people in the next 30 years – the equivalent of one city the size of Vancouver, Canada, every week.

The world, he said, had to create an urban environment conducive to human happiness. He raised a major point of principle which he stressed was of relevance to the whole world – that much could be done to make cities more equitable by using existing physical resources, especially road space, for the benefit of the whole community. This did not require large external resource inputs to yield major benefits for cities, he said.

This was why, he said, it was important to keep cities green with parks, cycle ways and better public transport to minimise car use. Human beings need space, as did animals in their own environments, to realise their full potential. They had a right to green, safe city spaces. Infrastructure in cities could be redistributed so that the rider of a US$30 bicycle, for example, was able to get the same space and respect as the driver of a US$30,000 car. In short, they should be places where the public good prevails over private interests. If cars were banned during peak hours, he said referring to restrictions introduced in Bogotá, most people would be better off. Sidewalks and public parks were the minimum cities had to provide for their poor – indeed they are a right of the poor. He explained how Bogotá had voted in a referendum to restrict the use of cars in peak hours, and how new cycle lanes had been built throughout the city, along with a rapid bus transit system. All of this had freed up considerable resources for the city, all of them small steps leading to big change and a greener, healthier lifestyle.

The moderator told him that his speaking time was due to end. But, before an audience that rose and cheered him on, Mr. Peñalosa called for a few more minutes. He said he wanted Vancouver 2006 to know that in 1976 he had accompanied his father, Enrique Peñalosa, who served as Secretary General of the Habitat I conference. Vancouver 1976 had inspired him to take home to Bogotá years later many of the ideas he had picked up during that conference.

Annex VII.

REPORTS ON DIALOGUES

1. Dialogue on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing
20 June 2006

Moderator: Jacques Bensimon, Government Film Commissioner of the National Film Board of Canada

Panellists:
Noli de Castro, Vice President of the Philippines, Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
Jockin Arputham, President, National Slum Dwellers Association (NSDF) of India, Mumbai
Miloon Kothari, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing
Luz Maria Sanchez Hurtado, Director, NGO Estrategia, Lima, Peru; Member of Huairou Commission, Latin America
Clarissa Augustinus, Chief, Land and Tenure Section, UN-HABITAT
Rose Molokoane, Chairperson, South African Homeless People's Federation; Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
Arif Hassan, Chairman, Urban Resource Centre (URC), Karachi, Pakistan; Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)
Jerry Trenas, Mayor, Metro Iloilo, the Philippines
Elio Codato, World Bank, Urban Unit, Transport and Urban Development Department, Washington, D.C.

Alfredo Stein, Former Sida consultant and advisor for the Local Development Programme (PRODEL), Nicaragua

David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London

Major Issues and Concerns:

The main objective of the dialogue was to provide a platform for debating the importance of implementing the commitments made by the international community and national governments and engaging in urgent policy changes as a foundation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7, target 11 on slums. The dialogue also addressed challenges and opportunities for expediting the implementation of the Goals. The major issues addressed were the need to promote the role of local authorities, provision of security of tenure and access to affordable land, provision of funds to developing countries for slum upgrading and urban development programmes, the need to empower the urban poor, and the promotion of an inclusive approach. The debate was organized in three segments with speakers addressing specific questions on security of tenure and the provision of land; inclusive slum upgrading processes; and financing of slum upgrading.

Debate

The debate started with introductory remarks by the facilitator Mr. Bensimon. He introduced the debate with a nine-minute excerpt from the film "On Borrowed Land", a documentary produced in 1990 showing the struggle of the residents of "Reclamation", a 50,000 squatter community in Manila, Philippines, for their "right to the city". The film exemplified the plight of the urban poor who are permanently subjected to the threat of forced evictions, the need for them to organize to resist adverse actions, and the lack of funding to enable them to upgrade their neighbourhoods.

The first segment addressed the issue of security of tenure and land. The Vice President of the Philippines, Hon. de Castro provided an update on the situation in the Philippines 16 years after the film was made. He highlighted that some conditions of the poor have improved since the movie was shot, however, poverty statistics have not improved in absolute terms, as the number of poor people continues to rise. He recognized that UN-HABITAT's twin campaigns on Security of Tenure and Urban Governance have had a positive impact in the Philippines. Urban development programmes are now people-centred to ensure security of tenure. He cited the North-South Railway project, which involved the relocation of 80,000 families. The Government has also introduced innovative financing schemes through a Community Mortgage Programme and made land available for relocation through Presidential Proclamations. As a result of this, 250,000 families have had their tenure regularized.

Mr. Arputham spoke about the approach taken by his organization, Slum Dwellers International, in dealing with the issue, the success they have achieved and how governments can learn from their approach. He highlighted the role of women in savings schemes, their ability to identify available land and to request government to provide land for providing shelter for the poor. He highlighted the fact that the community sets its goals for today and not the future.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Mr. Kothari provided a reality check on the development of United Nations human rights during the last three decades. He highlighted the fact that land grabbing, forced evictions and homelessness are on the rise. On forced evictions, he highlighted the fact that in developing, as well as many developed, countries there is hardly any consultation with the communities concerned, no alternatives to eviction are provided and no human rights impact assessment is undertaken. Moreover, he noted that women suffer disproportionately from forced evictions, and pointed out that forced evictions are making a mockery of the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda. He ended with a call for Governments to pledge to stop forced evictions.

During the ensuing debate it was noted that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be adopted by all States, and there was a consensus that governments must recognise and implement their commitments with respect to the right to adequate housing. The Special Rapporteur noted that not enough was being done, and that there was a culture of silence regarding the situation of women. He urged the international community and national governments to acknowledge the scale of the problem.

Participants stressed the need to devolve resources to local authorities so that they can provide access to secure land tenure and housing to people. It was noted that relocations should be voluntary, and that security of tenure should be provided in relocation sites.

The second segment highlighted the necessary empowerment of the urban poor to create appropriate conditions for participatory processes. Ms. Molokoane elaborated on the success her organization has had with officials of local and national authorities in South Africa in addressing the issue of slum upgrading. Alfredo Stein highlighted the issue of creating partnerships with the urban poor. He argued that these partnerships strengthen democracy and local governance, and increase the capacities and skills of the urban poor.

During the discussion, it was noted that communities need resources to implement slum-upgrading activities that respond to their needs and priorities. It was further noted that the provision of jobs go hand in hand with the production of homes. It was also noted that not all communities are organized, and that governments have to own up to their responsibilities towards the urban poor.

The third segment focused on financing slum upgrading and affordable housing. This segment was introduced with a five-minute footage from the video "Homeless No More" on a community-based savings scheme in the Philippines, produced by the Homeless People's Federation and UN-HABITAT in 2005.

Mr. Trenas, Mayor of Metro Iloilo in the Philippines, noted that more resources were required for local governments to implement slum-upgrading activities. He also stressed the importance of consultations, dialogue and community participation in upgrading and relocation projects.

Mr. Hassan of the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, addressed the issue of the range of financing schemes that are appropriate for slum upgrading and prevention. He stressed the fact that sustainable slum upgrading cannot be undertaken with contractors and

consultants, and that there can be no development without consultation. He stated that to prevent slums, land use allocation has to be determined by social and environmental considerations.

Mr. Codato of the World Bank noted that the World Bank and UN-HABITAT have estimated the cost of achieving Goal 7, target 11 of the Millennium Declaration to be approximately US $367 billion. In addressing the issue of how to mobilize these funds, he stated that it is a task that all levels of society had to be involved in. He noted that lending for slum upgrading is not the answer and that allocation of fair, equitable, and targeted subsidies by national governments may be necessary.

In the ensuing debate, some participants believed that there should be a role for the private sector and that micro-finance is part of the solution. Several interventions stressed that the World Bank should work with communities to ensure that their loans reach the urban poor. One speaker noted that policy making often did not address issues on the ground and politicians seemed to have their own agenda. Despite this, he found it easier to talk with politicians than professionals, as the latter seem to be poorly trained in terms of communicating with communities.

Mr. Satterthwaite, in his conclusion, observed that in 1976, partnerships between governments and slum dwellers did not exist and that solutions for urban problems tended to come from the professionals. However, the dialogue showed that a new model has taken root, which requires a new relationship between slum dwellers and local authorities where the slum dwellers themselves are the main development actors.

Summary and Conclusions:

- There was general consensus that governments should respect the right to adequate housing and that forced evictions run counter to Millennium Development Goal 7 target 11 and the Habitat Agenda.
- If the slum improvement target of the Millennium Declaration is to be achieved, communities must be involved in finding solutions and people must participate directly in all decisions affecting their shelter and livelihoods.
- The provision of funding for the achievement of the slum target should be the responsibility of all. It was recognized that community savings schemes are an important part of the equation.
- For financing slum upgrading, it was recommended that national governments should provide an enabling framework to ensure that local governments can respond to the challenges they face in addressing the shelter needs of the urban poor.

2. Dialogue on Public Engagement: The Inclusive Approach
20 June 2006

Moderator: Zain Verjee, Anchor, CNN, Atlanta, United States

Panelists/speakers:
Peter Oberlander, Professor Emeritus, Inaugural Director, University of British Columbia, Centre for Human Settlements, Canada
Naokazu Takemoto, Senior Vice Minister for Finance, Government of Japan

Baroness Andrews, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, United Kingdom
Jean-Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments, Africa
Marcello Balbo, Professor, University of Venice, Italy
Mary Balikungeri, Rwanda Women's Network, Kigali, Rwanda
Akin Mabogunje, Professor Emeritus, The Presidency, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria

Major Issues and Concerns

The dialogue brought together participants from government, non-governmental and community-based organizations (NGOs/CBOs), women's organizations, youth and research and training institutions. Participants engaged very actively in addressing key issues of public engagement and inclusiveness.

It was noted that cities worldwide, whether rich or poor, are faced with the challenge of civic engagement. A key question addressed was how to foster an inclusive governance process at the local level. Recent experiences in both developed and developing countries show that not all systems for participatory governance work when it comes to ensuring urban sustainability. It has become evident that sustainable development is jeopardized when structures of engagement do not provide for mechanisms that eliminate barriers to effective and full involvement of every member of society. The dialogue examined the underlying principles of inclusiveness and empowerment in civic engagement and in local governance. It addressed the operational aspects of fostering inclusion and cohesion for promoting sustainable cities by examining concrete experiences in ensuring the engagement of long-term residents, international migrants, the poor, marginalised groups, national minorities, and indigenous peoples. The specific issues affecting women, people with disabilities and youth were highlighted. The dialogue looked at alternative methods for fostering engagement.

Through story-telling, participants showcased on-going strategies and practices that enriched the dialogue and provided useful lessons in civic engagement and citizenship, with a particular focus on the integration of migrants and empowerment of women and youth.

Debate

Looking back to 1976, when the first Habitat Conference was held in Vancouver and during which the non-governmental organizations organized a parallel workshop in Jericho, it was noted that 30 years later, a "Forum" that was more inclusive was now being held in Vancouver in 2006. At the national level in many countries, policies have been changed to accommodate more inclusive processes. The underlying basis for promoting sustainable communities and neighbourhoods is through fostering of inclusiveness and engagement. For instance, in the United Kingdom, poverty reduction and livelihood strategies are now focused at community level. Empowerment of the poor has become a key strategy for interventions related to poverty reduction. Integrated planning and area-based programmes such as neighbourhood renewal, which involve the communities to participate in making decisions, have been implemented. A key feature has been coalition building amongst various groups, specifically civil society, private sector and government and partnerships between various spheres of government.

It was also noted that women are increasingly claiming their space in decision-making. Women's organizations and networks have been formed at all levels. However, local and national governments are yet to fully recognize the important role and contribution of women.

Local government is the closest public authority to the people with at least 70 percent of the responsibility for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, yet no commensurate resources are available to deliver basic services, particularly to the poor.

It was further noted that inequality in cities is growing. This inequality is particularly visible amongst national and international migrants. Promoting diversity by offering equal opportunities for migrants in job opportunities and in political processes is a key strategy for inclusiveness.

Three societal processes were identified which play a positive role in promoting engagement and inclusiveness. But, if not well-handled, they could also generate negative consequences. These processes are democratic representation, application of market principles, and the use of information technology. Representative democracy can become an impediment when it substitutes for effective participatory democracy. Similarly, market forces, when left unchecked and unregulated, can lead to negative consequences to social well-being. In this regard, whereas information and communication technology could allow for effective engagement and inclusiveness, it could also generate exclusion and alienation among some social groups, and exacerbate both social and digital divides.

Historically, participatory democracy has been widely practised by many communities in different societies. However, top-down bureaucracy hinders communities from benefiting fully from democratic processes.

Some participants questioned whether rural-to-urban migration was inevitable. It was noted that linkages between urban and rural areas should be recognized, and that development in both rural areas and urban areas should be pursued concurrently.

On the issue of engaging the private sector, it was noted that communities need to be empowered to participate not only in making decisions but also in sharing the benefits of investments equitably. Strong public policies are required to facilitate meaningful engagement between urban poor communities and the private sector.

Professional associations, such as the architects and planners, have a crucial role in engaging with local and central government.

The contribution of media in fostering accountability of government was also discussed. Participants highlighted the need for the media to devote less attention to celebrities and address issues of local concern. It should serve as a medium for holding leadership accountable to the people. It was also acknowledged that some sections of the media have played a positive role in promoting engagement and inclusiveness.

Summary and Conclusions:

A key to sustainability is the engagement of all people in decision-making, with special attention focused on low-income and marginalized groups such as national minorities, immigrants and indigenous peoples.

A message emerging from the dialogue was that **top-down bureaucracy** becomes the gap between the government and the citizen.

Power is not easily devolved. People and their organizations have to constantly struggle to have a share of power. Mobilization is a key element in the empowerment process. The process of building capacity, trust and confidence between and among various groups are key elements of empowerment, and long-term dialogue and exchange amongst key stakeholders is crucial.

Understanding transparency. Transparency and accountability are pre-requisites for fostering public engagement and inclusion; they do not, however, happen overnight and require changes in attitudes, values and systems. It is a struggle that involves giving and sharing of power, i.e. opening-up the space for dialogue for excluded groups.

Need to empower marginalized groups, including women, youth, people with disabilities, children and indigenous groups.

Need to listen to women. There is a need to evolve new ways of involving women in decision-making. Numerous innovations exist at the local level, but mechanisms to share them with decision-makers at the local and national level are lacking. For example, the Rwanda Women's Network has implemented the Local-to-Local Dialogue where decision-makers effectively engage with the grassroots women. There is, however, a need to create spaces for dialogue that are gender-sensitive and incorporate both men and women.

Need to empower the elderly and people with disabilities. It was noted that nearly one-fifth of people living in cities suffer from various degrees of disability. Planners should therefore take into consideration their needs while putting in place appropriate infrastructure and services.

In most developed countries, the elderly are an emerging group requiring attention. Their needs have to be fully integrated in the city. An inclusive city is one where everyone, regardless of wealth, gender, age, race or religion, is free to participate productively and positively in the governing of the city and where the pursuit of opportunities that cities have to offer is equitable. The idea of a global network of local authorities supporting people living with disabilities was mooted.

Important role of Youth and Children. The need to include young people and to engage with them in all decision-making processes was emphasized. It was noted that the technological innovations taking place globally, including information technology, makes it easier to integrate the youth in the development process. Art, culture and environment are key entry points for engaging the youth. Providing resources to engage urban youth is essential. Youth funds should be established to support youth-owned initiatives for the improvement of their living environments and livelihoods. Young people should be viewed as a resource in both decision making and implementation of

specific programmes. Priority areas of support for youth include mentorships, apprenticeships and skills development.

3. Dialogue on Municipal Finance: Innovation and Collaboration
21 June 2006

Facilitator: Anwar Versi, Editor, African Business

Speakers:
Jacqueline E. Schafer, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT), U.S. Agency for International Development, USA
Lamine Mbassa, Director General of Finance, City of Douala, Cameroon
Zenaida Moya, Mayoress, Belize City, Belize
Jawaid Akhtar, Managing Director, Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation, Bangalore, India
Julio Ribeiro Pires, Secretary of Planning and Budget, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Brian Field, Senior Economist, European Investment Bank
Michael Lippe, Senior Urban Advisor, Transparency International and the Partnership for Transparency Fund
Lin Guoqiang, Mayor, Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China
Sagira Tayeb Ansari, former pavement dweller from Mumbai

Wrap-Up Speaker: Katherine Sierra, Vice-President and Head of Network for Infrastructure, World Bank

Major Issues and Concerns

Municipalities around the world are facing a paradox: the need for a strong fiscal base to create and maintain infrastructure and services; and the pressure of lowering taxes to attract foreign and domestic investment. Despite these constraints, there are, around the world many experiences, reforms, innovations and partnership arrangements to remedy this. These include public-private partnerships in the provision of urban infrastructure and services, that allow municipalities to better finance their increasing expenditures and manage their financial systems in a more transparent and efficient manner.

The main objective of the dialogue was to provide a platform for sharing experiences on innovative ways and partnerships for enhancing municipal finance for the sustainable provision of services. The dialogue was organized in three segments, with speakers addressing the specific questions of:
- Enhancing municipal revenue and access to resources
- Innovative approaches to financing infrastructure and provision of urban services
- Reform in institutional and regulatory frameworks to enhance municipal finance.

Debate

The Moderator, Mr. Versi opened the debate by saying that sustainable financing mechanisms had become an urgent requirement for urban development. A video highlighting the major issues of the dialogue was shown to the audience.

The first segment addressed the issue of "Enhancing municipal revenue and access to resources". Ms. Schafer urged local governments and utilities to become credit-worthy and consumer oriented. She referred to innovations in market-based financing for urban infrastructure in India and Mexico.

Mr. Mbassa presented the case of Douala Municipal Bonds, one of the first of such experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa. He highlighted the need for strong management and financial reforms necessary for accessing the market.

Mayoress Moya spoke of the principles promoted by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum to strengthen local government finance. She stressed the need for building the capacity of local governments to deliver services and to negotiate with the national governments.

The ensuing debate focused on:
- Effective structural reforms in financing and management in order to enhance access to market capital;
- Building self-financing mechanisms, such as land-based methods for capturing the enhanced value of land resulting from public infrastructure development;
- Improving credit rating of cities, including measures to establish benchmarks in order to build investor confidence;
- Legislative changes to empower cities to borrow; and
- The need for establishment of local credit enhancement facilities.

The second segment focused on "Innovative approaches to financing infrastructure and the provision of urban services". Mr. Akhtar presented the case of a pooled municipal bond for eight cities in the Bangalore Metropolitan Area for a major water and sewerage project. He emphasized that shrinking state support presented an opportunity to build sustainable and market based financing for cities. To overcome the constraints of technically and financially weak municipalities, the state government set up a pooled finance trust as an intermediary mechanism to facilitate the financing of the project. The bond was rated and had several layers of credit enhancement, including one from USAID.

Mr. Peres outlined participatory budgeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He said that many citizens directly contributed to making decisions on city expenditures. The city was planning to further expand the level of participation through the use of information and communications technologies.

Mr. Field explained how the European Investment Bank managed a large investment portfolio both in Europe and in developing countries. He also presented the successful case of e-Thekwani (formerly Durban), which implemented comprehensive financing reforms. He highlighted the factors that allowed Durban to succeed: coherent and long term plans for integrated infrastructure, interconnectedness of investment, public participation, strong leadership and sustainable internal cross-subsidy mechanisms between municipalities within the metropolitan area.

The debate highlighted the following issues:
- Technical assistance to support municipal finance reforms is critical;

- Caution must be exercised while promoting market finance to protect the interests of the poor and local governments during negotiations with banks;
- The spending capacity of the funds (both internal and external) is very weak and needs to be strengthened;
- Leakages in expenditure must be plugged;
- Relevant ISO certification for local governments and utilities should be applied;
- The participation of citizens in revenue mobilization and not just in expenditure management is necessary;
- Large and small cities need to pool together in order to reduce risks and interest rates;
- Inter-governmental fiscal transfers need to be enhanced and made predictable;
- The revenue raising authority of cities must match functional responsibilities; and
- The urban poor must benefit from innovative market based financing.

The third segment focused on "Reform in institutional and regulatory framework to enhance municipal finance". Mr. Lippe stressed that transparency and accountability were key to creating and sustaining public confidence in municipal finance systems. The key was leadership at all levels. He stressed the need for both internal accountability systems and external mechanisms for involving civil society organizations in order to improve transparency.

Mayor Lin Guoqiang presented the experience of Nanning City. He stressed that the city strived to balance the needs of citizens for urban services with the need to attract investors by reducing taxes. The city used multiple sources of revenue, including: land based taxes; sale of development rights; and unified management systems to reduce the cost of services.

Subsequent interventions from the floor highlighted the following:
- Excessive regulations can hinder the speedy utilization of available resources;
- Greater national tax revenues should be allocated to municipal authorities for the provision of basic urban services;
- Promotion of better governance through public disclosure of municipal finance accounts and strong public participation in municipal management is necessary.

The last speaker, Ms. Sagira, a former pavement dweller from Mumbai, presented her experience. The video shown at the beginning of the dialogue featured her journey spanning 32 years from pavement dweller to homeowner. She stressed the importance of organizing communities through saving schemes in order to negotiate with state and municipal authorities. As a result of this, her own community had been able to influence the introduction of pro-poor policy and large scale investment in infrastructure in order to scale up home improvements for low income households.

Summary and Conclusions

Ms. Sierra, summarized the key areas of consensus of the dialogue as follows:

Legal Framework:
- There is need for sound legal frameworks to allow fiscal decentralization that matches resources with functional responsibilities of cities;
- Governments need to avoid unsustainable debt crises through good municipal borrowing legislation;
- Central and provincial governments should promote larger and more predictable inter-governmental transfers.

Domestic Capital
- Domestic capital is the key financial mechanism for sustainable urbanization;
- International donors can play a catalytic role through capacity building support, transition funding until cities become creditworthy, and credit enhancement support, including financial guarantees.

Credit-worthy Borrowers
- Municipal authorities should be made credit-worthy through the strengthening of their capacity to manage budgets transparently, use available resources efficiently and speedily, as well as reduce leakages;
- Cities should formulate and implement coherent and integrated development plans;
- Cities should mobilize land based resources to capture enhanced values, as well as enhance the municipal tax base and make utilities consumer oriented and financially viable;
- Citizen participation should be enhanced through measures such as participatory budgeting.

Willing Lenders
- All lenders need to be "part of the solution" through wider engagement and promotion of sound governance frameworks;
- All lenders should use measures such as credit ratings and relevant certifications;
- International lenders should provide transition phase funding while cities gain capacity to borrow in local markets in sustainable ways.

The dialogue concluded that the challenge for the future is to shift from reliance on international development finance to tapping into local capital markets. Progress in achieving this goal will be a measure of success towards sustainable urban development.

4. Dialogue on Urban Safety and Security – Taking Responsibility
21 June 2006

Moderator: Anne-Maria Tremonti, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Panelists:
Ian Davis, Professor, Cranfield University, United Kingdom
Elina Palm, Liaison Officer, UN-ISDR (UN International Strategy Disaster Reduction)
Mark Pelling, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Kings College, London
Pushpa Pathak, Urban Planning and Policy Advisor, Kabul Municipality

Suranjana Gupta, Programme Associate, Women and Disaster Reduction, Campaign of the Huairou Commission

Prema Gopalan, Global facilitator, Women and Disaster Reduction, Campaign of the Huairou Commission

Yoshinabou Fukasawa, Director of Planning, National and regional Planning Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), Japan

Franz Vanderschueren, Director, Urban Safety Programme, University of Urtado, Chile

Juan Manuel Ospina, Secretary of the Government of Colombia

Kamal Kashyap, Ex. Director General of Police, Maharashtra State, India

Dame Carole Kidu, Ministry of Community Development and Urban Member of Parliament, Papua New Guinea

Michel Marcus, Executive Director, European Forum for Urban Safety, France

Yasmin Bacus, Head of Department of Community Safety and Liaison, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Clayton Peters, International Projects Manager, YouthBuild USA/International

Thomas Melin, Head of Division for Urban development, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency

Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director, Transport and Urban Development, World Bank

Major issues and concerns

Two key constraints to human security, sustainable settlements and achieving the Millennium Development Goals are disasters, and growing crime and violence in towns and cities. Although inherently different, both disaster risk reduction and crime prevention require a holistic and multi-partner approach. They also require the empowerment of national and local governments, civil society and vulnerable groups.

The key is to find sustainable responses to reduce risk and vulnerability. For disasters this entails reducing risks and vulnerability. For crime and violence the emphasis has to be on prevention and tackling the underling causes. It is increasingly evident that the way these concerns will be integrated in urban development approaches and initiatives will to a large extent determine the sustainability of our urban future.

Debate

While efforts to mitigate risk are increasing in some areas, the high rate of urbanization, combined with environmental factors such as climate change and environmental degradation, are continuing to increase risk and vulnerability globally. There is a need therefore to review urban development, land-use and physical planning to create safe spaces in the urban landscape.

Many disasters occur as a result of unregulated development activities, where natural habitats such as forests, mountain slopes and coastal areas are exploited in a manner that increases the vulnerabilities of surrounding settlements. While the corporate ethic is improving in some cases, notably the recent role of large corporations responding to the Asian tsunami, a greater momentum must be built within the private sector for responsible development that reduces vulnerability to hazards.

The world reacts to disasters primarily through media coverage that can be sensational. Therefore, a robust means of collecting, analysing and reporting hard data related to risk

and vulnerability should be integrated into national, local and community based policy-making and development planning initiatives. Tools drawn from high to low-technology resources enhance resilience at all levels. State actors need, however, to improve dissemination and integration of these resources.

The importance of maintaining the pride and dignity of people recovering from calamity is often overlooked and should be built into the post-disaster recovery process. It is paramount here to engage the local community, from faith-based to grassroots organisations, individuals to neighbourhoods. They need to be involved from the outset through to the long term and in partnership and concert with local, national and international aid organisations. This is the only way sustainable prevention, mitigation, and response can work properly.

Many governments limit development planning horizons to coincide with their political cycles resulting in maximum five year planning loops that do not envision investment and development beyond the electoral cycle. In 2005, 168 States endorsed the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, a guideline that commits these governments to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards through integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning in the coming decade. However, there is a clear gap between the endorsement and the action which demands increased political and budgetary commitment to implementation over the longer term.

What is clear, is that the cost of responding to the aftermath of disaster in human, physical and social terms far exceeds the financial burden of reducing these vulnerabilities – this message demands far more commitment among policy makers, aid agencies and all stakeholders.

The debate on crime prevention was opened by Mr. Vanderschueren. He outlined the evolution of the last 20 years towards decentralization in safety management. This approach called for the participation of civil society and communities, considering safety as a basic service to be delivered to citizens in urban areas. He recalled the strong demand for safety coming especially from the urban poor and slum dwellers who suffer more than anyone else from delinquency, violence and insecurity in cities and slums.

Ms. Plessis-Fraissard stated that the World Bank was changing policy and moving towards a more comprehensive approach, breaking away from the "silo mentality" in order to be more responsive to the requests of client countries. This should lead to better coordination of prevention and good urban governance programmes. Special attention should be given to the poor and vulnerable groups.

Mr. Melin said global safety, youth violence and violence against women in particular, had come to the top of the list of requests from countries, but was not yet on the of the development agenda. He insisted on the key role of mayors and local governments to bring forward short and long term responses to these challenges. More attention should be given to safety by donors and development agencies.

Mr. Ospina gave the example of his city, Bogotá, a place which used to be rife with violence and exclusion problems. He underlined the importance of reinforcing the conditions for an integrated social policy based on a convivial approach and for neighbourhood-specific diagnosis and actions plans. New forms of community justice

had to be promoted and targeted partnerships had to be developed with institutional and community based actors, including the informal sector. Encouraging results had emerged in different neighbourhoods of his city.

Dame Kidu addressed the devastating impact of crime in Papua, New Guinea in the last five years and the need to depart from the traditional reactive response of the criminal justice system. A new scheme based on the strengthening of communities, social inclusion and a shift from a culture of violence towards a culture of peace was being tested in the city.

Turning to her native South Africa, Ms. Bacus stressed the importance of developing and implementing policies that respond to the needs of women, children, youth and the elderly, in the context of participatory democracy. Instruments such as a National Victims' Charter or a National Youth Commission were useful in supporting such policies. At the same time, the planning process at the local level had to fully integrate safety and crime prevention. Specific tools such as safety audits for women had to be used more widely.

Mr. Peters said too much emphasis was put on law enforcement when discussing the issue of youth and violence. A more global approach was needed to foster the social and economic integration of youth. This had to include specific measures for marginalised groups and a structured participatory process taking their needs into account in the planning, social and economic processes.

Mr. Kashyap insisted on the potential importance of partnership relations in order to develop police accountability and a relationship between the police and the population based on trust and collaboration. This necessitated the establishment of partnerships with youth and women's organizations, the promotion of traditional conflict resolution processes, and a strategy to promote change in police organizations. He also called for more networking and discussion of successful partnerships.

Mr. Marcus said that crisis linked with urban violence provided opportunities to review the modes of intervention and institutional processes to develop more comprehensive long-term prevention approaches to crime and natural disasters. He suggested that urban security be given a higher profile at the next World Urban Forum.

Other points raised by participants included the impact of migration to cities, the importance of respecting human rights and the necessity to invest more in crime prevention. Increasing "gangsterism" was becoming entrenched in many cities and towns. Women and children need to be empowered to avoid being drawn into gangs. The issue of early intervention with vulnerable families, children and youth was seen as an investment. Some participants said local policies should be linked with national policies. Others raised concern about crime, violence, fraud, the trafficking of people, organised crime and delinquency that flourish in the aftermath of disasters. Legislation had to be developed to prevent this in post-disaster situations. Many participants called for an integrated approach towards prevention and good governance.

Summary and Conclusions:

Actionable recommendations in general on risk reduction and crime
- Focus of prevention is becoming broader, for which an integrated strategy is essential, based on reinforcing partnerships and cooperation elements.
- Local authorities and communities themselves should have a more prominent role in security and vulnerability reduction
- Local policies on safety had to link with national policies and approaches
- Sustainability could be achieved by strengthening and supporting community initiatives from the bottom-up, promoting ownership, partnership and networking. The costs of failure to involve communities were far higher than when communities are involved.
- Livelihood development is key to safety, security and risk reduction and investment in social policy and development promotes safety

Actionable recommendations with regard to crime prevention
- Mainstreaming safety and crime prevention into integrated local development plans is a social tool for community development.
- Focus on the poor and most vulnerable groups
- Youth policies should be integrated with emphasis on participation, livelihood opportunities, and targeted interventions for vulnerable youth
- Generational change of attitudes to safety is required
- Security and development are inter-linked. Security is a human rights issue
- Crime, violence and insecurity should be placed on top of the development agenda
- Mayors should commit to the safety agenda

The vulnerability of people in settlements to natural hazards and crime signal the failure of society to govern itself in a manner that addresses the root causes of these problems. A paradigm shift was therefore required to address the many common elements of both these threats to human security. There is a need for an integrated approach to crime and disaster management whereby the two problems are treated holistically in policy terms, preferably before crisis occurs. At the same time, because of the need to achieve better integration of crime prevention within the urban development agenda, and bring in new, relevant partners, UN-HABITAT needs to give security more prominence on the road to the next World Urban Forum in Nanjing in 2008.

5. Dialogue on the Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and Management
22 June 2006

Moderator: Steve Bradshaw, BBC-Panorama

Panelists/speakers:
Prof. John Friedmann, University of British Columbia, Canada
Dr. Ossama Salem, Capacity-Building International, Egypt
Ms. Tasneem Essop, Western Cape Government's Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, South Africa
Prof. Charles Choguill, King Saud University, Riyadh

Mr. Herbert Girardet, Environmental consultant and Senior Adviser to Eco-City
Dongtan, China

Mr. Dritan Shutina, Executive Director, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development,
Albania

Prof. Cliff Hague, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners

Mr. David Siegel, President, American Planning Association

Rapporteur: Ms. Deborah Thomas, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of
Planners

Major Issues and Concerns

Sustainability is the new watchword of urban development. Drawing its most recent
inspiration from the World Summit on Social Development held in Johannesburg in
2002, many city managers and other stakeholders seek to maximise not only
environmental but also social and economic sustainability. There are significant
differences of opinion, however, about the most important priorities for sustainability.
The purpose of this Dialogue was to examine the relationships between poverty,
economic development, environment and spatial planning in the context of sustainable
development. Two cases studies of emerging strategic approaches to planning were
discussed. There was a particular focus on the role of urban planning, and what is now
being referred to as the "new urban planning", which was tabled as a tool to address
these tensions.

Debate

Urban planning: Evolving but still inadequate
The moderator, Steve Bradshaw, introduced the topic under discussion and invited
planning "guru" Professor John Friedmann, recipient of the first UN-HABITAT Lecture
Award, to open the session. Tracing the developments in the field of planning and
sustainability over the last six or seven decades, with particular reference to North
America, Prof. Friedmann concluded that while planning had evolved and adapted itself
to changing circumstances, it was still not adequate or effective enough in its present
form. The tools of planning, he said, had succeeded in neither containing urban growth,
nor resolving the tensions between environmental, economic and social dimensions.

Brown, green, or both?
As a follow-up to Prof. Friedmann's remarks, Dr. Ossama Salem from Egypt was quick
to point out that the North American reality was very different from that of the rest of
the world, especially the Middle-East region, which is characterized by heavily
centralized government systems and weak local authorities. He brought out local and
global sustainability issues and the tensions often seen between them. Good local
governance, he concluded, was the key to reconciling the green and the brown agendas,
a link often not understood or considered by policy makers.

Whose agenda?
Tasneem Essop, provincial minister from South Africa, took up from where Mr. Salem
left off, asserting that a key role of local government was to defend the public interest.
She also emphasized that there cannot be a separation between issues of the
environment, social justice and economic development. Asked whether the

sustainability agenda was the same for the developed and developing world, she pointed out that the assumption that there was homogeneity within each of these two spheres was itself incorrect, and the question should not be "which agenda", but "whose agenda". The one common factor in both developed and developing countries is that the poor bear the brunt of environmental degradation and poor planning, and therefore their involvement in setting the agenda was crucial.

A necessary, if not sufficient, condition for sustainability
Charles Choguill of the King Saud University presented a vigorous defence of planning; reinforcing Prof. Friedmann's point that planning had indeed continually adapted itself to changing realities, though it was still far from perfect. He highlighted that planning was a necessary condition for sustainability, even if not sufficient in and of itself to ensure the same. Pointing out that some so-called best practices, such as smart cities or compact cities, developed in and for the developed world, could not in fact be easily transferred to the cities of developing countries, he warned against such best practices becoming a substitute for thinking, analysis and innovation. Urban disasters, he noted, were not a result of planning (or non-planning) alone, but in fact a product of many factors, including political decisions and policies.

Planners should be accountable to the people
Following the presentations in the first segment, the floor was thrown open to the audience. A number of issues were raised, including the need for planners to re-educate themselves by living and engaging with communities. Lajana Manandhar from the non-governmental organization Lumanti in Nepal called on planners to not just inform the communities or even consult with them, but to be accountable to the people. Youth representatives appealed for greater engagement of the young people, women, and other traditionally marginalized groups in planning processes. Questions were raised as to whether planning education had reformed sufficiently to produce planners that could handle the new and growing challenges facing cities and towns in both developing and developed countries. Another intervention pointed out that planning would never be able to resolve all the problems of sustainability unless people, communities, individuals took personal responsibility.

Signs of hope
The second segment of the Dialogue focused on two case studies, illustrations of emerging planning approaches from two countries in different continents. Herbert Girardet, an environmental consultant, described the case of Dongtan Eco-City in China, a proposed city for 500,000 residents, where ecology is envisaged to be at the core of the city's development, and which is expected to integrate concerns of liveability and sustainability. Questions were raised, however, on the extent to which both the planning process, as well as the eco-city itself, would be inclusive and pro-poor.

Dritan Shutina from Co-PLAN in Albania described the strategic planning process in Albania, which is aiming to build more inclusive and sustainable cities in the complex transition-country environment, integrating plans with budgets, and helping to create urban citizenship out of the anarchy of a post-communist society. He also reinforced the point made earlier that without decentralization and local governance reforms, development strategies for cities could only go so far and no more.

Time for a new start

The final segment of the Dialogue focused on the emergence of a new planning approach that is slowly gaining currency among planning associations and networks. A think-piece has recently been developed on this subject. Prof. Cliff Hague, President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, described planning as something which started promisingly, stopped mid-way, and was abandoned after a few half-hearted attempts to fix it. He spoke about the *"New Urban Planning"* and its ten guiding principles as a possible way to fix some of the problems of the traditional approaches to planning: to address new challenges of slum formation, post-disaster and post-conflict recovery; to bring the big picture into sharper focus; and to achieve sustainability, inclusion and pro-poor development. He also briefly touched upon the outcomes of the recently-concluded World Planners' Congress, organised in the run-up to the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, and stressed that the shift from rhetoric to reality would require development of planning skills as well as institutional strengthening of planning associations.

Planning does matter

Responses from the floor included proposals to add transparency and ethics to the ten principles, to include rural as well as urban human settlements in the discourse, and the need to engage with the private sector. It was suggested that urban design could be used as a tool for negotiation and for engaging different stakeholders, especially the community, in decision-making. An example of Seville was used to illustrate how planning is being linked with budgets. On that note, Brian Field, representing the European Investment Bank, asserted that the Bank would no longer respond to wish-lists of *ad hoc* policies produced by cities, but would only support municipalities whose budgets were informed by coherent plans developed in consultation with the citizens. Planning, he concluded, therefore does matter. On the other hand, a private sector developer argued that the "New Urban Planning" was no more than rhetoric from planning institutes and associations, and that planners needed to recognize that wealth creation and poverty reduction are "the same side of the same coin."

An agenda for action

At the end of the session, David Siegel, President of the American Planning Association, presented an action plan for taking the *"New Urban Planning"* agenda forward. The objectives of the action plan are to develop a knowledge base and share it widely; develop global capacities for planning; define and promote concepts of sustainability and sustainable development; promote human equity and empowerment in planning; and outreach to bring other stakeholders on board.

Rapporteur Deborah Thomas, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, summed up the discussions twice in the session, highlighting the shift in planning from being an agent of the state to one of the communities. She also brought out issues such as accountability of planners and political leaders alike, especially to communities, the importance of decentralization and good local governance in bridging the green and brown agendas, the importance of modernizing planning systems, and the use of planning as a tool for negotiation.

Summary and Conclusions

Has planning failed, or does it still have something to offer?
Rapid urbanization, the urbanization of poverty and an unprecedented growth of slums formed the backdrop to this discussion on planning. The question is whether planning is responsible, alone – or or at least in part – for the problems faced by cities. Some felt that planning tools were limited and outdated, and the developed world model had not been successful in other parts of the world. However, others were of the view that planning had adapted along the way and could certainly contribute to issues of sustainability, poverty reduction and inclusion. Given the scale of the problem, it is clear that there can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanization and no sustainable urbanization without effective planning, even if other powerful forces are at work.

Some values for planning and planners
The discussion clearly brought out that planning is not just a technical issue; it must also have a strong ethical basis, and planners need to see themselves as agents of change. Values such as a pro-poor orientation, inclusion, transparency and environmental sustainability must form the backbone of new forms of planning, and the role of young people, especially young planners, in setting these values is critical. This also warrants a change in planning education and training.

Planning is a valuable tool for negotiation
Development is characterized by tensions and conflicts between competing interests, and requires an effective mechanism for negotiation and mediation. The group felt that urban planning and design can be powerful mechanisms to resolve conflicts at different scales in cities. Balancing the interests of the private sector and the community at the same time requires strong local government and good governance, of which planning is an integral component.

An agenda is on the table
A set of principles that address both the ethical basis of planning, as well as the ways in which it effectively mediates among competing interests, is on the table. These will be discussed and reviewed in the coming months, and revised before the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China. Planners, and their associations and networks, are invited to contribute to the discussions to further develop the new agenda for planning. It is essential that other stakeholders – civil society, the private sector, indigenous groups and others – participate in this process.

6. Dialogue on Energy: Local Action, Global Impact
22 June 2006

Moderator: Kevin Newman, News Anchor, Global National, Canada

Panelists/speakers:
Vijay Modi, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University, USA
Harriette Amissah-Arthur, Director, KITE, Ghana
Mark Jaccard, Professor, School of Resource Management, Simon Fraser University
Enrique Penalosa, Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA; former Mayor, City of
	Bogotá, Columbia

Mary Jane C. Ortega, Mayor, City of San Fernando, the Philippines
Todd Litman, Executive Director, Victoria Transport Policy Institute
Anumita Roychowdhury, Coordinator Policy Research and Advocacy on Vehicular Pollution in India for the "Centre for Science and Environment" (CSE), India

Objectives

The main objective of this dialogue was to contribute to the debate on the importance of sustainable energy and transport solutions for sustainable human development and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The dialogue was structured into two modules.

The first module focused on access to modern energy services and a sustainable energy future. Its main objectives were to discuss affordable and successful energy solutions, and the constraints cities face with implementing such solutions.

Sustainable transport was the focus of the second module of the dialogue. The key aims of this module were to consider the shape and form of a new urban transport which takes into account the needs of all urban dwellers, how cities can take the lead in promoting energy efficient and cleaner transport, and the types of technology options available.

Module 1: Energy services and sustainable energy

Major Issues and Concerns

Following introductory remarks by the moderator, panellists identified key challenges in energy efficiency and the provision of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to the urban poor.

Professor Modi stated that the principal challenge was to identify reliable and affordable energy supplies and technologies for poor slum dwellers, most of whom relied on unsustainable energy sources such as firewood and charcoal, which also have adverse health consequences. He particularly highlighted the acute energy requirements of the urban poor for the purposes of cooking. He noted that the poor paid disproportionately high prices for energy.

Mrs. Amissah-Arthur identified a number of constraints in the provision of affordable and reliable energy to the poor in developing countries. These included the lack of leadership at different levels of government, the absence of long-term planning and vision, unreliability of energy service provision and consequent unwillingness of the public to pay for those services, the inadequacy of present systems to effectively communicate the right information to stakeholders and the public at large.

Mr. Jaccard stressed that the key issue was not the rapid depletion of fossil fuels, but rather the finite availability of easy oil. The extraction and consumption of fossil fuels were likely to remain the cheaper option for the foreseeable future, but the challenge was to use these resources efficiently. He noted that whilst the need for energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy was evident, non-renewable energy

sources should not be discarded. In his view, cleaner use of non-renewables remained a cheaper option for energy provision in developing countries.

Debate

The debate that followed examined key issues relevant to the provision of affordable, reliable and clean energy services, including climate change, international declarations, multinational companies and their investment strategies, government subsidies, decision making and leadership, as well as public awareness and engagement.

The importance of political responsibility on the part of developed countries and their commitment to international declarations (including the Kyoto Protocol) was highlighted. In this respect, it was noted that whilst the poor in developing countries were victims of climate change, they were not the key contributors to green house energy emissions.

In terms of the role of multinational oil companies and their investment strategies in renewable energy sources, it was noted that the bulk of their research and development still focused on fossil fuels.

It was further noted that the main responsibility in the provision of affordable and reliable access to energy services lay with the government, which should be held accountable in this regard. The importance of the government in mobilising key actors to develop relevant energy policies, thereby creating the necessary environment for the different players to do their part, was also stressed.

Regarding the role of government subsidies in promoting access to reliable and affordable energy sources by the poor, it was noted that the privileged segments of society, rather than the poor, often benefited from such schemes. It was further noted that energy subsidies could still play a crucial role, as the strategies to ensure that they reached the poor existed. For example, in Brazil, the state had, over a matter of two or three decades, enabled the public to use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Recently, subsidies for the rich had been cancelled and those for the poor increased.

The lack of adequate management of information as a key leadership challenge in developing countries was identified, and the need for adequate public information and awareness – with a view to enlisting effective community participation – was emphasized. It was pointed out that civil society organizations were increasingly engaged in raising awareness on energy issues, solutions and potentials, although the question was whether they were adequately resourced to be effective.

Module 2: Sustainable Transport

Major Issues and Concerns

Ms. Ortega made a strong statement on how mayors could use information, education and advocacy to change the transport structure in cities. In her home town, Mayor Ortega had convinced the operators of two-stroke tricycles to use four stroke engines and renew their fleet. This had led to a significant reduction of health problems caused

by air pollution and at the same time reduced greenhouse gas emissions. No new legislation had to be introduced to achieve this.

In his statement, Mr. Litman advocated for mixed use plans for cities. He said that current planning was focussed on the automobile, leading to perverse subsidies, roadway capacity expansion, price distortions, and zoning codes that prohibited mixed use. Instead, smart win-win transportation solutions would result in reduced tax costs, less accidents, help non-drivers, improve the health of urban residents, as well as reduced air pollution and energy consumption.

Ms. Roychowdhury said that one death took place every hour due to air pollution in India. This was caused by the rapidly rising number of vehicles running on conventional fossil fuels. She argued that it was necessary for developing countries to leapfrog and, instead of repeating the mistakes of developed countries, to capitalize on their own appropriate solutions. For example, the fact that there was still a high reliance on non-motorized transport should be used to the advantage of public transport solutions. She also drew attention to inhibiting regulatory measures, such as higher taxes on public transport than on private cars.

Debate

The ensuing debate focused on questions such as conflicts between local and central government, the barriers to adopting sustainable transport solutions, how to steer consumers' choices towards environmentally friendly behaviour, and fiscal instruments.

In was pointed out that transport in the developing world was a matter of status. It posed mayors with huge political conflicts and marketing challenges to convince the rich to move to public transport. However, it was agreed that every city was unique and required its own solution. It was also recognized that it was a mistake to accommodate unlimited private vehicles, as this would lead to a social trap which would leave everyone worse off in terms of security, health, costs, and climate change. There were a number of smart growth solutions to improve urban density and attract families to live in old, high density neighbourhoods, for example by providing affordable housing, services, schools and work places.

It was observed that mayors could do a lot, even where the central government had an opposing policy. Local governments were urged to become members of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change or join mayors' associations in their countries. A way to solve conflicts between levels of government was to achieve local autonomy through decentralization.

Fiscal instruments were highlighted as effective in boosting sustainable transport. It was noted that a lot could be learned from congestion taxes, which were being used with some success in Europe to reduce traffic jams in the city centre. The example of Bogotá, where a 25 percent surcharge on gasoline paid for road infrastructure and where cross-subsidies (with the rich paying more for public services than the poor) on energy costs had led to full coverage of energy and gas in the city. The benefit of market reforms was also noted.

Finally, it was noted that the issue of sustainable transportation in developing countries was a political one where the vested interests of privileged segments of society were likely to be prioritised at the expense of those of the urban poor.

Summary and Conclusions

In conclusion, it was highlighted that cities in developing countries require a rapid increase in energy production and consumption to accelerate economic development, alleviate poverty and meet the basic needs of low-income urban populations. The primary challenge was to provide equitable and affordable access to clean, modern energy services for all urban residents in an economically efficient and environmentally sound manner.

It was also emphasized that land use planning, urban transport service provision and energy consumption patterns in human settlements must be at the forefront of responsible planning in order to minimize trip distances and reduce the ecological footprint from transport. While rapid urbanization was associated with an attendant rise in energy demand and its problems, many of the negative effects of urbanization could be, at least, partially mitigated by innovative and more environmentally responsible energy policies, such as densification and co-locating business, residential and commercial land uses.

The following were among the most salient recommendations that emerged from the dialogue: (a) Leadership was seen as crucial to the successful promotion of access to both sustainable energy and transport services; (b) In searching for sustainable solutions to energy services for the urban poor, there was a need to explore and develop advanced technologies now to get immediate impact on their lives; (c) As the world will depend on fossil fuel technologies for some time to come, measures to encourage energy conservation and efficiency in both the developed and developing worlds needed to be considered alongside renewable energy options; (d) There was a pressing need to promote non-motorised transport infrastructure in cities by building pedestrian and cycling ways and congestion charging was highlighted among best practices for improving transport systems in both developed and developing countries; (e) Urban transport policies should be put in place to stop the aggressive expansion of car-friendly cities; (f) Every city was unique and should have energy and transport solutions appropriate to the local context.

Annex VIII.

REPORT OF THE ROUNDTABLES

1. Ministers' Roundtable — Vancouver +30: The Changing Role of Cities and Global Sustainable Development
19 June 2006

Chairs:
Mr. John Magufuli, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Government of Tanzania, Co-Chair, Third Session of the World Urban Forum

Mr. Ted Menzies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation, sitting in for Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Infrastructure and Communications, Government of Canada.

Moderator: Ms. Huguette Labelle, Chair, Transparency International; Chancellor, University of Ottawa, Canada;

Highlights of the Roundtable

The Executive Director of UNHABITAT, Mrs Anna Tibaijuka gave the introductory remarks in which she emphasized the important role of government in promoting sustainable urban development. She observed that governments need to assume a leading role in working with other key stakeholders in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly targets 10 and 11 on water and sanitation and on slum upgrading and prevention. Governments need to consolidate development regulatory frameworks and assist civil society and the private sector in scaling up the various initiatives for promoting sustainable urban development.

The first co-chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development in the Government of Tanzania, introduced the first part of the roundtable, which focused on the role of central government in supporting sustainable cities and communities. He cited the example of Tanzania where the main challenges of rapid urbanization without the provision of services include urban poverty, urban sprawl, urban and housing finance, and urban management.

More than 25 Ministers from all regions of the world – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America – addressed the various thematic issues of the Roundtable that was divided into three main parts: the role and responsibility of central governments in supporting sustainable cities and communities; collaboration between different spheres of government in promoting sustainable development; and how national governments lead their international agenda within the local context.

Throughout, the leading role of national governments was reiterated and the need to promote sustainable urban development was underscored. Through citing national experiences and initiatives being taken, Ministers illustrated different approaches applied in different countries in confronting the challenges encountered and in fostering sustainability in its broader scope.

A recurrent issue in all the interventions was that both developed as well as developing countries faced a myriad of challenges which necessitated the adoption of innovative approaches and the building of new types of relationships among spheres of government and stakeholders. Different initiatives on providing adequate and affordable housing in urban areas, particularly for those who are less endowed financially, were described. Examples of infrastructural development, energy conservation, and sustainable communities and neighbourhoods, as well as overcoming challenges of post-conflict reconstruction, among others, were provided.

Ministers shared their country experiences on modalities of mobilizing financial resources for sustainable development. Attention was drawn to Paragraph 56(m) of the

2005 World Summit Outcome on the need to capitalise the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. Furthermore, it was recognized that private sector investment was required to meet the enormous amount of resources needed for infrastructure development. A call was made for changes to allow for investments to be depreciated along extended periods so as to reduce the impact on fiscal balances. Similarly, the need to include issues relating to sustainable urban development within international cooperation, and particularly in poverty reduction strategies, was underscored.

Emphasis was placed on the development of dynamic intergovernmental relationships that would foster partnerships, promote subsidiarity and local engagement, and ensure efficiency and effectiveness. A number of interventions emphasized the importance of capacity building at all levels and the need to include pro-poor bias in policy formulation and implementation. One speaker underlined the need to sharply focus on extending the "right to the city" to all the citizens, and the need to consider social inclusion as an essential part of urban planning and management.

All the participants appreciated the usefulness of the roundtable which was described to serve as a catalyst for further collaboration in transforming ideas into action.

2. Parliamentarian Roundtable — Human Settlement Legislation Developments +30: Good Laws for a Better Habitat.
19 June 2006

Chairs:
Mr. Adrian Alanis, Senator of Mexico
Mr. Lee Richardson, Member of Parliament, Canada.

Moderator: John Reynbolds P.C., Former Member of Parliament, Canada.

Highlights of the Roundtable

The Roundtable afforded Parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss legislative initiatives on human settlements, urban development and affordable housing. The discussion was divided into two segments: a retrospective of the past 20 years on urban legislation, and emerging priorities and future policies in support of urban sustainability.

In her introductory remarks, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby described the history and activities of UN-HABITAT. Noting dire conditions in urban slums, she highlighted the commitments of the Millennium Development Goals on improved water and slum upgrading. She called for the adoption of pro-urban poor policies and stressed the importance of lawmakers in translating development objectives into action.

Parliamentarians from Germany and the Netherlands drew attention to results from a study of urban policies in Europe over the last decade, stressing differences among countries in the utilisation of various tools, including centres of expertise for regional development, the consolidation of municipal self-government, waste management and environmental assessment.

In sharing experiences from their own countries, delegates emphasized family planning, national legislation for urban planning instruments, an integrated approach among cities with overlapping spheres of influence and success criteria for urban policies. Some participants cautioned that slums and shanty towns had the potential to deepen segregation and generate extremism. Others lamented the fact that sustainable habitats have not become a global priority, and stated that the responsibility for improvement rested on the shoulders of legislators.

In looking to the future, participants explained the importance of putting urban poverty on the political agenda and taking an integrated multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach. They suggested that financial resources directed toward slums and squatters should accompany foreign aid packages. The creation of a fund, similar to the post-World War II Marshall Plan, was also proposed to support housing and urban development in African countries.

Mrs. Tibaijuka invited delegates to present the Habitat Agenda to their own parliaments.

3. Private Sector Roundtable — Business Roundtable on Corporate Leadership for Sustainable Urbanization
19 June 2006

Chair: Dr. John Wiebe, President and CEO of the Globe Foundation of Canada.

Moderator: Mr. Christopher Henderson, Session Moderator and Rapporteur, CEO, The Delphi Group

Highlights of the Roundtable

The format of the roundtable included brief presentations on key issues and best practices in attracting private sector investment in sustainable urban development. The participants included senior members of the private sector from several countries and development agencies. Several participants highlighted success stories and opportunities.

The Roundtable identified major constraints for scaling up of private investments. These include lack of enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, lack of expertise on the part of local authorities, inadequate income base of poor, cultural difference, and difficulty of finding local partners.

The participants agreed that there is tremendous market potential for private sector investment in sustainable housing and services for the poor. The Roundtable debated on the acknowledged significant role being played by the domestic small business sector in urban development and argued for strengthening the same. Participants clearly acknowledged that businesses are fundamentally transforming themselves through "Bottom of Pyramid Approaches" in which low-income markets present a prodigious opportunity for the private sector to expand their markets while bringing much-need products and services to the poor. In the emerging markets of Brazil, China and India, private sector companies have re-packaged their products and services in this way. Similarly, utility firms are beginning to drop their requirements for recognized tenure to

provide water and energy services to the urban poor living slums, using community groups as their intermediary.

The Roundtable concluded that the poor represent a large potential market but that it would take time for the private sector to penetrate this segment of the population. The participants concluded that the scaling up of private investment must be done through bottom-of-the-pyramid approaches, organising demand through community organisations as is happening in several countries with the work of Slum Dwellers International and through public policy reform.

The participants requested UN-HABITAT to continue the dialogue and develop appropriate mechanisms to strengthen international and local private sector engagement in sustainable urbanization.

The Chair concluded that the private sector had a long way to go in reaching low-income groups and that they should explore the opportunity to develop new business models to reach out to the poor.

In her concluding remarks, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT underlined that United Nations will be in a position to back up the private sector in the political arena to help foster an environment which favours trade, investment and open markets. UN-HABITAT, through close links with local and central governments, is in a position to help business work with a wide range of public, private and community actors to support sustainable urbanization. She thanked all participants and the Globe Foundation for its excellent organization of the event.

4. Researchers Roundtable — Planning and Managing Sustainable Cities: from Research to Practice
19 June 2006

Chair: Ms. Paola Jiron, Housing Institute, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, University of Chile, Chile.

Moderator: Professor Patrick Wakely, Development Planning Unit, University College, London

Rapporteur: Dr. Winne Mitullah, Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Highlights of the Roundtable

The purpose of the roundtable was to bring researchers and policymakers together in order to discuss and propose ways of translating research on planning and managing sustainable cities into action. As stated by several participants, researchers in developing countries generally believe that the key reason for ineffective outcomes following decades of urban planning can be attributed to the neglect of their research findings. On the other hand, governments are of the view that such research findings hardly meet their needs.

In order to make urban-related research more relevant to local authorities, the seven presentations made during the roundtable and subsequent discussions underscored several observations. These revolved mainly around the constraints or challenges facing researchers, as well as how to rectify them.

One of the key constraints is the failure on the part of researchers to undertake policy-relevant applied research. This is due to the fact that universities and research institutes (where most of these researchers are based) tend to emphasize theoretical research, which is often seen as more prestigious than applied research. While recognizing the importance of theoretical or pure research as a means of advancing the frontiers of knowledge, the roundtable recommended that applied research with the potential to solve immediate problems should be given priority. In this regard, it was proposed that local governments encourage and fund research that has an impact on key problems. In support of this view, the example of Vienna, Austria, was given where the city promotes, funds and uses research by local universities on sustainable housing and construction, resource management and waste disposal.

Another barrier to translating research into action is the fact that researchers are often disconnected from the community or stakeholders that ought to benefit from the results of research. Moreover, research agendas are frequently driven by funding organizations. One way of resolving this is to build targeted partnerships and permanent dialogues with potential users of research results. Researchers also need to develop close critical ties with local authorities. Closely related to this is the building of trust between researchers and clients, as well as various stakeholders. Various examples, including from the City of Nanjing, China were used to illustrate this.

The need to present research findings in a user-friendly manner was also emphasized. Good quality research often remains unused by city governments because of the esoteric nature of research outcomes, which are not easily understood. In addition, it was stressed that research findings need to be made available to policymakers in a timely manner.

In order to transform research into action, the roundtable urged international organizations to facilitate easier access to the results of research by supporting the creation of knowledge centres and other platforms capable of serving as reliable sources of research-based solutions to problems of sustainable urban development.

5. Women's Roundtable — Empowering the Millennium Development Goals: Grassroots Women Meet the Challenge – Women's Lives, Women's Decisions
19 June 2006

Chair: Ms. Erna Witoeler, Millennium Development Goal Ambassador, Asia-Pacific region.

Highlights of the Roundtable

The Roundtable was organized by the Huairou Commission, a global partnership of grassroots women's organizations devoted to attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The roundtable highlighted the innovative ways of achieving the Goals.

Violet Shivutsa, a community leader supported by GROOTS Kenya represents 1,200 home-based women care givers who work with HIV/AIDS affected families in her village in Kenya. They began in 1996 by training traditional birth attendants in maternal care and linking them to hospitals and initiated savings schemes that allowed pregnant women to pay for maternal health care services. With the rise of the HIV-AIDS pandemic, women were trained on home-based care giving. They began to also work with men to raise awareness on women's property and inheritance rights. Ms. Shivutsa urged governments and international agencies to recognise and support the volunteer work of grassroots women, and enable them to scale up these innovations.

Andrea Laux, a founder member of the Stuttgart Mother Centre, Germany which started with women reclaiming public facilities to address the isolation and impoverishment of mothers in Stuttgart, represents a movement around caring community development that has grown to 800 mother centres across 15 countries. She said, "We have created a public living room where we have trust, we learn how to manage child care, how to change policy about child care and promote family-friendly cities". The Stuttgart Mother Centre, in partnership with the local authorities, has built an inter-generational house.

Penny Irons of the Aboriginal Mother Centre in Vancouver learned through a peer exchange with the German Mother Centres about claiming public space for the aboriginal indigenous women who make up a large proportion of the poor and homeless population in Canada. She noted that the Millennium Development Goals also apply to the poor in Canada. The Mother Centre represents an inclusive, safe space where "you do not have to make an appointment." The Aboriginal Mother Centre has a social enterprise programme called Mama's Wall Street Studio, which manufactured the conference bags for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum.

Arlene Bailey from Kingston, Jamaica, represented the Fletchers Land Parenting. She is affiliated with Sistern and a founding member of Groots International. She has organized parents around crime and violence – major issues in Jamaica. They organized a peace walk and appointed street mothers and street fathers to ensure children were off the streets at night. They have partnered with government and with UN programmes to reach out to 12 inner city communities. Community leaders volunteer their time.

Marlene Haydee Rodriguez, Director of Union de Cooperative Las Brumas in Nicaragua spoke of how Nicaraguans were rebuilding their communities after years of conflict. Partnering with the Government of Canada women were able to construct their own homes for 40 families in some municipalities. Of the 30 women organic coffee farmers, 8 are being certified in organic coffee production. Emphasizing the contribution of women in rural communities and calling for public policies that benefit rural women, she said, "We cultivate the land and it is necessary to get support. If we do not cultivate food there will be no food in the cities."

Chandrasekaran Kasthuri, President of the Mahakalasm Self-help Group Federation linked to Covenant Centre for Development, in Tamil Nadu, India represents 16,000 women in four districts. The federation acted as a community-owned bank for women, as neither banks nor the government provided credit for women. They have now saved and given loans worth 3 million rupees and leveraged over 10 times that amount from local banks. Since most loans were taken for the health problems at home women

started kitchen gardens to grow medicinal herbs. Women became healers and promoted a green health program in assisting 1,700 families. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, in 2002 they were given a best practice award for their work on herbal medicines. The federation has created a company of women to scale up this enterprise which today markets 600 tonnes of semi processed medicinal herbs.

Srilatha Batliwalla, a Senior Fellow at the Hauser Centre for Non-profit Organizations at Harvard University, emphasized the scale and "huge" impact of initiatives that counter the myth that grassroots initiatives are small with minimal impact. Grassroots women bear huge opportunity costs in overcoming the odds and barriers they face in their daily lives. She proposed that development economists find a way to cost grassroots women's contributions to development and ensure that they get 50 per cent of the resources.

Lisa Jordan of the Ford Foundation said that women are directly concerned by each of the Millennium Development Goals. She recommended scaling up and scaling across grassroots practices to influence policy at the local, national and global levels. She also pointed out how the experiences discussed had evolved from local to global and then back to local, thus emphasizing the importance of peer learning and women participating in global fora, which have a direct impact in terms of raising awareness of the challenges grassroots women face on the ground.

Ganine Haddad, Chair of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) gender equality committee, said that "These experiences must not remain on the ground but must be transformed and reach out to men, women and children every where in the world. I am sure women being more pragmatic than men were implementing Millennium Development Goals well before the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals." One of the principle ways to reduce poverty is to provide day care centres to enable women to work and to train women for jobs. Access to credit, and to food, are all means to fight poverty. She recommended that grassroots women's initiatives be translated into policy.

The actionable ideas emerging from this roundtable are:
1. Consult grassroots and indigenous women as key experts
2. Establish new funds for grassroots women's Peer Exchanges, public spaces and organizing
3. Donor Dialogues: International aid agencies should schedule dialogues with grassroots women leaders and local authorities to redirect funds & programs.
4. Support grassroots and local authority collaborations and Local-to-Local Dialogues to sustain women's participation in local decision-making.

6. NGOs Roundtable — Assets and Struggles: 30 Years After Vancouver Habitat Forum – Realizing the Right to Adequate Housing, Sustainable Habitat and Inclusive Cities
19 June 2006

Chairs:
Mr. Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow in Residence: Public Policy, The Wellesley Institute, Canada
Mrs. Evaniza Rodrigues, Uniao Nacional de Moradia, Brazil

<u>Highlights of the Roundtable</u>

Since Habitat I in 1976, international summits on human settlements have dealt with the need to confront the magnitude of problems and devise solutions. Indeed, humanity has witnessed continued suffering from problems of inequality, sustainability, violation of internationally agreed rights, and the rise of private interests over people's well-being. The roundtable addressed the following issues:

Ending forced evictions that violate human rights
Forced evictions were cited as a negation of the essential human notions of respect, dignity, well being, safety, equal treatment before the law, and privacy. Governments had violated the rights and liberties of low-income communities under the guise of restoring order to make way for development.

Supporting community-based values and initiatives
Many civil society organizations were committed to reversing the trend toward ever increasing human settlement problems such as inequality, violation of basic rights and other forms of social, political, cultural and economic deprivation. They work on many fronts, with the homeless, people who have been evicted, low-income tenants, women, disabled people, minority groups, migrants, youth children, old people and others. The question was how to move forward as a movement to link community values and initiatives in an articulate way as a pressure group.

Confronting the negative effects of habitat privatization
Participants said current economic values had led to the "commodification" of habitat issues. The State had lost the capacity in some countries to provide and regulate housing and land markets. Globalization and privatization focusing on capital expansion eroded the ability of people to participate and to be included in decision-making. The main challenge for civil society organizations was to defend public ownership and control of all elements of housing, infrastructure and services. There was a small group of very large international corporations which were privatizing social housing on a massive scale at the global level.

Protection, rights and durable solutions for displaced people
Human settlements were endangered by military operations, political violence, wars, forced evictions or migration, and related acts. Corporate investments, mega projects and lack of attention to rural settlements had also led to economically forced migrations. Huge numbers of people were being displaced either nationally or internationally. This type of landlessness was also linked to the "criminalization" of the poor and homeless people. Civil society organizations, as independent actors, had a special role in monitoring and developing measures for advocacy and relief.

Involving local people in all aspects of post-disaster reconstruction
Participants said people facing disaster had the right to return, rebuild their homes and livelihoods according to their own needs and values, and that they should initiate and lead the process. The role of development agencies should not pre-determine the needs of the people, but put their interests first.

Civil society, in its diversity, had to enhance coordination and articulate joint actions. New challenges and emerging issues that need to be addressed by joint efforts include the "Right to the City" and HIV/AIDS.

Land rights are increasingly being violated or ignored. Governments had lost control of the housing sector, which is now in the hands of private developers. Current housing concerns were no longer marginalization, but criminalization of the poor. A rights-based approach, holding governments accountable to international standards, was considered essential. Further action had to be focused on a global struggle against forced evictions, allocating resources and political backing to support community based initiatives, and the implementation of international standards, including the monitoring of governments failing to comply with human rights.

7. Indigenous People and Media Roundtable — Picturing Ourselves: Video as a Tool for Defining Community
21 June 2006

Chairs:
Tom Perlmutter, Director General, English Programme, National Film Board of Canada
Fred Caron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Federal Interlocuter for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Government of Canada

Moderator: Monika Ille, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Canada

The roundtable, organized by the National Film Board of Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs as lead partners, was attended by participants from representatives of indigenous urban communities, filmmakers and other media persons, and a diverse group of stakeholders. The aim of the roundtable was to demonstrate how media can be a powerful tool for supporting social inclusion and cohesion; social and political action; and sustainability in the development of indigenous peoples.

In opening statements, the co-chairs said that indigenous peoples constitute an important segment of society in Canada. They stressed the need to tell stories of the past and present to build a better future. Such stories through films and the media facilitate dialogue between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Videos of "Wapikoni Mobile", "Our Cities, Our Voices" and "Video in the Villages" were shown. Discussions following this screening highlighted that language is a great barrier for exclusion and indigenous people's lives are often destroyed by trends and influence of the mainstream society. Media can reflect the social, political and economic realities of a community in a way that supports social inclusion and cohesion. It was highlighted that these videos gave voice to communities, and became a catalyst for broader social and political change. It was suggested that this tool be sustained and offered around the world, particularly in developing countries. Encouraging indigenous people to develop their own media (radio stations, multimedia centres, etc.) would lead to increased social inclusion.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that there are about 300 million indigenous peoples living in more than 70 countries worldwide. Although such peoples are extremely diverse, there are two characteristics that help define them as a group. The

first is that they have an historical continuity with societies that resided in their territories before the development of colonial societies and modern states. The second is that their social and cultural identities are different to those of the dominant groups in their societies. Indigenous groups may vary considerably in their traditions and circumstances, but they all want to protect their unique cultures. For a host of political and historical reasons, indigenous peoples tend to suffer from neglect and discrimination. In the past, paternalistic development schemes often tried to assimilate indigenous peoples into mainstream cultures. Not only were these efforts unwelcome, they were unsuccessful. To overcome poverty, indigenous peoples need special assistance that is based on their own objectives, that addresses the barriers they face, and helps them protect their heritage and cultural identities.

Visual media can take up topics that are not usually discussed in society. Through this, it can promote discussions and deeper understanding of the plight of the indigenous people. It was highlighted that video serves as a medium for reversing the stereotype of the city as "non-native" space. Media can promote networking and solidarity between indigenous peoples around the world and overcome challenges confronted by indigenous peoples. Efforts are needed to promote indigenous people's access to the dominant media so as to enable them to exercise their freedom of expression and participate in multicultural dialogue within the global knowledge society.

8. Universities' Roundtable — Universities and Urban Sustainability: The Millennium City University
21 June 2006

Chairs:

Tony Dorcey, Professor and Director, Centre for Human Settlements and School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia

Erminia Maricato, Professor, Faculty of Architecture, University of San Paulo

Pietro Garau, Professor and Director, Centro Studi Urbanistici per i Paesi in via di Sviluppo of DIPTU, Universita' degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza", Rome

Highlights of Roundtable

The roundtable was divided into two sessions. The first related to current status (To date: Guiding Principles for Partnering and examples) and the second was on the way forward. (Future: Learning and Diffusion Initiatives).

To date: Guiding Principles for Partnering and Examples

As a starting-point, it was noted that universities were not being used to their full potential, one of the reasons being a lack of resources. It was also noted that funding was often available on a project-to-project basis, and that the lack of both resources and their continuity hindered universities from fully contributing to change and development. National governments, donor agencies and other actors also failed to recognize the potential of universities. The different objectives of these actors were also seen as a barrier to partnerships, as was a lack of trust between the different types of institution. However, where they were not bound by time and resource constraints, as well as by different political agendas, universities were freer to explore issues and new areas of thought.

Exchange of knowledge and experiences through the twinning of universities and other centres of learning was strongly recommended. It was noted that this type of exchange should occur at both the international and local levels. It was stressed that universities needed to be actors in their local communities and to engage in partnerships with civil society and the private sector. By being actors within their local communities, universities could disseminate knowledge as well as listen and cater to the demands and needs of these communities, thus becoming relevant to their surrounding environments. It was further noted that students had the potential of becoming agents of change, able to link research to service and engagement, as well as connecting theory and practice.

Future: Learning and Diffusion Initiatives

The role of universities as critics was discussed, and it was stated that not only did universities need to critically examine the world around them, they also had to examine the accepted model of what a university was 'supposed' to be. Universities were often seen to back away from taking action on the results of their research, thus refraining from being actors in the political field. Similarly, the existing knowledge base needed to be examined, and it was also noted that there was a lack of up-to-date knowledge on land issues, informal settlements and the urban sphere as a whole.

While universities needed to support the Millennium Development Goals, they also had to be critical of them, adding to their definition and focus. It should also be the role of universities to independently monitor governments' progress in their work towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and to develop indicators for this purpose.

The session ended with the introduction of the 'Millennium Cities University' initiative, a partnership of universities aiming to combine resources for the achievement of the goal of the 'Millennium Cities'. It was agreed to follow up on these discussions at the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum, with specific and concrete cases illustrating progress made and issues raised during this Roundtable.

9. Youth Roundtable — Youth, Leaders of Today and Tomorrow
21 June 2006

Chairs:
Avi Lewis, Award-Winning Documentary Filmmaker and Television Journalist, Canada
Doug Ragan, Manager and Adult Ally Environmental Youth Alliance,
Kelly L'Hirondelle, Executive Director Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Alliance, Canada

Highlights of Roundtable

The Youth Roundtable opened with appreciation by the Chair of the location of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum on Coast Salish land. The Chair further recognized youth as experts on youth engagement, highlighting that more than 50 percent of the world's population were youth under the age of 25.

Much of the discussion in this roundtable focused on the need to move from token involvement of youth to mainstreaming youth engagement across all stages of policy and programme planning, design, implementation and evaluation. It was stressed that this model of engagement should be applied at both the international level as well as at the municipal level and that it should also involve diverse methods of inclusion that are both formal and informal. Youth participants highlighted the importance of education and training opportunities and the use of sports, music, arts and culture as means of engaging youth in addressing social challenges.

It was pointed out that youth were diverse and faced many challenges and barriers, including socio-economic disparities, exploitation, disability and discrimination on the basis of gender. In particular, participants highlighted the issues faced by indigenous youth in both developed and developing countries.

It was emphasized that youth-led initiatives needed increased access to resources and support structures. This could be achieved through mini-grants and community based partnerships. Youth-led initiatives enabled self-organization, a sense of belonging, peer based leadership and creativity, while addressing critical development issues. There was also a need to increase outreach in order to provide youth with information on how to access available resources and project support-systems.

In addition, a range of issues related to representation were raised. The media often portrayed negative images of youth, including those of youth as criminals. Youth were often under-represented in decision-making platforms and processes at the local, national, and international level. Youth participants applauded UN-HABITAT for engaging youth in the World Urban Forum and also suggested increased representation of youth at opening plenary sessions and across all panels, roundtables, dialogues and networking sessions.

A general sentiment expressed was that it was not enough to have youth talking to youth about youth issues and, in this context, youth-adult partnerships were considered critical. It was highlighted that true engagement came from representation and participation across sectors, institutions and stakeholder groups. Youth involved in decision making processes, who were often more articulate, also needed to consider issues pertaining to children and other youth that were marginalized and lacked a voice in dialogues affecting their lives.

Participants recognized the importance and power of creating international networks of both individuals and organizations. This would ensure greater outreach, information sharing, mentorship and intergenerational dialogue.

10. Gendering Land Tools Roundtable — Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)
21 June 2006

Chair: Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, South Africa

Highlights of the Roundtable

The roundtable on Gendering Land Tools was held a day after the launch of the Global Land Tool Network. It gave the public, private sector and civil society partners a chance

for a detailed discussion on a draft gender framework aimed at supporting strategies that a new network can use to enhance women's rights and security of tenure. Features built into the mechanism consist of a multi-stakeholder approach anchored in a process led by women themselves.

In an opening statement, Mrs. Tibaijuka told more than 40 plus participants that the access to land by women has declined in recent decades. She said it was important therefore to transform "paper rights" into real political, economic and social rights for women. The principles had to translate into action, she said. The new Global Land Tool Network had to have a clear road map, backed up by agreement among partners on its priorities and real commitment by all stakeholders to real change.

Participants agreed that the obstacles confronting women on land ownership, secure land tenure and access to adequate housing had to be addressed systematically. However, the complex social, political and economic structures land tenure entails, they said made it difficult to transfer models and tools without clear guidelines. They noted that legal frameworks on land tenure and land ownership varied considerably in national constitutions and legislation around the world, making general applications of new frameworks difficult.

Structures guiding land and housing inheritance in many societies were mentioned as obstacles that obstruct the realization of women's rights. Moreover, discriminatory practices hampering the realization of women's rights were often rooted in assumptions on gender, geographical location (such as discrimination against rural women), and culture (especially unequal treatment of indigenous groups). Several speakers said that international declarations on human rights were largely underutilized at the national and sub-national level. Often they were not applied because individuals had poor or insufficient knowledge of them. This involved not only women being unaware of their rights, but also weak political will by governments at various levels – a problem raised by many speakers.

Obstacles faced by women in realizing their rights to access land and housing are by en large identified by the global community. Participants felt that dialogue among partners had to continue to ensure that that information is shared, and successful tools are used. They agreed that the new network's gender mechanism should be adopted and suggested a pilot study in Rwanda. The secretariat of the Global Land Tool Network urged them to provide regular on progress and implementation through its website. They agreed to review progress again in two years' time at the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China.

11. Spirituality Roundtable — Bridging the Gap: Spirituality and Sustainability in the Urban Context
21 June 2006

Chair: Angela Hryniuk, Executive Director, Inter-Spiritual Centre of Vancouver Society, Canada.

Moderator: Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director, Global Community Initiatives, Vermont, USA.

With a panel of thirty members, this roundtable explored the role of spirituality in urban sustainability. Barbara Charlie, Mackmacklaut, Elder, Squamish Nation, started by saying an opening prayer, in which she said, "No matter what nations people come from, they are all one." The Chair spoke about the efforts made to include spirituality in the programme of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. This was followed by a three-minute period of meditation. Thereafter, presentations were made on various aspects of the topic by the following: Enrique Peñalosa, former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia; Sam Luboga, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda; Surinder Kumar, General Manager, Management Services Group, Sahara India Pariwar, India; Mae-Chee Sunsanee Sthirasuta, Buddhist nun and spiritual leader; and Heredity Chief, Phil Lane Jr., CEO, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Seattle, USA, and International Coordinator, Four Worlds International.

It was stressed that a good city was one that promoted human happiness, and that the ultimate goal of human beings was achieving happiness. Participants expressed delight that spirituality was being discussed at a forum organized by the United Nations. They observed that too much money was being spent on armaments, particularly by the five permanent members of the United Nations. They further noted that important changes did not have to do with money, but how people could change their ways of life. They stressed the importance of the soul. In addition, they observed that all great religions taught how to make people happy and that happiness had to do with the development of human potential: a bird is happier when set free than when in a cage, it was observed.

It was further emphasized that human beings could dream, create a vision and achieve it. In this context, participants called for the use of the built-up environment to support human happiness. Vision extends beyond technical rationality and political agenda, to include the landscape of the spirit. It was pointed out that millions of people were migrating to cities in order to escape rural poverty. Unfortunately, many of them were often trapped by the rapid urbanization of poverty. Noting that spiritual development was a basic need of human beings regardless of any religious practice, participants called for the inclusion of spirituality in all of UN-HABITAT's conferences. They also pointed out that the roundtable was itself a significant development.

The roundtable closed with mantra chanting and songs accompanied by First Nations drums.

12. Environment Roundtable — Strategic Eco-Innovation: Integrating Health and Environment into Sustainable Urban Practices
21 June 2006

Chairs:
Arciris Garay, Coordinator, Youth for Social Justice Network, CEN Health Caucus
        Steering Committee, Canada
Hayat Redi, Deputy Director, EVERYONE, Ethiopia

Moderator: Amelia Clarke, Past President, Sierra Club of Canada, Canada

Highlights of the roundtable

The Environment roundtable was aimed at fostering strategic alliances within the environment sector, including Canadian and international NGOs, health professionals, labour unions, indigenous and youth groups, universities, the private sector, and governments. The roundtable drew from participants' experiences and particular areas of expertise, to identify the challenges and opportunities to achieving sustainable cities and developing cross-sectoral partnership projects to address these challenges.

The roundtable was attended by organizations undertaking focused discussions in five different working groups (community capacity building; energy and resource management; food; safe environment and health communities; and youth). The intentions of the roundtable were to identify areas of commonality; better understand existing partnerships and the steps involved in forming new partnerships; and identify initial partnership projects and ideas designed to come up with solutions to overcome the identified challenges.

The first half of the session involved participant introductions, small group formations and an innovative poster session that allowed organisations to share their experiences. During the second half, the working groups discussed their specific subjects for one hour and thereafter reported back in a plenary. Each group had conclusions specific to their topic, including a list of challenges, resources they could each provide to tackle the challenge, initial partnership project ideas, goals and strategies, and the way forward. They also identified other potential partners that were missing from the workshop but should become involved in the follow-up.

The initial partnerships and project ideas, included: (a) establishing four model projects related to community capacity building; (b) piloting a public-private partnership called Net Zero Resource Use in Urban Areas and study the progress as a potential model; (c) creation of a Arts Based Approach to youth engagement to be piloted in Nigeria and Canada; (d) development of an online resource centre on healthy food related issues and engaging with more partners in this endeavour; (e) conducting three model projects related to a new model on healthy communities in Peru, Egypt and Canada; and (f) creating a North-South partnership related to the health impacts of asbestos.

13. Mayors' Roundtable[1] —
Local Government at the Crossroads: Approaching the Millennium Development
Goals Through Practical Innovation and Local Action
21 June 2006

Chairs:
Gérald Tremblay, Mayor, City of Montréal, Canada Vice-President, Association
    Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF), Vice-President, United Cities
    and Local Governments (UCLG)
Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Councillor of Tshwane, South Africa, Co-President, United
    Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Moderator: Dominique Dennery, President, Dennery Resources, Canada

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[1] Organized in cooperation with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Highlights of Roundtable

The Mayors Roundtable brought together local government elected officials, UN-Habitat Governing Council representatives (national governments), and donor countries. Local governments stressed their increased roles as key participants in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals. They are not only responsible for the provision of services directly linked with targets of the Millennium Development Goals, but for strengthening governance through the engagement of civil society and partnership with the private sector. During the discussion, they focused on actions and solutions required to address the challenges facing local governments in achieving the goals.

Mayor Mkhatshwa reminded the challenges of urbanization, particularly in Africa, and stated that the Millennium Development Goals may not be achieved unless local democracy is in place. A radical change of paradigm is necessary in order to move away from aid to integrated economic development in urban areas.

Mayor Tremblay highlighted the latest steps taken by networks of local authorities regarding the Millennium Development Goals. Given the urbanization challenges, cities need technologies, financial resources and expertise. Cities need to take full responsibility and gain credibility before the partners, showing them they can actually deliver. The current development of information technology should provide a great opportunity to engage in new innovative partnerships, particularly with the private sector. He also informed the audience that consultations have been carried out with financial institutions that may lead to the establishment of a World Bank of Cities jointly with the cities themselves.

The Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Ms. Björk-Klevby, stated that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is linked to the promotion of decentralization and good local urban governance. In partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), the organization is developing guidelines on decentralization which will be adopted at the next session of the Governing Council. This framework will assist countries in their efforts to devolve power to their local governments.

Mayors and participants exchanged their views on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in cities. They emphasized the need for adopting right-based approaches and the importance of city to city cooperation. Some best practices were highlighted including projects on renewable energy and improvement of urban infrastructure.

They stressed the essential role of leadership and vision to prepare the city for the future. Without the participation of the citizens, this cannot be achieved. It is therefore crucial to strengthen solidarity and building capacity among communities. Some stated that decentralization constitutes the first step towards creating jobs, attracting investors and alleviating poverty. In order to sustain this process, the principles of decentralization should be entrenched in the constitution.

The Mayor of Vancouver also reminded participants that, given the way Vancouver functions at present, if all cities of the world followed the same path, it will take four

planets to sustain the present urban population. He concluded that this necessitated his proposal to enhance Vancouver's density and reduce its ecological footprint. Representatives of local authorities urged Mayors to focus more clearly on the Millennium Development Goal target 10, related to water, and Millennium Development Goal target 11, to improve the lives of slum dwellers.

In his concluding remarks, the Chair stressed the importance of measuring progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to developing and using appropriate indicators at the city level. He also expressed the hope that the World Bank could start a policy of sub-sovereign loans. He urged local authorities to take an active part in the upcoming session of the Governing council of UN-HABITAT to facilitate the adoption of decentralization guidelines.

Annex IX.

SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL SESSIONS

1. Trialogue on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements
20 June 2006

Moderator: Magaret Catley-Carlson, Chair Global Water Partnership

Panelists:
Ana Teresa Arnanda Orozco, Minister of Social Development, Mexico
Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, India
Andre Juneau, Deputy Head of Infrastructure and Communities, Canada
Anne M. Stenhammer, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
Arcot Ramachandran, Chairman TERI, Visiting Professor of National Institute of
        Advanced Studies and First Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat)
Arjun Thapa, Deputy Director General Mekong Department, Asian Development Bank
Ronald Carlson, Team Leader Urban Programmes, USAID, USA
Albert Wright, UN Millenium Task Force on Water and Sanitation
Prabha Khosla, Advisor Gender and Water Alliance, Canada
Malik Gaye, ENDa Tiers Monde, Senegal

Major Issues and Concerns

At the turn of the Millennium, 47 per cent of the world's total population of 6 billion was living in urban areas. More than 900 million people lived in slums. With the proportion of the populations living in cities projected to increase to two-thirds by 2030, there is a need to develop a new perspective for water, sanitation and human settlements. In a world where 1.1 billion people lack access to safe water, and 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, both water and sanitation remain at the centre of reducing poverty and other related Millennium Development Goals. There is a need to focus on slums and squatter settlements, which are an integral part of urban areas. For sustainable human settlements, provision of water and sanitation is an essential prerequisite for sustainability. Therefore, the Millennium Development target on water and sanitation is important, both as a strategic entry point to slum upgrading and also for achieving other Millennium Development Goals.

The session discussed new approaches to develop pro-poor governance frameworks, new strategic partnerships, and introduced new delivery mechanisms, which will not only give the poor a central place in the decision-making process, but also facilitate pro-poor investments in the water and sanitation sector. It also highlighted the need for sectoral reforms, the development of new and participatory monitoring mechanisms with the involvement of the poor, especially women, to enhance efficiency, accountability and transparency in public spending.

The discussion sought to bring governments at the national, regional and local levels together as important partners responsible for budgetary support, governance and regulatory policies to meet the challenge of providing water and sanitation for human settlements. The private sector in today's globalizing world has a major role to play in mobilizing resources and improving delivery. International lending agencies, such as the World Bank, regional development banks, as well as non-governmental organizations involving communities at all levels could use the Third Session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver to build a new consensus on water and sanitation for sustainable human settlements.

Debate

Ms. Kumari recounted two initiatives designed to promote inclusive approaches to the provision of water and sanitation for the poor. The national urban renewal programme which focuses on reconstruction of cities and establishing good governance structures; and basic services encompassing integrated approaches to infrastructure development. The programmes were currently being implemented in 60 cities in India, of which four are mega-cities. The programme practices inclusive and participatory approaches. The Minister advocated gendered budgeting for water and sanitation to ensure the special needs of women and children are catered for.

Hon. Orozco said national governments should delegate the responsibility for action to local authorities should encourage flexibility in how they use funding. Success depended on effective local policy developed with community involvement. She said that by standardizing service provision, greater economies of scale could be achieved. She also called for local authorities to provide serviced land to poor communities.

Ms. Stenhammer raised the issue of the roles and responsibilities of women and men in slum upgrading. Although women were often involved in the planning process, they were usually excluded from implementation. She cited the example of a World Bank evaluation showing that projects involving women were six to seven times more effective in delivering services. She advocated gender action plans as a condition of loans from development banks. She urged the Asian Development Bank to put these ideas into practice.

Ms. Prabha Khosla warned that households headed by women and elderly people were often neglected by policy makers and called for better funding allocation to meet their specific needs.

Mrs. Tibaijuka said water and sanitation was today as high a priority as it was in Vancouver in 1976. She explained how UN-HABITAT's Water and Sanitation Trust

Fund had effectively leveraged public, private and community resources to improve access to water and sanitation for the urban poor.

Mr. Thapa underscored the conditions of the Asian Development Bank stipulating the inclusion of women and pro-poor approaches in all projects. He cited the need to improve the financial capacity of local government to attract more investments and to set tariffs attractive to investors. He outlined two novel approaches where different alternatives had improved service provision – the development of small-scale piped systems and zonal approaches.

Referring to the initiatives of the Cities Alliance, Mr. Carlson called for further leveraging of support and tools to promote sound business practice. He also highlighted the need for assessing credit worthiness of local authorities, to enable lower risk of investment, and effective sharing of risks between the private sector and local authorities.

Mr. Juneau stressed the importance of conditions for investments in water demand management and tariffs in sector investments. He said that public/private partnerships were not popular in Canada and that this needed to be changed.

Prof. Wright and Mr. Gaye discussed neighbourhood-centred approaches to water and sanitation provision. Mr. Gaye said attaining the Millennium Development Goals would be driven by improved governance structures. He said best practices from India, Thailand, Pakistan and Brazil could be replicated elsewhere. This can best be achieved through documentation, dissemination and technical training.

Dr. Ramachandran said there were innovative models and multiple routes to attain the water and sanitation goals, particularly in the smaller urban centres. There was a need to promote good planning practices in smaller centres, before they suffered uncontrolled expansion. He stressed the need for national government policies promoting women in decision making. Dr. Ramachandran also stressed that rural areas should not be neglected because they too needed access to basic services to attract investments.

Summary and Conclusions

The promotion of neighbourhood approaches to the provision of water and sanitation was considered a novel way to improve access for the urban poor. Funding from donors and governments should be conditional on the participation of women.

Although local action plans emphasise water and sanitation as a priority, national policies did not always support them. Going to scale, would require novel financing mechanisms and leveraging to ensure the promotion of good practices. Although there were many examples of successful community-based approaches, capacity had to be built among local authorities to fully realise their engagement.

Although privatization of services carried the benefits of improved technical capabilities and investment opportunities, it was also considered appropriate to empower public utilities to perform better, particularly in approaches to serving the poor. Novel approaches, where risks were shared between local authorities and external investors would also go a long way to promoting increased domestic and foreign investment.

There was a need to identify the special needs of HIV/AIDS sufferers and develop specific capacity-building interventions to improve provision of water and sanitation, which greatly increases their life expectancy. The role of youth in the vision of basic services should be promoted. Their involvement in related areas such as solid waste management increases the potential for income generation and livelihood development.

2. The Role of Local Governments: Leadership in Sustainability
21 June 2006

Chair: Wim Deetman, Mayor of The Hague, the Netherlands; President, Association of Netherlands Municipalities

Moderator: Elisabeth Gateau, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), General Secretary, Spain

Speakers:
Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General, United Nations; Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
Simon Compaore, President of the Association des Maires du Burkina Faso; Mayor of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
David Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary, Canada
João Avamileno, Executive Secretary of Mercociudades; Mayor of Santo André, Brazil
Sybillia Dekker, Minister of Housing, the Netherlands

Main issues and concerns

This session comes at a significant moment in the international dialogue on decentralisation. As a result of many years of local government lobbying towards a World Charter on Local Self-Government, draft Guidelines on Decentralisation have been developed through close partnership between local governments and UN-HABITAT. Local governments call on central governments not to let this opportunity pass and invite all their partners to carry out lobbying work to facilitate the adoption of the Guidelines by the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in 2007.

Local governments want to engage in a closer relationship with the United Nations, as the world's mayors have an experience to share, a role to play and a vision to offer in addressing the Millennium Development Goals, and disseminating the global values we all share.

Municipalities around the world are looking for new and innovative ways to achieve sustainability. The session focused on the local government experience and leadership in sustainable development. Effective decentralization is the starting point for local leadership and was one of the key areas for the discussion, in addition to basic services for all and local government fiscal autonomy.

Debate

Mr. Deetman stressed the importance of financial autonomy of cities and local governments, in particular with respect to appropriate tax systems allowing local

governments to raise their own financial resources. He also noted the importance of provision of basic services for all, as a precondition of good governance, although he observed that experiences in one city may not always be transferable to another, due to variations in governance systems. He stressed that the promotion of effective decentralization has been and remains one of the key priorities for the world's mayors, as it is important for decisions to be taken by the level of government that is closest to the citizens. Decentralization needs to be based on core principles such as subsidiarity, accountability, transparency, equity, citizenship, predictability and the rule of law.

Ms. Dekker, as a representative of national governments, noted that within the framework of decentralization, the role of local governments is essential. Yet, national governments have important roles with respect to establishing appropriate legislation and provision of financial support to local governments. She also noted the important role of partnerships with all relevant stakeholders and in particular the contributions of housing associations and communities.

Mr. Compaore noted that one of the cornerstones of decentralization is the transfer of financial resources from central to local government. Local governments have important responsibilities, but cannot fulfil their role without fiscal autonomy and partnership with regional and national governments. Local governments need these resources to carry out their mandate and develop services, but also to ensure that human resources are available to serve their citizens.

Mr. Bronconnier noted the importance of partnerships between different levels of governments and described the experience in Calgary with participatory planning processes.

Mr. Avamileno observed that introduction of decentralization policies has changed the role of mayors, in particular in terms of increased responsibilities. He noted that increased financial resources for local governments were essential as well. He also pointed out that recent international networks of local governments are increasing the productive interchange of information and lessons learned between cities.

Mrs. Tibaijuka reflected on the collaboration between local governments and UN-HABITAT, in particular during and after the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. She noted that United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) has already made significant progress and have facilitated the role of UN-HABITAT. She also noted the importance of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council, where local governments are able to enter into dialogue directly with national governments.

In the discussion that followed it was stressed that, as the responsibilities and importance of local governments is increasing and this process must be carried out in a spirit of cooperation and partnership, with the full involvement and participation of citizens. It was noted that local governments are responsible to implement policies to respond to changing conditions in increasingly multicultural societies.

Several participants stressed the importance of fiscal autonomy for local governments. While central governments are transferring tasks to local governments, it is essential that funds are made available for local governments to undertake these new tasks;

otherwise the result will be increased dissatisfaction and alienation among urban citizens. It was also noted that as decentralisation is beginning to take place in some countries, technical assistance may be required to allow local governments to carry out their new responsibilities with success. It was also noted that there is a need to find new ways of sharing power between citizens, local leaders, and central government. The important contribution of the developing partnerships between local governments in different parts of the world was highlighted by several participants.

Several participants asked representatives of local governments to pay particular attention to the concerns of various vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, immigrants, and ethnic and other minorities. Policies should thus focus on approaches to ensure social inclusion. It was also noted that local governments should increase their efforts to involve women and youth in local governance. Local governments were also advised to take steps to train the leaders of the future. In this connection, Mayor Bronconnier shared his own experience from Calgary where he has dedicated one morning each week to communicate with students at the city hall school. Several representatives of local governments highlighted the importance they placed on construction of youth centres. There were also calls for interventions to ensure adequate representation of various segments of society among elected local government officials.

A representative of the private sector encouraged local governments to ensure that they are facilitating the contribution of all stakeholders in the development process. Rather than just saying "no", local governments should try to strive to facilitate "what is possible". Other participants highlighted the importance of engaging all segments of the population, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and women. One participant noted that decentralization of government has been accompanied by a decentralization of corruption, and several participants asked representatives to pay particular attention to ways of reducing corruption within local government.

Summary and conclusion

The Chairperson, drawing on the questions and observations made during the debate highlighted the need for securing a balanced territorial development in order to prevent the emergence of slums and informal human settlements. He also stressed the need for fiscal autonomy, as the world needed stronger local governments. Participants were encouraged to create a culture of solidarity which is conducive to social inclusion and peace.

The session concluded that the promotion of effective decentralisation is one of the best ways of strengthening the role and the capacities of local governments. The Guidelines on Decentralisation prepared by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) must be given full support by local and national governments to allow for a smooth adoption at the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in 2007.

3. From Vancouver to Nanjing
23 June 2006

Chair: André Juneau, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Government of Canada

<u>Moderator</u>: Brock Carlton, Director, International Centre for Municipal Development, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada

<u>Speakers</u>:
Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General, United Nations; Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
Michael Harcourt, Co-Chair of the Canadian National Advisory Committee for WUF3; former Mayor of Vancouver; former Premier of British Columbia; Current Chair, External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, Canada
Martin Lilja, State Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Government of Sweden
Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, People's Republic of China
Wu Zhiqiang, Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, People's Republic of China
Wu Tinghai, Deputy Director of Institute of Architectural and Urban Studies, Qinghua University, People's Republic of China
Fu Ping, Assistant President, Shanghai Land Development Group, People's Republic of China
Lu Bing, Deputy Mayor, City of Nanjing, People's Republic of China

<u>Main issues and concerns</u>

The session reflected on the challenges ahead, as identified in the various dialogues, roundtables and other events at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, as participants look forward to the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum to be hosted by the Ministry of Construction of China and the City of Nanjing in 2008. The session explored the changes and opportunities for urbanization in China and elsewhere, in particular with respect to sustainability, and provided insight on the issues that will be tabled at the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2008.

The session was organized in two segments, the first focussing on issues of urban sustainability and the challenges ahead, as well as reflections on the changes that have occurred since the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) convened in Vancouver in 1976. The second segment focussed on the achievements and challenges ahead in China as it prepares to host the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2008.

<u>Debate</u>

Mrs. Tibaijuka noted the importance of analyzing how the discussion during the Third Session of the World Urban Forum could chart the way forward to Nanjing. The fact that some 10,000 participants had met in Vancouver and discussed urban sustainability was in itself a major achievement. She also noted that the various sessions had engaged and involved all Habitat Agenda partners. She cited a gender balance in participation, saying about half the participants in Vancouver had been women. She noted that an extensive evaluation of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum was underway, through a variety of means, ranging from questionnaires to focus group discussions. She noted that this evaluation was an essential part of ensuring that the World Urban Forum could continue to evolve. She noted that the discussions held during the Forum had

proved the wrong the critics – those who had been sceptical about the need for "another" United Nations meeting. The Forum had proved that there is need for dialogue, for exchange of experience, for learning from others, leading to actionable ideas, and indeed, actions on the ground.

Mr. Harcourt reflected on the enthusiastic and exciting atmosphere during the first Habitat Conference in 1976, with its focus on dialogue and consultation. Despite all the nice statements made in 1976, however, he noted that by the time of the Habitat II Conference was convened in Istanbul in 1996, there had been a general lack of progress, particularly with respect to the involvement of women, youth, indigenous and other vulnerable groups. Among the issues raised during the Forum sessions he highlighted the importance of devolution of authority to local governments, and the need to engage and involve the various groups that constitute communities, including the disabled, indigenous groups, youth and women. He noted that the current session of the Forum had been an opportunity to share and learn from experiences in other parts of the world, good and bad, including those that had come out of the Habitat Jam Internet discussion. He noted that the Fourth Session of the Forum would be an opportunity to measure improvements in the conditions of an increasing urban population living in poverty.

In the discussion that followed, a number of issues were raised by participants. Several participants noted the need to ensure adequate representation of all at all levels at the next session of the Forum. In particular, it was noted that the panel of the Nanjing special session included eight men and one woman, no youth representatives, or those representing vulnerable groups. There were also calls for increased participation of the private commercial sector. The panellists noted that several prominent Chinese women were already involved in the preparation of the 2008 session of the Forum, and that the private sector was indeed welcome to participate. Representatives of the private sector noted that they were already acting, and called upon the participants of the Forum to follow. It was noted that sister-city programmes were already in place between cities in Canada and China which were facilitating the contribution of the private sector. Such programmes were in line with the spirit of partnerships between cities, as well as North-South cooperation.

One participant noted that the Secretariat might consider rethinking the organization of the next session of the Forum as she felt that there were too many events taking place during the first three days of the Forum, compared to the last two days. The Executive Director of UN-HABITAT noted that organization of the sessions was based on the experiences of Barcelona, and that it was arranged to avoid Dialogues and Roundtables clashing with networking events.

Several participants noted the importance of rural areas, and that these should not be marginalized while addressing the consequences of urbanization. The Executive Director noted that UN-HABITAT was indeed focussing on rural areas as well, as part of its mandate, and highlighted programmes on urban-rural linkages in the Lake Victoria region and in the Mekong Delta.

In the second segment of the session there were five presentations. Mr. Wang, who in addition to his responsibilities as Minister of Construction was also President of the Association of Mayors in China, made an extensive presentation on the activities and achievements within the field of human settlements in China as it has moved from a

planned to a market economy. He cited the importance of women, the preservation of cultural and historical heritage, and the need for better urban planning, in particular land-use planning. He stressed the importance of balanced development between rural and urban areas, and pointed to cities as engines of growth, while stressing the importance of small and medium-size cities. He also noted the importance of balancing economic growth and environmental concerns.

Mr. Wu Zhiqiang noted that the Chinese Government had come to realize in recent decades the true meaning of development, as it moved focus from economic to social development. He also noted that the challenges faced in urban areas of developing and developed countries were different. He informed participants that China was not only about to host the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing in 2008, but also the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010. For the first time in its history, the latter would focus on urban issues. He pointed out that this will be an opportunity to discuss urban issues in China over a period of several years.

Mr. Lilja noted the importance of sustainable urbanization, and sustainable cities. He noted that rural to urban migration is creating a lot of problems, including scarcity of resources, but stressed that it also provides a number of new opportunities for people. He stressed that it is essential to integrate economic, social and ecological issues and concerns in the planning process. In this connection, he said that Sweden was at the forefront of reducing dependence on fossil fuels. He also pointed out that we have to focus on the development of attractive as well as affordable housing.

Mr. Fu described development in Shanghai during the last 160 years, and noted that its growth posed major development problems. He highlighted the importance of infrastructure development and the importance of balancing economic, social and environmental concerns in urban development. He outlined details on the development of a new city, Gucun, north of Shanghai, which was to be completed by early 2008. He stated that it would be appropriate to report on this project at the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2008.

Mr. Lu informed participants about the historic and cultural background of Nanjing, as a former national capital. He also outlined its unique geography and its role as a centre of research and development. He stressed the importance of preserving its historical heritage and cultural assets, and the importance placed on developing Nanjing as a green city. He noted that green areas already covered 45 percent of the city and that all citizens had less than 500 metres to walk to a green area. In the process to increase the size of green areas, the city is demolishing shacks and slum-like structures to make it even more beautiful. He called on participants to meet again in Nanjing in 2008, and informed the participants that the theme of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum in 2008 would be "A harmonious city".

Summary and conclusion

In his closing comments Mr. Juneau noted that the panel had not been able to address all the questions placed before it. He, however, noted that the balance between urban and rural development is essential, and that it was necessary to follow-up on that issue. Among other major issues raised during the session were the importance of moving from ideas to actionable ideas, and that this was a major challenge to the next session of

the Forum, in particular how to ensure security of tenure, and how to operationalize the rights of various vulnerable groups. The need for development to take account of economic, social as well as environmental concerns was also highlighted by most speakers.

4. Future of Cities
23 June 2006

Facilitator: Ben Malor, UN Radio

Speakers:
Inga Björk-Klevby, Assistant Secretary General, United Nations; Deputy Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
John Friedmann, Honorary Professor in Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Canada
Janice Perlman, Executive Director, Megacities Project, USA
Xuemei Bai, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan
Kalpana Sharma, Mumbai Bureau Chief, the Hindu Newspaper, India
David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow, Human Settlements, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom
Rose Molokoane, Shack Dwellers International, South Africa
Ajay Maken, Minister for Urban Development, India
Clive Harridge, President, Town Planning Institute, United Kingdom

Main issues and concerns

The discussion started with a presentation of the main conclusion of the *State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7*. The panellists were then asked to give their main impressions on what they saw as the major trends and challenges facing cities in the 21st Century. The opening statement of the Moderator reminded the audience that urbanization is an unstoppable trend, and according to many accounts, cities seem to be in trouble. What can cities do to cope? What are future cities likely to look like? Is the future all bleak or is there hope?

Debate

Further to the main findings of the *State of the World Cities Report 2006/7*, Ms. Björk-Klevby asked if the picture is one of hope or despair. The findings of the Report show both positive and negative prospects. On the positive side, cities are contributing significantly to Gross Domestic Product, and are centres of culture, human interaction, new thinking and innovations. However, if not properly managed, they can exacerbate deprivation, exclusion and inequality. The report shows inequality between regions – Asia currently has 50 percent of the world slum population, while Africa has the highest slum growth rate and the worst slum conditions. Inequalities within cities are also rising.

The *State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7* introduces a score card that ranks countries on their performance in slum upgrading and prevention. Countries that are doing well have several things in common, including long-term political commitment,

backed by appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks. They also combine slum upgrading programmes with economic growth, and are largely reliant on domestic resources. Such approaches link the wealth of cities with improved well being of their poorer residents.

Mr. Friedmann stated that it is an impossible task to predict what the future cities are likely to look like. The tendency would be to get trapped in one of two extremes: utopia on the one hand, and doomsday scenarios on the other. Rather than prophesy, Mr. Friedmann, decided to tell a story about his visit to city in China. After observing the mix of new technology and ancient lifestyle, he concluded that despite mushrooming modern architecture, increased traffic, and new technology, the city was in essence the same as it had been for the last century. He thus asked: "so what is the point?" Irrepressible human life will survive, adapt and ultimately will triumph.

Ms. Perlman said that there will be no one city of the future, cities will continue to be rooted in their specificity. In fact we must fight to preserve the diversity of cities. She presented the cases of Rio de Janeiro *favelas*. In some *favelas,* residents had been forcibly evicted, and their dwellings replaced by apartment blocks for the middle class. In other areas, the *favelas* had been gradually transformed for the better by the residents, using their own resources. The residents' prime concern is employment and reliable incomes. Most of these residents and their offspring feel that the democratic space has opened up over the years but it has yet to lead to more participation by the poor. Similarly, while there had been improvements in the physical environment, access to livelihood has worsened. However, the majority still expect that their life will improve in the future.

Ms. Bai responded to the question of the sustainability of the Chinese model of urbanization. In her introductory remarks, she established the Chinese context: 40 percent of the population is urban, in the last 25 years the number of cities has grown from 200 to 660. If present trends continue, there will be 900 urban centres in the next twenty years. China has also become the manufacturing centre of the world, with negative environmental consequences. These include diminishing farm land, polluted land due to dumping, heavily polluted air and water. One result of this pollution is a rise in respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer. The question to ask should be how to make the Chinese process more sustainable. She suggested several actions: city decision making needs to be more sensitive to environmental concerns; appropriate policies and monitoring mechanisms need to be put in place; and cities must be made aware of their ecological footprint. The good news is that there is a generation of younger mayors who are more environmentally conscious and an emerging civil society that is becoming more active.

Ms. Sharma said that she was speaking not as an expert, but as a resident of an exciting and complex city. She asked, why is Mumbai being asked to emulate Shanghai? Each city is unique in its history and context. What is needed is to study the strengths and survival mechanisms of each city so as to support and build on them. She observed that in Mumbai, there is need to manage competing demands in a context of financial constraints. Currently, structures intended to attract global capital compete with those that could improve liveability for the residents. Similarly, a lot of resources have been put into improving access for private cars, yet this represents only 8 percent of Mumbai's population. Planning appears to be disconnected from reality. To assure a

more sustainable future more affordable rental housing is needed; land should be freed from the "land mafias"; and there should be an increase in affordable and safe public transport.

Mr. Satterthwaite said that there is increasing poverty, largely because of government inaction. City governments continue to see the poor as a problem, and there is increasing polarization of city populations. More appropriate intervention models would be based on real partnerships between city governments and poor residents. Many federations of slum dwellers are forming savings groups and using their own resources to upgrade their houses and neighbourhoods. When city governments support such networks, the scale of improvement increases exponentially. It is essential to give more space to such organizations, listen more effectively to what they say, and give them wider recognition. An indicator of success should be the quality of the relationship between city governments and associations of poor residents.

Ms. Molokoane asked who does the city belong to? She asserted that the poor are the majority, the most visible, the service providers, and yet the most marginalized. What do the poor want? They want security of tenure and freedom from evictions. They want their existence and rights recognized, and they want to be included in development planning. Ms. Molokoane said she comes from an organizations called FED UP. "We are fed up of poverty and homelessness, we are fed up of being subjects of your agenda … but we shall not get fed up of pressuring you for our rights."

Mr. Maken highlighted the urgent need for more energy-efficient cities. This can be achieved through city planning as well as provision of adequate and energy-efficient city public transport. Slum upgrading must be implemented *in situ* and mixed land uses promoted so as to improve opportunities for livelihoods.

Mr. Harridge noted that there are two kinds of cities; the western high consumption, congested, environmentally unfriendly city, and the city of increasing slums in the developing world. Both types are unsustainable. In addition, cities are faced by climate change, urban terrorism and increasing violence. But there is also strong resilience in city communities. Cities can be sustainable but they need to be planned in collaboration with their residents.

Comments from the floor reinforced the statements of the presenters with their own examples.

<u>Summary and conclusion</u>

The conclusions can be summarized: the problem is not population growth but unsustainable consumption patterns; there is no model city of the future — each city has to survive based on its history and strengths; planning has to be an agent of the people, not the state; and in most situations there are no either or answers. The bottom line is that people and communities are resilient, but sustainability has to be planned for.

Annex X.

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

a. <u>Statement by Hon. John Pombe Magufuli, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Government of Tanzania; Co-Chair, Third Session of the World Urban Forum</u>

The Co-Chair of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum formally announced the endorsement of the Report of the Forum for presentation to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT who, in turn, would submit it to the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in 2007, and subsequently to the General Assembly of the United Nations. He said it had been an honour to co-chair the session with Minister Diane Finley of Canada. The Third Session of the World Urban Forum had shown that it was a conference that had truly come of age because it had not merely involved the adoption of another report, but rather because it symbolised the sharing of a vision, forging of new relationships, and charting of a new way forward. It was wonderful testimony to what had changed in the past 30 years since the Habitat I conference in Vancouver. He thanked the Government of Canada, UN-HABITAT and the participants for making the conference a success.

b. <u>Statement by Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO</u>

Mr. Sané reiterated the fact that, unlike other United Nations conferences, the World Urban Forum was not an event where declarations and plans of action were drafted or negotiated, but was one which allowed people from various sectors of society to meet and exchange ideas. He said that people leaving the Forum should commit themselves to turning the principles set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights into a reality, adding that UNESCO was dedicated to ensuring that this objective was achieved.

c. <u>Statement by Mr. John Kaputin, Secretary General, African Caribbean and Pacific Group Secretariat, Belgium</u>

The Secretary General of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group, Mr Kaputin, congratulated UN-HABITAT and the Government of Canada for hosting a meeting he said was important to the 48 African, 16 Caribbean, and 15 Pacific States in what he described as the largest organized entity representing the developing world. He said the Forum had underlined the importance of exchanging experiences and best practices among cities, local authorities and development partners. He said the African Caribbean and Pacific Group was committed to fighting against inadequate living conditions in slums and their adverse impact on several of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to health, education and unemployment. He added that the African Caribbean and Pacific Group had agreed to contribute substantive funding to slum upgrading projects in its member countries, which would be implemented by UN-HABITAT. He said that slums were the result of policy failure and lack of appropriate planning and that the African Caribbean and Pacific Group-funded Project on Slum Upgrading would address these challenges, and would be implemented with the active participation of the beneficiaries. He noted that the African Caribbean and Pacific

Group had commemorated its 30th anniversary on 6 June 2006, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Habitat I Conference, which led to the creation of UN-HABITAT.

d. Statement by Ms. Mariama Sow, ENDA Dakar, Senegal, representing civil society

Ms. Sow said it was paradoxical that 30 years after the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver, and better global awareness of urban problems, the challenges confronting cities were even more acute today. She said cities today were factories of social, economic, and political exclusion. She said there were greater numbers of poor people in cities than ever before, and that their access to basic services remained very limited, even for the most basic needs. With all the means at the disposal of UN-HABITAT, governments, local authorities, non-governmental and community organizations, what was the measuring stick for lasting improvement in cities of developing countries? Had we succeeded in bringing about large-scale change? Had we found workable, replicable standards for change? The Millennium Development Goals, she said were presented as a miracle solution. Yet, in most cases, the problems of handicapped groups, indigenous people, excluded castes, AIDS victims, refugees, displaced people, and victims of forced evictions were not really taken into account. She said bureaucracy and corruption were major roadblocks to progress. She said the Habitat Jam internet discussion, backed up by her organization, ENDA Tiers Monde and the Nairobi-based non-governmental organization, the Mazingira Institute, exemplified how people around the world could participate directly in policy making.

e. Statement by Ms. Ana Lucy Bengochea, Coordinator, Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras, representing women groups

Ms. Bengochea said that if the world paid more attention to women as equals in society, the Millennium Development Goals and much more would be achieved. She outlined a six-point framework for progress: (a) Support small and medium-size businesses and home-based enterprises by women; (b) Support indigenous, aboriginal and first-world women and promote and respect their traditional knowledge; (c) Recognize and consult grassroots women as experts; (d) Establish new funds for grassroots women's peer exchanges, public spaces and organizing; (e) Promote dialogue among the international aid agencies, grassroots women's leaders and local authorities to redirect funding and programmes; (f) Support local authority collaboration and local-to-local dialogues to sustain the participation of women in local decision-making.

f. Statement by Ms. Kim Jawanda, Terra Housing, South Africa, representing the private sector

Ms. Jawanda said that the international community had only scratched the surface of public-private partnerships in a world where it was the private sector that provided jobs. She said that there must be more public-private-people sector partnerships for slum upgrading. She urged participants to involve the private sector more in planning and in addressing sustainability issues.

g. Statement by Ms. Mernosh Tajhizadeh, ENJEU (ENvironnement JEUnesse), Quebec, Canada, representing youth

Taking the podium on behalf of the World Youth Forum which met in Vancouver on the eve of the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, Ms. Tajhizadeh said the essence of her message was that although young people might be considered the leaders of tomorrow, the challenges existed today, and that they could be the leaders of today. Presenting the Declaration of the World Youth Forum, she said UN-HABITAT had recognized young people as key partners in solving urbanization problems. However, the debate was no longer if, but how ideas for action could incorporate youth. She said further Memorandums of Understanding were being prepared by youth groups for the 2007 UN-HABITAT Governing Council, and she asked UN-HABITAT to broaden its engagement with young people. She said the youth forum felt it important, both for UN-HABITAT and the broader international community, to improve field research and reporting on the social and economic impact of young people in their societies.

h. Statement by Hon. Wang Guangtao, Minister of Construction, China

Hon. Guangtao said that the City of Vancouver had close ties with China and he was happy that his country would be hosting the next session of the Forum. He said that the city of Nanjing, host for the next session of the Forum, had a rich and ancient history and was a showcase of the future of Chinese cities. He invited all participants to the next session of the Forum in China.

i. Statement by Mr. Lu Bing, Deputy Mayor of Nanjing, China

Mr. Bing said that the City of Nanjing was nearly 2500 years old and was one of four historical Chinese cities. He said that in addition to its rich cultural heritage, the city was a transportation hub that had experienced high levels of economic growth in the last few years and was seeking to harmonise economic development with environmental sustainability.

j. Statement by Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General, United Nations; Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

In her closing address, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, Mayor Sam Sullivan of the City of Vancouver, Lois Jackson, the Chair of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and Gordon Campbell, Premier of the Province of British Columbia and the people of Vancouver for hosting the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. She said that like all the delegates, she had high expectations for the Forum, and Vancouver had ably demonstrated that it was a model of sustainability and inclusiveness for the world. Mrs. Tibaijuka also thanked the Canadian secretariat, Global Staff and the hundreds of volunteers who gave their time and energy to ensuring that the Forum was a success. Mrs. Tibaijuka said that under the able leadership of the Forum Chair, Hon. Diane Finley of Canada, and the Co-Chair, Hon. John Magufuli of Tanzania, the Forum had greatly benefited from members of the Advisory Group led by its Chair, Hon. Ms. Diane Finley, the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada, and by the Acting Chair, Mr. Munir Sheikh, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Housing, Government of Canada. She also thanked

those donor countries that enabled participants from all over the world to take part in the Forum.

Mrs. Tibaijuka said that this session of the Forum had provided all participants with a wide range of practical and innovative solutions that have been informed by collective past failures. She added that UN-HABITAT would constantly strive to make this biennial event a continuing success. She said that she was leaving Vancouver "completely inspired", not only by the substantive discussions, but also by the richness and variety of the various events.

k. Statement by Mr. James Moore, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Gateway and Vancouver-Whistler Olympics

Mr. Moore said that since Vancouver was voted the world's most liveable city, it had grown in the right direction, and it was fitting that it should hold this session of the World Urban Forum, 30 years after the first Habitat Conference was held in the same city. Mr. Moore said he was pleased to learn that the work that the Canadian International Development Agency was doing in cooperation with UN-HABITAT to foster clean water and proper sanitation in Africa had been highlighted at the Forum. He added that sustainable cities required cooperation between different people from a broad range of disciplines and that the Forum provided participants with new potential partners who could work with them in making communities better places to live.

He said that Canadians were proud of the success of the Forum, in which nearly 10,000 people participated, a figure that was twice the level of participation of the Second Session of the World Urban Forum held in 2004. He said that Canada would assist in handing over the torch to China, which will be hosting the Fourth Session of the Forum in Nanjing in 2008.

l. Statement by Ms. Lois Jackson, Chair, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Canada

Ms. Jackson closed the Forum stating that as cities seek to accommodate ever-growing populations, sustainability would become a growing challenge. Achieving a sustainable future, she said, would not only require concerted effort, but also concerted action.

In closing, she thanked participants for visiting Greater Vancouver, adding that she hoped they would take good memories back home with them.

Annex XI.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE SECOND SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

Symbol	Title
HSP/WUF/3/1	Provisional agenda
HSP/WUF/3/1/Add.1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: note by the secretariat
HSP/WUF/3/2	Our Future: Sustainable Cities: Background Paper for WUF III

HSP/WUF/3/INF/1	Conference Programme
HSP/WUF/3/INF/2	Schedule of Training and Networking Events
HSP/WUF/3/INF/3	State of the World's Cities Report, 2006/2007: Note by the secretariat
HSP/WUF/3/INF/4	Report of the second session of World Urban Forum: note by the secretariat
HSP/WUF/3/INF/5	Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT relevant to the work of the World Urban Forum: note by the secretariat
HSP/WUF/3/INF/6	Working arrangements for the World Urban Forum
HSP/WUF/3/INF/7	List of documents before the third session of the World Urban Forum
HSP/WUF/3/INF/8	Advisory Group for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum
HSP/WUF/3/INF/9	List of participants to the Third Session of the World Urban Forum
Background documents	World Urban Forum III Brochure
Background documents	Side Events Flyer
Background documents	Habitat Debate - Special Issue Vancouver 2006
Background documents	30+ dreams and reality
Background documents	Report of the second session of the World Urban