Three days to discuss solutions cities are implementing to achieve sustainability

It is estimated that in 2050, around 70% of the world population will live in urban areas. This fact makes especially relevant to consider the urban approach as a specific issue within the new agenda of priorities for international development. Urbanisation is accelerating in the developing world and most of the processes are taking place informally and accompanied by the increase of extreme urban poverty, limited access to basic urban services and high risk regarding natural hazards.

At the same time, cities are real motors for economic development, offering huge opportunities for social advancement, the reduction of inequalities and the generation of social capital.

The objective of the events is to provide inputs to the debate that the General Assembly of the UN will hold on 6th January 2014. The meeting wants to bring together Ministers and Mayors to bring technical contents and analysis about the situation of cities in the world.

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Organized by UN-Habitat

With the support of

And the collaboration of:
Inter-Ministerial meetings on sustainable cities – Participant countries

**Participants**

UN-Habitat is requesting member states to appoint, within their respective Governments, a national delegation that includes:

**Composition of national delegations**

- Representative of the government (at Ministerial level, with responsibility over sustainable cities)
- Representative of the most representative association of local or regional governments (Mayor or Governor)
- Representative of the Permanent mission to the United Nations

**Confirmed participants**

- **Antigua Barbuda**
  Ministry for the environment
- **Argentina**
  Ministry Foreign Affairs
- **Bahamas**
  Minister of Environment and Housing
  Municipality of Eleuthera
- **Brazil**
  Ministry of Cities
- **Canada**
  Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- **Colombia**
  Minister of housing, cities and territory
- **Costa Rica**
  Minister for Housing and Urban Planning
  Mayor of Heredia
- **Dominican Republic**
  Ministry of Economy, planning and development
  Commonwealth of Santo Domingo
- **Ecuador**
  Minister for Urban Development and Housing
  Association of Ecuador municipalities
  Mayor of Quito
- **Jamaica**
  Minister of local government
  Mayor of Montego Bay
- **Spain**
  President, Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces
  Ministry of Public Works.
- **Peru**
  Minister for Housing, construction and sanitation
- **United States**
  Housing and Urban Development Dept.
- **Uruguay**
  Minister for Housing, territorial planning and environment
  Mayor of Canelones, Mayor San José

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**Ibero America meeting on sustainable cities, 11th December 9 – 18h and 12th December 9 -13h, CR -3 UNHQ**

Latin America - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**Ibero America** - Spain, Portugal, Andorra.

**Caribbean meeting, 12th December, 9 – 13h, CR-8**

Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

**North America meeting, 12th December, 9 – 13h**

Canada, United States of America

**The Americas meeting on urban resilience, 12th December, 14 – 18h, CR-3, United Nations Headquarters.**

Latin America, Caribbean and North American countries

**Smart cities – An opportunity for the Citizen, 12th December, 18.30 – 20.30, Centre for architecture, 256 LaGuardia Pl**

[http://t.co/bX2YNnyk2E](http://t.co/bX2YNnyk2E)

**Meeting of the Global Taskforce of local and regional governments for post 2015 development agenda toward Habitat III, 13th December, ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ**

[www.gtf2016.org](http://www.gtf2016.org)
Towards the post-2015 processes

1. To contribute to the debate in Ibero America, Caribbean and The Americas regarding the future definition of sustainable development goals in the field of sustainable cities.

Tangible result – Creation of a common denominator with regard to the priority lines of discussion regarding a possible SDG on sustainable cities. Additionally, the generation of a first set of ideas to be included in the new Habitat Agenda. The advantage of this meeting lies in bringing together the New York-based permanent Missions to the UN, the Ministers responsible for urban issues and the final addressees of the local implementation of the SDGs (Mayors and Governors).

The open-working group of the General Assembly will be discussing sustainable cities on 6th January 2016

Methodological note – The city as a solution – how Ministries and local governments are already implementing projects to ensure the sustainability of cities.

Panellists will have 10m to present + 5m debate

National presentations from both central and local governments should respond to the following questions

5. What? What did you do? What were the challenges and the successes?
6. Who? Who were your partners in implementing the approach?


Towards Habitat III

1. To define the strategy for the regional process towards Habitat III.

Tangible result – Identification of the working structure of Habitat III in the Region, creation of momentum for the work at national level and particularly in the countries and sub-region that lack of UN-Habitat office to support and to coordinate the Habitat III process.

2. To support the participation and dialogue with local governments in the process of definition of the new urban agenda.

Tangible result – Ensured contribution of the local government associations in the initial definition of priorities to be included in Habitat III preparatory process and the Conference itself.

3. To provide the Permanent Missions in New York with updated technical elements on urban issues.

Tangible result – Incorporation of first list of recommendations and priorities in the new Habitat Agenda, to inform about the process of the PrepCom1 in September 2014.

4. To establish a group of governmental focal points for each of the participant member states, to ensure national debate over Habitat III.

Tangible result - Coordination with technical Ministries responsible to follow on Habitat III in each of the countries.
Themes - Delegations can select to bring case studies on

I. Urban Issues
   1. Managing rapid urbanization
   2. Managing rural-urban linkages and migration.
   3. Addressing urban youth needs
   4. Integrating gender in urban development

II. Land and Planning
   5. Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design
   6. Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl
   7. Enhancing urban food production
   8. Reducing traffic congestion
   9. Improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities

III. Environment and Urbanization
   10. Addressing climate change
   11. Disaster risk reduction

IV. Urban Governance and Legislation
   12. Improving urban legislation
   13. Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
   14. Improving participation and human rights in urban development
   15. Enhancing urban safety
   16. Improving social inclusion and equity

V. Urban Economy
   17. Improving municipal/local finance
   18. Strengthening and improving access to housing finance
   19. Supporting local economic development
   20. Creating decent jobs and livelihoods
   21. Integration of the urban economy into national development policy

VI. Housing and Basic Services
   22. Slum upgrading and prevention
   23. Improving access to adequate housing
   24. Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water
   25. Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage
   26. Improving access to clean domestic energy
   27. Improving access to sustainable means of transport

Contacts

Inter-Ministerial Meeting on sustainable cities

UN-Habitat Office in New York, Ludivine Cornille Focal Point local and territorial governments, cornille@un.org Tel +1.212.963.4474
Diana Lopez Caramazana, Local government Unit diana.lopez@onuhabitat.org Tel +254.20.762.5099 - Skype - diana.unhabitats

Global Taskforce of local and regional governments for the post 2015 development agenda

Emilia Saiz, Director Statutory Issues and Institutional Relations for United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Tel: +34 93 412 2361 e.saiz@uclg.org

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