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HABITAT III CONFERENCE  
**THE NEW  
URBAN AGENDA**



United Nations

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# THE HABITAT III CONFERENCE

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Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, and is taking place in Quito, Ecuador, on 17-20 October 2016.

In [Resolution 66/207](#) and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization and to focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

Member States of the General Assembly, in Resolution 67/216, decided that the objectives of the Conference were to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcome document.

“Habitat III offers a unique  
• opportunity to discuss the •  
• important challenge of how •  
• cities, towns, and villages are •  
planned and managed.”

Habitat III is the first United Nations global summit after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns, and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and how they can shape the implementation of the new global development goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

# THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

The New Urban Agenda, along with the formulation of policies, plans, and programmes at the local, national, regional, and international levels, will take into consideration:

- the role of sustainable urbanization as a driver of sustainable development;
- urban-rural linkages;
- the interlinkages among the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in promoting stable, prosperous, and inclusive societies.

## THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF URBANIZATION

Urbanization is an unprecedented challenge. By the middle of this century, four of every five people might be living in towns and cities. Urbanization and development are inextricably linked, making it necessary to ensure the sustainability of growth.

Throughout modern history, urbanization has been a major driver of development and poverty reduction, with the power to change and improve lives. Governments can respond to this key development opportunity through Habitat III by promoting a model of urban development that integrates all facets of sustainable development to promote equity, welfare, and shared prosperity.

It is time to mobilize the global community in focusing on all levels of human settlements — small rural communities, villages, market towns, intermediate cities, and metropolises — when considering demographic and economic growth.

Habitat III can help systematize the alignment between cities and towns in their role as drivers of national economic and social development and national planning objectives. It has the convening power to bring together all the actors necessary to achieve these objectives. Solutions to the complex challenges of urbanization can only be found by bringing together Member States, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector, and civil society.

“Urbanization has become a driving force as well as a source of **development** with the power to change and improve lives.”



WHAT RETHINKING • • •  
THE URBAN AGENDA MEANS:

// **Embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements**, more appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, and can assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks.

// **Integrating equity into the development agenda.** Equity is an issue of social justice, ensures access to the public sphere, extends opportunities, and increases the commons.

// **Fostering national urban planning and planned city extensions.**

// Deciding how relevant **Sustainable Development Goals** will be supported through sustainable urbanization.

// **Aligning and strengthening institutional arrangements** with the substantive outcomes of Habitat III to ensure effective delivery of the New Urban Agenda.



WHAT IMPLEMENTING • • •  
THE NEW URBAN AGENDA  
NECESSITATES:

// **Urban rules and regulations.** The quality of outcomes of an urban settlement is dependent on the set of rules and regulations and their implementation. Proper urbanization requires the rule of law.

// **Urban planning and design.** This entails adequate provision of common goods, including streets and open spaces, together with an efficient pattern of buildable plots.

// **Municipal finance.** For efficient management and maintenance of the city, local fiscal systems should redistribute parts of the urban value generated.



With Consideration For...

**National urban policies.** These establish a connection between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development.

# THE PROCESS

## ROADMAP TOWARDS THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Vancouver 1976

### HABITAT I



Governments recognize the need for sustainable human settlements and sustainable urbanization.

World Leaders adopt the Habitat Agenda as a global plan of action for adequate shelter for all, with the notion of sustainable human settlements driving development in an urbanizing world.

- a. Cities are the engines of global growth;
- b. Urbanization is an opportunity,
- c. Call for a stronger role of local authorities and
- d. Recognition of the power of participation.

Istanbul 1996

### HABITAT II



Capturing, creating, organizing and disseminating knowledge towards the New Urban Agenda.

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL REPORTS



### URBAN FORUM

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND WORLD URBAN FORUMS

Medellín, April 2014

### WUF7

Governments, private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals and CSO reaffirm the commitment to integrate urban equity into the development agenda.  
Outcome: the Medellín Declaration

22,000 Participants



URBAN EQUITY

HABITAT III  
URBAN DIALOGUES

### POLICY

Securing renewed political commitment. Addressing action for new challenges.

New York, September 17 - 18, 2014

### PREPCOM1

Nairobi, April 14 - 16, 2015

### PREPCOM2

### ENGAGEMENT

Ensuring inclusive participation, engaging partnerships, advocacy to raise awareness and build consensus towards the New Urban Agenda.

- General Assembly of Partners
- National and Local Urban Campaigns
- Preparatory process for the II World Assembly of Local Authorities
- Urban Journalism Academies
- Together Towards HII – Global Survey



UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
(COP21/CMP11)





## KNOWLEDGE



**ISSUE PAPERS**  
 The Issue Papers provide in depth review and analysis of specific issues relevant to the discussions of the Conference. Check out the Issue Papers on [habitat3.org](http://habitat3.org)

A series of e-discussions with the aim to gather views from all interested players to bring forward new and emerging thinking on urban issues.  
 Thematic Consultations  
 July 6 - 31, 2015



**SDG - GOAL 11:**  
 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
 AND COMMUNITIES



**POLICY UNITS**  
 Mobilization of high-level expertise to develop independent policy recommendations on sustainable urban development

## URBAN OCTOBER

- WORLD HABITAT DAY
- WORLD CITIES DAY

Local Governments joint-message towards the New Urban Agenda

- INDONESIA NIGERIA CZECH REPUBLIC MEXICO
- TEL-AVIV MONTREAL CUENCA ABU DHABI
- MEXICO CITY BARCELONA PRETORIA

## ZERO DRAFT DOCUMENT

May to July 2016  
**INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS**



Surabaya, July 25 - 27, 2016

## PREPCOM3

URBAN OCTOBER

## WELCOME TO QUITO



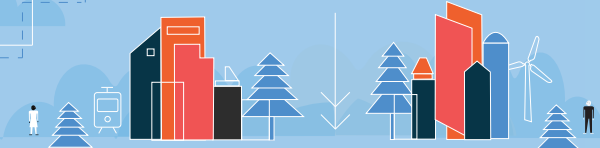
II World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

Urbanization is an endogenous source of sustainable development as well as a tool for social integration and equity.



## NEW URBAN AGENDA

## LEGACY



# THE PROCESS



## PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Established by the UN General Assembly, the Preparatory Committee is tasked with carrying out preparations for the Conference, including the conduct of three sessions (PrepComs 1, 2, and 3) prior to the opening of the Conference. The PrepComs are open to all UN Member States, members of specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and accredited stakeholders.

*First session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) - PrepCom1*  
17-18 September 2014  
New York, USA

*Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) - PrepCom2*  
14-16 April 2015  
Nairobi, Kenya

*Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) - PrepCom3*  
25-27 July 2016  
Surabaya, Indonesia

## THE BUREAU

Following UN procedures for an intergovernmental conference, the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee is comprised of the Member States' representation for the coordination of the preparatory process towards the Habitat III Conference.

- María de los Ángeles Duarte (Ecuador)
- Maryse Gautier (France)
- Eric Miangar (Chad)
- Jaime Silva (Chile)
- Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic)
- Tania Roediger-Vorwerk (Germany)
- Purnomo A. Chandra (Indonesia)
- Mamadou Mbodj (Senegal)
- Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia)
- MajidHasan Al-Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)

## INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS

In its endeavour to be as inclusive and collaborative as it can be in carrying out the Habitat III preparatory process and Conference, the General Assembly decided to organize open-ended informal consultative meetings before the submission of the draft outcome for five days from 25 to 29 April 2016 in New York.

These five crucial days provide the opportunity for feedback on the conclusions drawn from the Habitat III Policy Units and the Regional and Thematic meetings.

The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee is also convening informal intergovernmental negotiations in New York for three days in May (18–20), three days in June (8–10), and three days from June to July (29 June–1 July).

Local authorities' associations and stakeholders are invited to participate in the two-day informal hearings in May (16–17) and June (6–7).

## INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS CALENDAR APRIL-JULY 2016

### 25-29 APRIL

Open-ended informal consultative meetings

### 16-20 MAY

*16-17 May*  
Informal hearings with local authorities associations

*18-20 May*  
Informal intergovernmental meetings

Submission  
DRAFT ZERO

### 6-10 JUNE

*6-7 June*  
Informal hearings with stakeholders

*8-10 June*  
Informal intergovernmental meetings

### 29 JUNE-1 JULY

Informal intergovernmental meetings

HABITAT III  
CONFERENCE  
New Urban Agenda  
17-20 OCTOBER

SURABAYA  
PREPCOM3  
25-27 JULY

## KNOWLEDGE

### NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL REPORTS

In the process towards Habitat III, national reports are prepared by Member States to provide evidence-based knowledge on how the Habitat Agenda from 1996 was implemented on a national level. In addition, National Urban Forums are organized around the world with a strengthened focus on Habitat III and debates on country contributions.

As a parallel activity, regional reports prepared by the five UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat, build on the national reports received and integrated by relevant researchers and on the outcomes of expert group meetings.

Prepared by high-level urban experts, coordinated by the Habitat III Secretariat, a global report will build on the outcomes and contents of the national and regional

reports. It will include a comprehensive analysis on the global state of urbanization as well as good practices and tools both at the policy and intervention level.

### ISSUE PAPERS

[The Habitat III Issue Papers](#), prepared by the UN Task Team on Habitat III, are summary documents that address one or more research areas, highlight general findings, and identify research needs on topics related to housing and sustainable urban development.

The Issue Papers provide an in-depth review and analysis of specific issues relevant to the discussions of the Conference, acting as the jump-off point for the work of the Policy Units.

The structure of the Issue Paper is based on the background of each area analysed, key challenges, and recommendations on next steps.



## ISSUE PAPERS AND POLICY UNITS MATRIX

### THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

AREAS	ISSUE PAPERS	POLICY UNITS
<b>1. Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities</b>	1. Inclusive Cities (a.o. Pro-poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing) 2. Migration and Refugees in Urban Areas 3. Safer Cities 4. Urban Culture and Heritage	1. Right to the City and Cities for All 2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework
<b>2. Urban Frameworks</b>	5. Urban Rules and Legislation 6. Urban Governance 7. Municipal Finance	3. National Urban Policies 4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development 5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems
<b>3. Spatial Development</b>	8. Urban and Spatial Planning and Design 9. Urban Land 10. Urban-rural linkages 11. Public Space	6. Urban Spatial Strategies: Land Market and Segregation
<b>4. Urban Economy</b>	12. Local Economic Development 13. Jobs and Livelihoods 14. Informal Sector	7. Urban Economic Development Strategies
<b>5. Urban Ecology and Environment</b>	15. Urban Resilience 16. Urban Ecosystems and Resource Management 17. Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	8. Urban Ecology Resilience
<b>6. Urban Housing and Basic Services</b>	18. Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including energy 19. Transport and Mobility 20. Housing 21. Smart Cities 22. Informal Settlements	9. Urban Services and Technology 10. Housing Policies



## POLICY



### POLICY UNITS

[The Habitat III Policy Units](#) were established to identify challenges to sustainable urbanization, policy priorities and critical issues, in addition to developing action-oriented recommendations for implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The issues and policy recommendations addressed by each Policy Unit serve as technical inputs for the consideration of Member States in the preparation of the New Urban Agenda.

Policy Units are composed of a maximum of 20 experts each, bringing together professional expertise from a variety of fields including academia, government, civil society and other areas, while reflecting regional and international perspectives. Members of Policy Units were appointed by the Secretary-General of the Conference in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

The Policy Units are co-led by two international organizations in collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat.

The outcomes of the Policy Units are presented to the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference as Policy Papers.

## REGIONAL & THEMATIC MEETINGS

Thematic Meeting  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**TEL AVIV**

7 September 2015

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Thematic Meeting  
METROPOLITAN AREAS

**MONTREAL**

6-7 October 2015

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Regional Meeting  
ASIA-PACIFIC

**JAKARTA**

21-22 October 2015

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Thematic Meeting  
INTERMEDIATE CITIES

**CUENCA**

9-11 November 2015

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Thematic Meeting  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & CITIES

**ABU DHABI**

20 January 2016

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Regional Meeting  
AFRICA

**ABUJA**

24-26 February 2016



The Habitat III Regional and Thematic Meetings are high-level events that involve a wide range of participants collaborating to forward priorities to be included in the New Urban Agenda in addition to policy recommendations. These priorities and recommendations are in turn stated in the declarations that result from the Regional and Thematic Meetings and are considered as official inputs to the Habitat III preparatory process.

Habitat III Regional and Thematic meetings are international in their scope, although Regional meetings may address topics based on regional considerations and prioritize regional and geographical participation. In general, Regional Meetings gather recommendations reflecting regional consensus on a specific topic or regarding the New Urban Agenda as a whole. On the other hand, Thematic Meetings are based on specific relevant issues and involve a wide range of participants focusing on priorities and policy recommendations for the New Urban Agenda.



Thematic Meeting  
FINANCING URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
**MEXICO CITY**  
9-11 March 2016

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Regional Meeting  
EUROPE  
**PRAGUE**  
16-18 March 2016

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Thematic Meeting  
PUBLIC SPACES  
**BARCELONA**  
4-5 April 2016

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Thematic Meeting  
INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS  
**PRETORIA**  
7-8 April 2016

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Regional Meeting  
LATIN AMERICA &  
THE CARIBBEAN  
**TOLUCA**  
18-20 April 2016



## URBAN DIALOGUES

The [Habitat III Urban Dialogues](#) are a series of e-discussions occurring within the Habitat III preparatory process, with the aim to gather views from interested players to bring forward new and emerging thinking on urban issues to be considered for inclusion in the New Urban Agenda.

The contributions to the Urban Dialogues serve to integrate all voices within the discussions of the Regional and Thematic Meetings as well as feedback on the zero drafts of the New Urban Agenda during different junctures of the intersessional process leading up to PrepCom3.

The Urban Dialogues are hosted on the [Habitat3.org](#) site, where users can review contributions and provide direct feedback.





# PARTICIPANTS

The Habitat III Conference welcomes the participation and contributions of all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

## MEMBER STATES

The General Assembly, in resolution 67/216, decided that the Habitat III Conference and its Preparatory Committee shall be open to all Member States of the United Nations. Resolution 68/239 further invites Member States to facilitate participatory processes and wide stakeholder participation, including participation of local authorities and their associations, where appropriate, when developing, revising, and implementing national urban policies as part of the preparations for Habitat III.

## UNITED NATIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOs)

Resolution 68/239 requests to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process.

Habitat III is a unique opportunity for the United Nations to meet with governments, mayors, and the full range of urban stakeholders all over the world to discuss the challenge of how cities and towns can become better planned and managed and fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development.

Additionally, the United Nations works as one organization through the UN Task Team on Habitat III as an interagency task force on the preparatory process to the Conference.

## MAJOR GROUPS/STAKEHOLDERS

The General Assembly, in resolution 67/216, encouraged the active participation and effective contributions from all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, major groups as identified in Agenda 21, international financial institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners, at all stages of the preparatory process for the Habitat III Conference itself.

Representatives from major groups interested in participating in the Habitat III Conference and in Preparatory Committee meetings are required to be accredited by the United Nations and to register accordingly.

Organizations that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), or those accredited at the Habitat II Conference, or at the UN Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and whose work is relevant to sustainable urbanization, can participate in the Preparatory Committee meetings and the Habitat III Conference.

You can check your organization's accreditation status with the ECOSOC at [www.esango.un.org/civilsociety](http://www.esango.un.org/civilsociety)

Organizations not in consultative status with the ECOSOC, not accredited at the Habitat II Conference and/or not accredited at the UN summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda had the opportunity to apply for accreditation on the Conference's website ([Habitat3.org](http://Habitat3.org)).



## INCLUSIVE MODALITIES ON STAKEHOLDERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES' PARTICIPATION

The United Nations General Assembly, on its 70th session, adopted the resolution on the 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/70/473) which refers to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III Conference's modalities.

The approved rules of procedure for Habitat III recognise the participation of the representatives of local authorities accredited to the Conference in rule 64, as it happened in Habitat II in 1996. The registration of municipal and other local or regional authorities can be arranged under the auspices of an accredited non-governmental organization or as members of a national delegation through their permanent mission to the United Nations.

In addition, representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders shall be granted admission to all official meetings and access to all official information and documents; the opportunity to present written and oral contributions; to make recommendations; and the chance to organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Habitat III Secretariat.

The resolution also acknowledges **the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities** that will be held back to back with Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, and recognizes their role in sustainable urban development and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Finally, the resolution takes into account the support of the **General Assembly of Partners** for Habitat III in improving stakeholder engagement in the preparatory process.

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PARTNERS

The General Assembly of Partners - or GAP - aims to support stakeholder engagement and contributions to the Conference. It consists of 14 Partner Constituent Groups (PCGs) with members from the United Nations' major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The GAP has three lines of work:

- Fostering engagement in an inclusive dialogue to develop common positions on key principles and thematic areas to be articulated in the New Urban Agenda that build on current campaigns "The Future We Want" and "The City We Need" as well as the future Framework for Post 2015 Development, all while considering inputs provided by the PCGs, Urban Thinkers Campuses, and thematic, regional, and other relevant meetings.
- Proposing a set of actionable recommendations supported by evidence and knowledge, exemplary urban solutions and experiences related to sustainable urbanization generated by practitioners from all backgrounds.
- Advocating for and publicizing the outcomes and collective positions that emerge within GAP to the Habitat III Conference and associated programmes and processes via all available channels.

The GAP's strength comes from the diverse nature and inclusive representation of its members, each bringing specialized experience and knowledge to contribute to the final outcome of the Habitat III Conference: the New Urban Agenda. Therefore, the members of this special alliance are important players in creating new milestones through enriching and shaping the processes related to sustainable urban development.

#### The GAP Partner Constituent Groups (PCGs)

1. Local and Sub-national Authorities
2. Research and Academia
3. Civil Society Organizations
4. Grassroots Organizations
5. Women
6. Parliamentarians
7. Children and Youth
8. Business and Industries
9. Foundations and Philanthropies
10. Professionals
11. Trade Unions and Workers
12. Farmers
13. Indigenous People
14. Media
15. Older Persons

[The GAP welcomes new members and their active participation in PCGs.](#)



# GET-INVOLVED ACTIVITIES

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## URBAN BREAKFASTS

Urban Breakfasts are customarily held by the Habitat III Secretariat, in collaboration with various esteemed partners, every month to reflect on challenges facing sustainable urban development and key priorities to take into account in the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at the Habitat III conference.

As urbanization often follows different paths and trajectories that are dependent on national and regional contexts, the Urban Breakfasts focus on introducing and discussing regional urban perspectives, with the participation of key speakers from national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

For those interested in joining future Urban Breakfasts, please get in touch with [Habitat3Secretariat@un.org](mailto:Habitat3Secretariat@un.org)  
[www.habitat3.org/urbanbreakfast](http://www.habitat3.org/urbanbreakfast)



# URBAN WALKS

The Habitat III Urban Walks, held by the Habitat III Secretariat with various esteemed partners, are a series of organized walks that showcase how the New Urban Agenda can be translated into real change at the city level.

They present an opportunity to initiate discussion on urban planning and the challenges of sustainable urban development by welcoming participants to experience and witness successful planning tools and urban interventions.

Those interested in co-hosting an Urban Walk may send their expression of interest via email to [Habitat3Stakeholders@un.org](mailto:Habitat3Stakeholders@un.org)





Urban Journalism Academy is a pioneering and innovative initiative to train journalists and media professionals who are interested or involved in urban development with reference to social, environmental and economic issues facing cities in the 21st century.

The Academy aims to meet the following objectives:

// To strengthen journalists' and media professionals capacity to analyze the overall process of urbanization by sharing with them substantive knowledge about the main issues of planning and management of cities, as well as by providing them technical expertise in gathering and examining urban data and indicators. A selection of interesting examples of sustainable urban transformation projects will also be presented.

// To make urban development issues and challenges clear and accessible to the general public, beyond the professionals, researchers, and public authorities, bringing the urban debate closer to the average citizen.

// To encourage the media to participate, disseminate, and actively and consciously follow the global discussions towards the New Urban Agenda

For press and media enquiries contact:

Habitat III Secretariat

[habitat3media@un.org](mailto:habitat3media@un.org)

# THE HABITAT III SECRETARIAT

Habitat III has been identified as a key global conference to focus on securing renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcome document, ensuring an innovative and inclusive preparatory process.

In order to fulfil these goals, the Habitat III Secretariat is focused on the coordination and implementation of a knowledge, policy, engagement, and operations strategy towards the Conference and its legacy.

## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Dr. Joan Clos is the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference. He is also the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, at the level of Under-Secretary-General by the United Nations since October 2010.

Born in Barcelona, he is a medical doctor with a distinguished career in public service and diplomacy. He was twice elected mayor of Barcelona, serving two terms from 1997 to 2006. He was Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade of Spain between 2006 and 2008. Prior to joining the United Nations, he served as the Spanish Ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan.

He is a medicine graduate from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), and specialized in Public Health and Epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland).

At the international level Dr. Clos was elected President of Metropolis, the international network of cities, in 1998. Two years later, he was elected President of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLAC). Between 2000 and 2007, he served as the Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA). And between 1997 and 2003, he was a member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

QUITO,  
ECUADOR





Quito, the capital of Ecuador, is situated at 2,800 meters (9,200 feet) above sea level in the province of Pichincha. It is the second largest city in the country after Guayaquil with a population of 2.6 million people, and one of the highest capitals in the world.

Quito has the largest and best preserved historic center in Latin America, and it was the first World Cultural Heritage Site declared by UNESCO in 1978.

One of Quito's main squares, the Plaza San Francisco, is located about 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of the Equator. A monument and a museum known as *La Mitad del Mundo* mark the general location of the Equatorial line.

## THE VENUE

Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana "Benjamín Carrión" (CCE) is the official venue of Habitat III. It is the most important cultural center of the country.

It is located next to Parque del Ejido, in city center, and it is surrounded by many hotels, services, libraries, public spaces and the main public transport network of Quito.

Casa de la Cultura has more than 50,000 square meters which allows to have a consolidated infrastructure for hosting the meetings of the Habitat III Conference. As part of the venue, Parque del Arbolito will also host some services and activities during the conference in an area of over 25,000 square meters.



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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## WHAT IS HABITAT III?

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996, and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization and to focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

United Nations Member States, in resolution 67/216, decided that the objectives of the Conference were to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcome document: the New Urban Agenda. Habitat III is to play an important role in making cities and human settlements equitable, prosperous, just, equal, and safe.

## WHERE AND WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

The Habitat III Conference will take place in the city of Quito, in Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016.

The Conference shall be composed of eight plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level roundtable sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings.

## WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN HABITAT III?

The Conference welcomes the participation and contributions of all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including regional and local government and municipality representatives, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

## WHEN AND WHERE DID PAST CONFERENCES HAPPEN?

The Habitat I Conference was held in 1976 in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June.

Habitat II Conference, popularly called the “City Summit”, took place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3-14 June, 1996.

## WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE HABITAT I?

In Habitat I in 1976, governments began to recognize the need for sustainable human settlements and the consequences of rapid urbanization. Urbanization and its impacts were barely considered by the international community, but the world was starting to witness the greatest and fastest migration of people into cities in history.

To reconfirm the Vancouver commitments, in Habitat II world leaders adopted the Habitat Agenda as a global plan of action for adequate shelter of all. Main Habitat II outcomes were the global consensus on cities as engines of growth, urbanization as an opportunity, the key role of local authorities and the recognition of the participation's power.

Forty years later, there is a wide agreement that the towns and cities structure, form and functionality need to change as societies change. In addition, it is now well understood that slums and the related informal settlements are a spontaneous form of urbanization. In 2010, UN-Habitat reported that more than 827 million people were living in slum-like conditions.

1976

HABITAT I

WORLD URBAN  
POPULATION **37.9%**

1996

HABITAT II

WORLD URBAN  
POPULATION **45.1%**

2016

HABITAT III

WORLD URBAN  
POPULATION  
**54.5%**

## SOME INTERESTING DATA ON CITIES?

**CITIES** today occupy approximately  
only **2%** of the total land, however:

ECONOMY (GDP) **70%**  
GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION OVER **60%**  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS **70%**  
GLOBAL WASTE **70%**

WHERE CAN I GET MORE  
INFORMATION AND ALL  
UPDATES ON HABITAT III?

For further information, you can visit  
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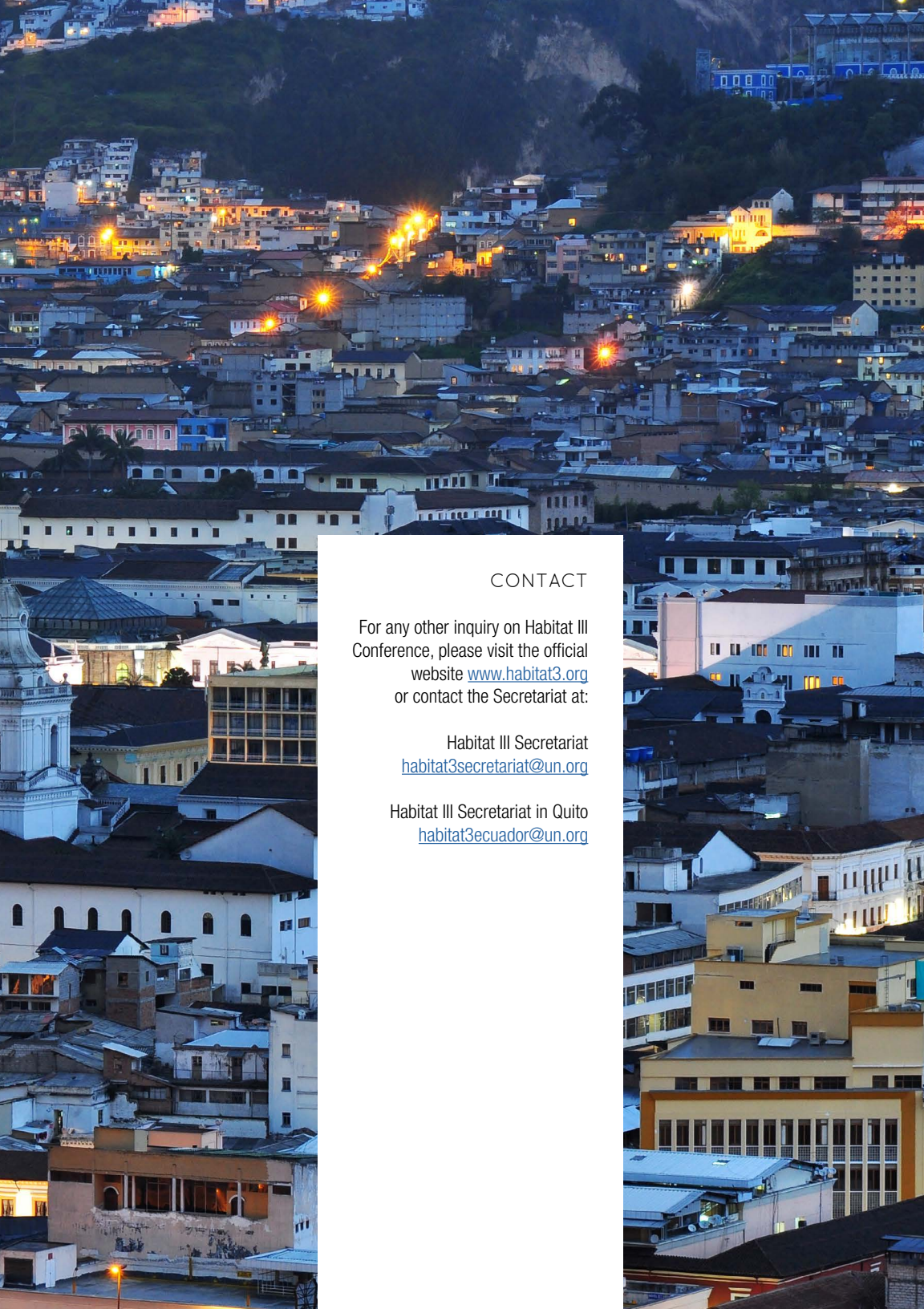
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