

ISSUE 03

urbanimpact

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





Foreword

I am very pleased to launch the third edition of Urban Impact prior to the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

During the month of July, UN-Habitat participated at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III (PrepCom 3), alongside with member states and other UN agencies. PrepCom 3 was another crucial step towards the finalization of a New Urban Agenda that will guide urbanization for the coming 20 years.

In this edition of the UN-Habitat bi-monthly newsletter you will read about this and about the impact of our activities in the field, conducted in cooperation with partners and donors. In Kenya, we developed the first semi-aerobic sanitary landfill in Africa with experts from Japan in a project financed by the Government of Sweden and the County Government of Kiambu.

In Nepal, we continued supporting the most vulnerable groups affected by the earthquake (women, people with disabilities, children, elderly and marginalized groups) through the

construction of temporary shelters with financial assistance from the Government of Japan. In Somalia, the Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre (MOSYC) project contributed to integrating youth into society, through vocational and life skills training. In cooperation with other UN Agencies, 200,000 citizens in Ghana have benefitted from the Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Systems. And in Vietnam, a group of talented artists spent three weeks creating beautiful murals in the city, illustrating the life and dreams of many Vietnamese people. Enriching public space of cities is investing in the quality of life of citizens.

I hope you enjoy the reading and I look forward to our continued work together to promote a better urban future for all.

Sincerely,

Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director



Supporting Planning for Integrated Refugee & Host Communities

Kalobeyei New Site, Turkana County



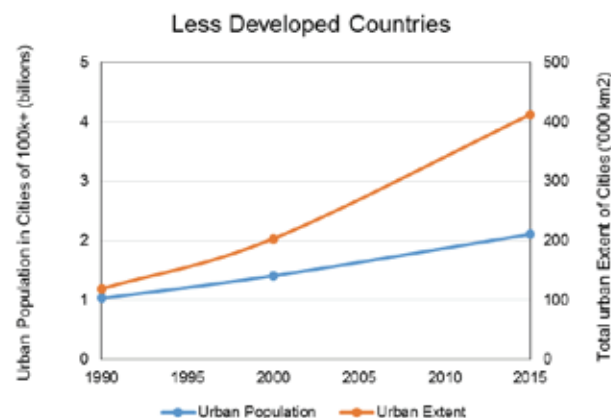
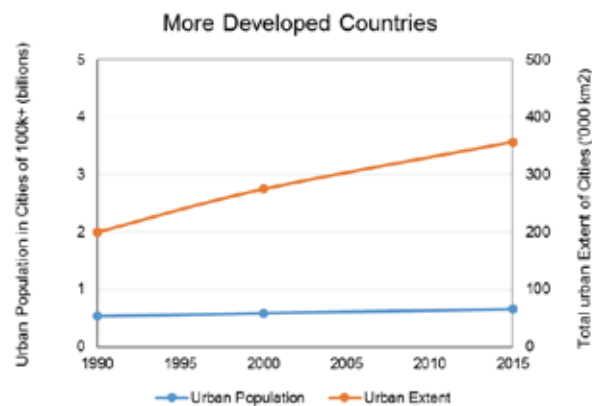
Current patterns of Urban Expansion

A recent UN-Habitat research in partnership with New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy revealed that over the past 25 years, cities grew much more in area than in population, resulting in a decline in density. This study reflects an unprecedented scientific approach to urbanization between 1990 and 2015, reviewing 200 cities that are statistically representative of the world by combining the most sophisticated technology using satellite imagery, with field interviews.

In developed countries, urban land use increased by 80 per cent between 1990 and 2015, more than three times the 23 per cent increase in urban population growth. The trend in developing countries is also similar, as urban land use increased 3.5 times while the urban population doubled.

At the same time, population density has declined at an annual average rate of 2.1 per cent in developing countries and 1.5 per cent in developed countries. In other words, this means density has decreased by 52.5 per cent and 37.5 per cent in developed and developing countries, respectively.

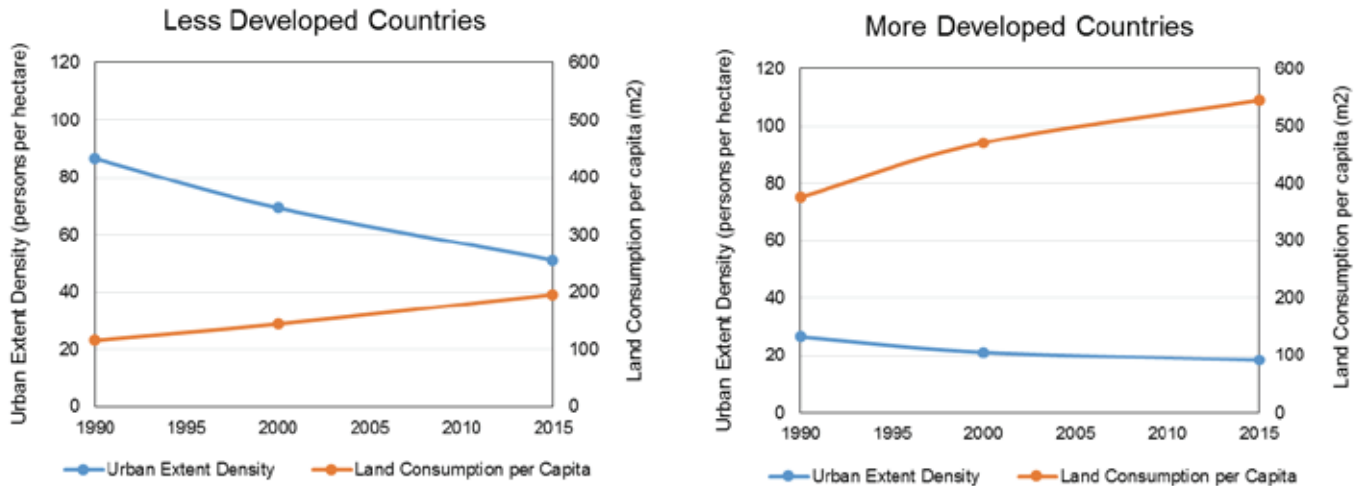
URBAN LAND USE GROW FASTER THAN POPULATION GROWTH



Drivers of Urban Expansion:

- Lifestyle practices
- Spontaneous/informal land occupation with no urban planning
- Low density planning
- Speculation
- Low price/value of land

URBAN LAND USE PER CAPITA INCREASED AT SIMILAR RATES



In both developing and developed countries increase in urban land use has resulted in lower residential densities. On average doubling GDP per capita increases land use at a rate of 1.5%

Urban sprawl and reduced urban density around the world occurred as our lifestyles changed, resulting in suburban growth, poor urban planning, land speculation and spontaneous and informal land occupation worldwide.

Excessive urban expansion and a decrease in density have been a major constraint to good and sustainable urbanization: increased demands on transport infrastructure; higher energy consumption; environmental degradation; an augmentation in the cost of urban services

per capita (water, sanitation and drainage); the increased cost of public space and infrastructure per capita; and decreased productivity, with less economies of agglomeration.

Hopefully we are in time to reverse these unsustainable trends. There are no magical recipes for urbanization but the science and art of urbanization can help us to reduce the current rate of increase of land expansion by half. At UN-Habitat we have identified a strategy that provides a solution through national urban

policies, adequate rules and regulations; good planning and design; a municipal finance plan and planned city extensions. When these strategies are ignored, the urban model will generate more problems than solutions.

Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director





Managing Africa's Municipal Solid Waste the Fukuoka Way:

The Semi-aerobic Sanitary Landfill in Kiambu County, Kenya

The Challenge

In Nairobi, the obsolete waste management infrastructure cannot cope with growing demand for efficient and sustainable solid waste management. Innovative waste management is a potential source of job creation and sustainable urbanization.

Based on its extensive experience in developing waste management solutions for municipalities in Asia, UN-Habitat has developed the first semi-aerobic sanitary landfill in Africa, successfully implementing the Fukuoka Method in Kiambu County in Kenya.

The Intervention

Jointly financed by the Government of Sweden and the County Government of Kiambu, the landfill was established as a pilot project on a one hectare piece of land at the existing dumpsite in Thika town. The County Government of Kiambu purchased a Backhoe and undertook Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the semi-aerobic sanitary landfill, demonstrating its commitment to the project and ensuring

sustainability of the intervention. With experts from Fukuoka City and Fukuoka University providing technical support for construction of the landfill, and the county government sourcing local labour from youth and women who live and work at the dumpsite, construction of the landfill was completed in 10 months, two months ahead of schedule. Overall implementation was coordinated by UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The beneficiary view

Minister for Water, Environment and Natural Resources in the Kiambu County Government, Ms. Esther Njuguna says the county Government has made significant progress in addressing its solid waste management challenges using the Fukuoka Method, thanks to its partnership with UN-Habitat.

"Since the Kiambu Environment Team has been involved in the construction of the landfill, we have learnt a great deal. With the training we have received on semi-aerobic landfill technology, our capacity for efficient waste management has been enhanced significantly, and we would wish to continue with this technology in other urban areas within Kiambu County"

Ms. Njuguna.

Based on its extensive experience in developing waste management solutions for municipalities in Asia, UN-Habitat has developed the first semi-aerobic sanitary landfill in Africa, successfully implementing the Fukuoka Method in Kiambu County in Kenya.





A strategy to ensure sustainable transfer of the technology being piloted for the landfill is being formulated by UN-Habitat, in partnership with the County Government of Kiambu, the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Fukuoka University and other Fukuoka partners.

The impact

The solid waste management system which includes recycling, composting and land-filling will have a huge impact on waste management in Kiambu County. Given its proximity to Nairobi, Kiambu has to handle much of the garbage generated by the city. With 60 percent of its population living in urban areas, rapid urbanization further compounds Kiambu's challenge of solid waste management. While the Thika landfill could serve the whole county, recycling plants will need to be established in three other locations outside Thika town.

Ensuring sustainability

A strategy to ensure sustainable transfer of the technology being piloted for the landfill is being formulated by UN-Habitat, in partnership with the County Government of Kiambu, the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Fukuoka University and other Fukuoka partners. This will provide the infrastructure for training engineers, managers, policy makers and county workers in the construction, operation and maintenance of semi-aerobic sanitary landfills.





...young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth, gnawing hunger and shameful food waste, rich natural resources and polluting industries.

The Mogadishu One Stop Youth Centre

Enhancing Youth Participation in Peace, Local Governance and Development

The challenge

Announcing the formation of an Advisory Group of Experts for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon noted that “young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth, gnawing hunger and shameful food waste, rich natural resources and polluting industries.”

UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), the first such measure to recognize the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, mandated the Secretary General to “to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels.” In Somalia, a country where 7 out of 10 people are youth under the age of 30 who have known nothing but war and conflict all their lives, recognizing their crucial role in sustaining peace and fostering development is a matter of national importance.

The intervention

The Mogadishu One Stop Youth Centre (MOSYC) is an inclusive, youth driven initiative accessible to youth all across Mogadishu. Operated in close partnership with the local Banadir Regional Youth

Association (BARYA), the UN-Habitat project aims at integrating youth across Mogadishu into governance, development, peace building, and human rights initiatives by various stakeholders.

The MOSYC partners with the BARYA in equipping youth to participate actively in local governance and development initiatives by providing them with vocational and life skills training and by assisting them in identifying suitable employment and other income generating activities.

A Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was established to manage the Centre. Comprised of active youth across the city, the YAC is responsible for day-to-day administration of the Centre and plays a significant role in identifying development programmes to be undertaken by the centre. A Charter drafted and endorsed by the youth is an essential guiding tool in managing the Centre successfully.

The beneficiary view

“The MOSYC Centre is a symbol of hope that offers us a physical space we can tailor to meet our needs. Youth in Mogadishu want a Centre that connects all youth in Somalia; a centre that promotes youth advocacy programs, trains youth on how to be economically, socially and politically empowered, and most importantly, a youth friendly centre that is safe, peaceful and offers equal opportunities for both young men and women,”

Cabdi Kaafi Mahamuud Makaraan,
one of the youth at the centre.

The impact

“Vocational and life skills training offered at the Centre enhance our capacity to find meaningful employment, thereby empowering us economically. UN-Habitat has provided us with training on leadership and good governance, which helps youth across Mogadishu to strengthen their understanding of the essential components of good governance. This is useful in strengthening our capacity to effectively manage the centre, enables us to participate meaningfully in local governance and development activities, and also gives us the confidence to hold our political leaders accountable in how they manage our nation,”

Qadro Aadan, another youth beneficiary of the project.

Youth in Mogadishu are well on their way to establishing a thriving centre that challenges them to succeed by exploiting the opportunities available, moves them from the fringes of society, and positions them as beacons of hope in their communities.





Providing Humanitarian Relief and Temporary Shelter for Earthquake Victims in Nepal

In natural disasters, the most vulnerable groups are typically women, people with disabilities, the elderly, children and marginalized groups. The massive earthquake suffered by Nepal on 25 April 2015 and its aftershocks affected nearly one third of the entire population.

With financial support from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat joined hands with the Government of Nepal, as well as local and international organisations to provide humanitarian relief and construct temporary shelters for those most affected in five of the worst hit settlements. This was welcome relief for some 2,200 of the most vulnerable households faced with the prospect of sleeping in the open in the bitter winter cold and monsoon rains.

Tapping into UN-Habitat's substantive experience and network in the region to link emergency assistance with people - centred recovery efforts, interventions in the five settlements were implemented through local organizations which reached out to community representatives and grass - root organizations including women cooperatives of urban poor and Dalit (people from discriminated casts) communities.

This link was critical for fair and transparent identification of the most vulnerable and needy families. Communities were then organized to construct temporary shelters for those identified. With technical assistance provided by UN-Habitat and its partners, community groups and representatives of local government collaborated in mapping out the most needy and vulnerable

families. The maps were printed and openly displayed in public areas within each community for greater transparency.

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The financial assistance offered enabled those affected to supplement whatever building material they had salvaged from the disaster and pay for skilled labour particularly for roofing. The grant was disbursed either in the form of construction materials or cash paid out directly to the artisans as construction work progressed. Supervisors from UN-Habitat and partner organizations supervised the work for quality control, to ensure constant progress, and to encourage communities to complete their projects.

In urban communities, rental assistance was provided to displaced and extremely poor households. Community Information Centres were set up in the targeted areas to provide initial training on safe building standards.

District Disaster Relief Committees note that with the quality of work done under this project earthquake victims are assured of temporary shelters with rigid roofs even as they wait in hope for more permanent houses to be provided for them in the ongoing reconstruction process.

Dil Bahadur Mijar

Sipapokhari, Sindhupalchowk

Born into a marginalized family, Dil Bahadur and his wife Srijana Mijar have four daughters and a son. For several months after losing their house to the earthquake, the big family had to share a makeshift tent with their cattle. Situated on terraced slopes, the tent was battered by fierce winds.

“The tarpaulin of our tent would be blown away regularly. We lost our food reserves in the disaster, and for several months we struggled to have proper meals. The shelter that we now have is spacious and our family now lives with more comfort and dignity. I am now able to focus on selling buffalo skin in the marketplace to feed the family.”

... community groups and representatives of local government collaborated in mapping out the most needy and vulnerable families. The maps were printed and openly displayed in public areas within each community for greater transparency.



Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Systems in Northern Ghana Benefit More than 265 Flood-prone Communities

The challenge

Flooding disasters and the lack of resilient water and sanitation systems have a severe impact on the living conditions for vulnerable communities of northern Ghana. The 3 northern regions of Ghana, which make up about 40 percent of the total area of Ghana, experience perennial flooding resulting in the contamination of water supply systems, deterioration in sanitation and hygiene practices, and the spread of waterborne diseases. The resilience of communities and their capacity to recover from disasters have remained weak as they often have to rebuild from scratch following each flooding episode. As most of these communities do not have proper water and sanitation facilities, open defecation exacerbates the situation, with little attention paid to proper hygiene practises.

The Initiative

A consortium of four UN Agencies have received USD 17.3 million from the Government of Canada for provision of flood resilient water and sanitation facilities to the flood prone communities in Northern Ghana, with UN-Habitat as the convening agency, through its Urban Basic Services Branch. The program targets 24 districts in the 3 regions and will cover 265 communities, with a total of 200,000 people, including 50,000 children benefiting. The provision of resilient water facilities and the eradication of open defecation through community led total sanitation (CLTS) are on-going both at the community level and in schools where institutional sanitation facilities are being constructed. To strengthen planning and disaster preparedness systems, the delivery of resilient water and sanitation facilities is complemented by capacity building programmes at the regional, district and community levels.

The outcomes

After two years of implementation, the Programme is on track to provide access to resilient water and sanitation systems for over 200,000 beneficiaries.

The positive programme impact was validated through an early impact assessment carried out in April 2016 to capture and evaluate the extent to which the programme is impacting the lives of beneficiaries. A participatory community approach was used for data collection.

The assessment indicates that 60 percent of the targeted communities have access to flood resilient water facilities and residents are walking less than 500 meters to access water, compared to only 13 percent before the intervention. The availability of water and the hygiene promotion activities have led to improved hygiene practices, such as handwashing with soap and bathing on a daily basis, which are being practiced in all the beneficiary communities.





The provision of resilient water facilities and the eradication of open defecation through community led total sanitation (CLTS) are on-going both at the community level and in schools where institutional sanitation facilities are being constructed.

The impact

Dorothy Musa, a resident of Kandanyiri community, Dafiamma Bussie district says, “We used to walk more than 5 kilometres to fetch water from a hand dug well. We could stay there the whole day and sometimes come back with no water. We had no toilets. Many people left the community to settle in other areas. People did not like to be associated with us because there was no water to for drinking and cooking leave alone bathing. We now walk very short distances and are able to fetch water in less than 10 minutes. We have already built 5 toilets and construction is on-going. People who had left the community are coming back and we are very happy.”

Waterborne diseases have been eradicated in 53 percent of the target communities compared to 7 percent before the intervention. Open defecation free status has been achieved in 40 percent of the communities compared to 0 percent prior to the intervention.

“Before this water came, we used to get sick frequently from diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid because we were using river water. We didn’t have toilets; how can you think of building a toilet when you are struggling to find water to drink? Majority of people in this community are Muslims but there was no mosque. Since we got water, we don’t experience any more diseases, all households have built toilets and we have even built a mosque” says Alhassan Noor, a resident of kandia community, Sisala west district.

Punctuality for school going children has also improved to highly satisfactory, according to teachers, from 13 percent before the intervention to 73 percent after intervention.



“Before this water came, we used to get sick frequently from diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid because we were using river water. We didn’t have toilets; how can you think of building a toilet when you are struggling to find water to drink?”



Using Community Art to Improve Living Spaces: Vietnam's First Mural Village Promotes Local Tourism

The Initiative

Not too long ago, the Trung Thanh commune in Tam Ky City was just another of the thousands of fishing villages in Vietnam with old houses which appear to wilt in the summer heat. But now, the village atmosphere has been transformed and fishing families are preparing for an influx of tourists. As part of a joint project between the Korea Foundation, UN-Habitat Vietnam, and Tam Ky City, some 70 murals painted by South Korean artists have given Trung Thanh a face lift. A unique art project has seen the creation of Vietnam's first mural village. Community art, including public community art, help beautify living spaces in the community with the beneficiaries participating in renovating their living environment.

"In order to improve living spaces for locals and hopefully contribute to development of community tourism in Tam Thanh village, we connected with Korea Foundation to implement the community art project and link with Ha Thanh beach to make Tam Ky a tourist destination," says Mr. Nguyen Minh Nam – Vice Chairman of Tam Ky City People's Committee.

The Partnerships

With the support of local youth and volunteers from different universities in Vietnam, a group of talented artists spent three weeks in June creating beautiful murals illustrating the life and dreams of local people. Subjects included realistic portraits of a fisherman in his boat on the sea, touching paintings of a poor family, and the colourful face of a hairdresser. There are also images of hardworking women at a fish market and more light-hearted cartoon characters.

"I am happy to be a part of this exchange project. When I first came here, my impression was that local people are very friendly. They have helped us very much. My painting is a mermaid – it is a beautiful and lovely image. I want to share it with the villagers, especially the children. I want to deliver a message that the sea is an important part of the lives of the people in Tam Thanh village. I hope that people will protect the sea and environment," says Oh Ye-seul, a 25 year old Korean artist who has participated in several village mural projects in South Korea.

The beneficiary view

Le Ngoc Ty, Vice Chairman of Tam Thanh commune says "Since the mural village project began, local people have demonstrated a dramatic increase in environmental awareness and are keen to do their bit to protect the environment. They have also taken responsibility for maintenance of the murals which have helped change people's lives. More tourists now know about this village and the number of visitors is increasing, which creates opportunities for locals to develop community tourism and earn extra income.

Bui Thi Ba, who sells sugar cane juice says "I feel so proud because the village now looks so beautiful and people from everywhere know about our beloved village. I sell more sugar cane juice because there are more tourists, and I've frozen the price in July."

The impact

To promote sustainable tourism, the city government has collaborated with the Tam Thanh commune to organise community tourism training to help locals understand the value of developing sustainable tourism and enhance their capacity in hospitality. The response has been positive from tourists who are full of praise for the villagers for their friendliness and the affordable services offered.

The community art project has brought new vitality and a jubilant atmosphere to the village. Trung Thanh Village's new look will hopefully boost local tourism in the long term, improve the quality of life for the villagers and create a stable platform for sustainable development in Tam Ky.

Please follow this link <https://youtu.be/kWd7X6t9Qbw> to view a video clip on the Vietnam mural village.

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Surabaya PrepCom Lays Ground for Quito

The third session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) - PrepCom3 – was held in Surabaya, Indonesia from 25-27 July 2016.

PrepCom 3 was the last of three preparatory meetings convened to lay the groundwork for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development which takes place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October 2016. At Quito, UN Habitat hopes to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urbanization in the form of a New Urban Agenda (NUA).

In 27 parallel events and 39 side events, United Nations member states, representatives from intergovernmental organisations and local and regional governments, and stakeholders discussed a new model of urban development that integrates all facets of sustainable development in order to promote equity, welfare, and shared prosperity.

During the Welcoming Ceremony, His Excellency Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, sent out a strong call for people-centred cities: *“There are three important things to be highlighted in relation to cities. They are people, people, and people. We are now living in an urbanized world where 54 percent of the global live in cities. Cities are made for people and by people. This is the place for us. We grow up in cities. We meet each other in cities, and cities happened because of us.”*

The Vice President graced the UN-Habitat exhibition with his presence and expressed appreciation for both the information and knowledge shared. The exhibition featured a timeline showing the growth of urban areas over the past 20 years and UN-Habitat’s corresponding evolution and interventions in response to a rapidly urbanizing world. The impact of the Agency’s growing development and humanitarian field portfolio also featured as a key aspect of efforts to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the critical components of the proposed NUA, as well as UN-Habitat’s mandate and on-going contribution to the sustainable development agenda.

Among critical engagements by UN-Habitat were the following:

- Presentation of regional reports on sustainable urbanization by UN-Habitat Regional Directors in partnership with United Nations Regional Commissions.
- Several side events where partners, governments, civil society, and the private sector shared results and impacts of the work done in partnership with UN-Habitat at the normative and operational levels.
- The Steering Committee of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) convened for its 15th meeting in Surabaya. Addressing the committee, UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos shared his vision on the important role of the WUC in the post-Habitat III era. The Steering Committee reiterated the importance of the WUC as a

critical partners’ platform for the continued campaign for sustainable urbanization by increasing awareness about, and identifying solutions to challenges of implementing the New Urban Agenda.

- Participation in the discussions on the New Urban Agenda by Local Authorities.

Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister of Public Works and Housing of the Republic of Indonesia, highlighted the importance of including a wide range of stakeholders in the process, saying that the government will no longer be the only institution in charge of the development of urban areas and settlements. He cited how there has been a global shift of government’s role from being a top-down regulator into being a facilitator of the development for all stakeholders, including communities and the private sector.

“We thank the city of Surabaya and the country of Indonesia for their great hospitality and a magnificent welcoming ceremony,” said Dr. Joan Clos, Secretary General of the Habitat III Conference. “The spirit of mutual cooperation with the local government of Surabaya, its Mayor Ms. Tri Rismaharini, and with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, headed by Minister Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, provided a solid foundation for the intense work done here. All governments and stakeholders involved in the Habitat III process will work intensively in the next months to secure a successful adoption of the New Urban Agenda in October. I am looking forward to meeting you all in Quito!”

Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director





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