



World Cities Day

October 31

BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

Inclusive Cities, Shared Development

QUITO, ECUADOR 2016





WORLD CITIES DAY REPORT 2016



Hear
the city.



Future
Cities

Meet
the people.



Feel
the energy.

INTRODUCTION

World Cities Day was established on 27 December 2013 by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/68/239, in which the General Assembly **“decides to designate 31 October, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, invites States, the United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of the Day.”**

The aim of this day is to attract the international community's attention to urbanization as a central issue for development and to encourage cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges towards sustainable urban development.

The Global Observance of World Cities Day on every 31 of October, hosted by a different city each year, while regional, national and city level events will be held by various cities and towns globally to commemorate the day.

The general theme of World Cities Day is **Better City, Better Life**, while a special theme is chosen each year to celebrate different topics covering urban issues.

World Cities Day 2016 was of great significance to UN-Habitat, having taken place a few days after the Habitat III Conference. It was the first UN-Habitat event organized under the tag 'Together beyond Habitat III', celebrating the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, and setting the pace for global advocacy for the implementation of the Agenda.

World Cities Day 2016 was celebrated under the theme **Inclusive Cities, Shared Development**.



THE THEME FOR 2016: INCLUSIVE CITIES, SHARED DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations selected the theme Inclusive Cities, Shared Development to highlight the important role of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion.

Urbanization provides the potential for new forms of social inclusion, including greater equality, access to services and new opportunities, and engagement and mobilization that reflects the diversity of cities, countries and the globe.

Yet too often this is not the shape of urban development. Inequality and exclusion abound, often at rates greater than the national average, at the expense of sustainable development that delivers for all.

Inequalities in cities have grown since 1980. The world largest cities are also often the most unequal. However, big inequalities are found in small cities in Africa and Latin America.

Economic inequality is closely linked with gender inequality and spatial inequality, leading to the exclusion and often criminalization of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as slum dwellers, migrant workers, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and minority groups.

Evidence shows that urbanization can represent enormous opportunities for sustainable development, and it can lead to a more harmonious and inclusive society.

This year's theme is embraced by the action and implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which is putting the topic of inclusive cities as one of the main pillars for the urban shift.

Extracted from the Habitat III Issue Paper on Inclusive Cities (a.o. Pro Poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing), prepared by the UN Task Team on Habitat III. www.habitat3.org



GLOBAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD CITIES DAY 2016 IN QUITO, ECUADOR

The Global Observance of World Cities Day 2016 was on 31 October at the City Museum in Quito, Ecuador. The event was hosted by UN-Habitat, the City of Quito and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government. The opening ceremony was graced by Mr. Bai Tinghui the Director of Shanghai Water Authority, Mr. Mauricio Rodas Espinel the Mayor of Quito and Mr. Kumaresh Misra the Deputy Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference.

Following the Opening Ceremony, a technical session dubbed the Urban Talk was held featuring three key note experts on the theme of World Cities Day, **Inclusive Cities, Shared Development**. The experts included Mr. Zhang Bing the Chief

Planner, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Mr. Julio Echeverría the Director of City Institute Quito and Mr. David Gerard Gouverneur Malakoff the Associate Professor of Practice, Penn Design Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

The Urban Talk session was followed by the official opening of the World Cities Day Exhibition at the Quito City Museum. The Exhibition featured a presentation of the New Urban Agenda, previous World Cities Day celebrations and the 2016 Edition of the Shanghai Manual, *a guide for sustainable urban development in the 21st century*.

WORLD CITIES DAY AND URBAN OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

More than 100 World Cities Day and World Habitat Day activities were organized by partners in 47 countries around the world during Urban October 2016. Here is a summary of the events and activities;

Angola

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development organized a World Habitat Day conference at the Faculty of Architecture, University Agostinho Neto in Luanda. The conference gathered stakeholders in the National Urban Agenda for reflection and debate on the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, which was associated with the National Programme of Urbanisation and Housing. The event had a participation of 200 people.

Australia

The School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management (GPEM), The University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane hosted its fourth annual photography competition to celebrate World Habitat Day 2016 and held an exhibition from 30 September 2016 to 31 October 2016. This event aimed to increase collective awareness of the human habitat and encourage greater responsibility for its sustainable future. Additionally, the School of GPEM encouraged public participation in World Habitat Day through their networks.

Habitat for Humanity Australia's 'Home' photography exhibition ran from 5 October 2016 to December 2016 at Customs House, Sydney. 'Home' aimed to raise awareness of the need for safe and decent housing around the world by showcasing the impact a secure home provides.

Urban Synergies Group organized Urban Talks- Emerging Issues from Grassroots to International on 29 November 2016 in Canberra. The event was under the topic Reflections on the New Urban Agenda. The event invited people to participate in an engaging debate on the New Urban Agenda with the Founder of Urban Synergies Group Mr. Gregor H. Mews who shared the outcomes of Habitat III, his experience, reflecting on the opportunities for implementation of this global agenda on grassroots and professional level. The Urban Synergies Group also launched their booklet on 'Right to the City'.

Albania

The National Housing Agency of Albania ran a 'Housing for All' campaign on the role of Housing Associations from South to North Europe on 5 October 2016 in the city of Tirana. On this occasion, as well as in the framework of the Housing Europe (HE) 'Housing for All' campaign and following the outcomes of the joint UNECE and HE capacity building conference, the event gathered together housing providers from South to North of Europe to discuss the role of Housing Organizations vis-à-vis the 'Housing for All' campaign.

Armenia

United World Colleges (UWC) Dilijan College organized a presentation on 'Urban Stories' by Mr. Nadim Karam, a multidisciplinary Lebanese artist, sculptor and architect. Nadim was commissioned to create a sculpture for Lover's Park in Yerevan and give a talk about his working practice and the social engagement aspect of public art projects as well as the need for creativity coming from the Middle East. He has authored large-scale urban art installations for cities across the globe and has participated in international events such as the Liverpool, Venice, and Gwangju biennales.

Bahrain

Commenting on the theme of World Habitat Day 2016 *Housing at the Centre*, the Minister for **Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning** affirmed that through the National Strategic Master Plan for Bahrain, the Ministry had provided the necessary areas to meet the citizens' various development needs, especially the need for decent housing. He stated that the government had launched development policies and programmes promoting sustainable urban development across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh through its Ministry of Housing and Public Works held the national World Habitat Day celebrations on 3 October at the Osmani Auditorium in Dhaka. Celebrations were held in three sessions: The first included a public rally, an inaugural ceremony where messages of the UN Secretary-General on the Day were read, followed by presentations through showing four videos on the theme of World Habitat Day Housing at the Centre.

This session was followed by a seminar chaired by Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufique the Director of Urban Development Directorate. The event was graced by Eng. Mosharraf Hossain the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mr. Md. Shaïd Ullah Khondaker the Secretary for the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, and Professor Nazrul Islam the Chairman of the Center for Urban Studies. This session was followed by an afternoon session dubbed Urban Session organized in collaboration with Habitat III.

During this session the Bangladesh Country Paper on Habitat III was presented, as well as four other papers including

- (i) Inclusion of Low Cost Housing in the Urban Housing Delivery presented by Ms. Salma Shafi;
- (ii) Construction Trend of Multi Storied Building in old Dhaka: Exploring Neighborhood Change in Sheikh Shaheb Bazar presented by Dr. Maksudur Rhaman & Razia Khatun
- (iii) Uttara Model Town Project: An analysis of Housing Provisions for Low Income People presented by Dr. Afsana Haque and Mahfuza Akhtar and
- (iv) Future of Dhaka and Urban policy presented by Eng. Sardar Md. Amin.

The presentations were followed by open discussions on the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Habitat Day celebrations were led by the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Eng. Mosharraf Hossain and saw representation by the United Nations, Academia, Private and Government institutions. More than 500 participants took part in the events.

WakaWaka, a company that creates solar products, used the occasion of World Habitat Day to highlight their work of distributing WakaWakas to their partner, Habitat for Humanity's projects in Bangladesh, Malawi, and Zambia. In Bangladesh, participants also received training in sanitary habits.

Belgium

Habitat III in partnership with the city of Brussels and the United Nations Regional Information Centre, hosted an Urban Breakfast at City Hall, Grand Place, Brussels on 6 October 2016. The event was organized under the title the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and the New Urban Agenda. Attendants received a warm welcome from the Mayor of Brussels, Mr. Yvan Mayeur, who spoke of the need for social inclusion in the fight against climate change. Architect, Mr. Luc Schuiten gave an impressive presentation on the way he believes cities should employ natural materials that embody the ecosystems around us and utilise living products to become more sustainable and resilient.

Moderated by Ms. Caroline Petit, Deputy Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre, the Breakfast hosted a panel discussion: Mr. Kumaresh Misra, Deputy Secretary General of Habitat III, talked about the compelling nature of the New Urban Agenda in viewing urbanisation as an opportunity for economic development that can bring prosperity and accommodate expectations of income, safety, and a better future by working together. Furthermore, Mathieu Fichter, Cabinet DG Regio of the European Commission, emphasised the importance of interconnectivity and learning from each other, as the challenges to cities are not static and can only be overcome by working together, while the inclusion of communities and understanding the concerns for urbanisation by the younger generation was highlighted by Mr Ahmed El Ktibi, Deputy Mayor of Brussels.

The Brussels Conference was held on 4-5 October bringing together more than one hundred countries and international organizations who gathered to renew their partnership with Afghanistan. Building on the commitments made at the 2012 Tokyo Conference and 2014 London Conference, the international community recommitted to providing substantial financial support to Afghanistan as it moves toward self-reliance during its Transformation Decade (2015-2024). The Brussels Conference opened with side events on women's empowerment and regional economic cooperation. The first event brought together high-level representatives of the Afghan government, Afghan civil society, and international community, including the First Lady of Afghanistan, Rula Ghani, and USAID Administrator Gayle Smith. This event reinforced the importance of women's rights to the country's overall development, and discussed how to further improve the situation of Afghan women and girls. At the second event, representatives of the Afghan private sector, their regional partners, and donors discussed ways to mobilize

support for regional infrastructure projects and promote regional trade and development. The main event on October 5 featured remarks by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, European Council President Donald Tusk, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Representatives of Afghan civil society also addressed the conference, reminding everyone of the Afghan government and its partners' ultimate accountability to the Afghan people. Donors pledged a total of \$15.2 billion over the next four years to support Afghanistan's development priorities and its long-term goal of achieving self-reliance by 2025. For its part, the United States pledged to maintain civilian assistance to Afghanistan at or very near current levels through 2020.

Brazil

Abrapark & IPI International Parking Conference showcased the newest tools, advanced technologies, sustainable solutions, and leading experts in parking and transportation on 4-5 October 2016. This was held at the Expo Center Norte in Sao Paulo. The conference tapped into innovations that are revolutionizing parking and contributing to a new vision for smart cities. It served as an opportunity for anyone with an interest in parking, transportation, government, and development in Latin America. Attendees immersed themselves in new approaches to parking that boost revenue, reduce traffic, and create more livable cities. Suppliers introduced innovative new parking products and services to a receptive market. Leading parking and transportation experts provided practical solutions and real-world examples of how parking can better integrate with existing modes of transportation.

Grupo de Pesquisa Cidade e Espaço Urbano celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2016 through a walk through the center of Campos dos Goytacazes at night. The event was to discuss the abandonment of the central areas, the revitalization project of the historic center, as well as the solidification of its image as the place of insecurity and fear. The walk begun at the S.Salvador Square.

Humanidades organized the first Viva Roosevelt Festival , Viva Rooa, is an event made by and for the community - residents, business, artists - to celebrate the union, dialogue and democratic at Franklin Roosevelt Square, central region of Sao Paulo. With a diverse and entertaining programming, occupy the Martin Prado Street (Street Roosevelt Square), on 2 November 2016 with the street open to the public with activities on the street. Vira Rooa entails creative, playful and affectionate artistic and cultural expressions. The event was inspired by the

October Urban, World Habitat Day and World Cities Day which seek to create public spaces that encourage interaction between people.

Botswana

The Government of Botswana celebrated World Habitat Day in Gumare Village in North West district on 3 October under the theme Housing at the Centre. The celebrations begun with a Health Walk, followed by an exhibition of products and services by Government Departments and Ministries, Parastatals, Private Sector companies, and entertainment in the form of traditional dance, poetry and drama. More activities included presentation of prizes to the 2016 World Habitat Day Competition Winners. The Guest Speaker at this event was the Minister of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services, Honorable Prince Maele. Other key speakers were the beneficiaries of the Self-Help Housing Agency (SHHA) Loans and Turnkey Development Scheme Mr. John Marenga and Ms. Gosego Ramojadife. Approximately 250 people attended the event.

Habitat III in partnership with the Government of Botswana held an Urban Breakfast on 7th October in Gaborone. The event was held under the title *Towards a New Urban Agenda- Inclusive Housing Solutions*. More than 90 participants attended the event, with representation from the National Government, the UN System, Private sector and youth.

Cambodia

Cambodia Urban Art paid tributes to urban artists with exceptional pieces in their country. The events were held on 6 and 18 October 2016.

Cameroon

The Commonwealth Cavypha-Commonwealth Women's Network held an Urban October event on 28 October 2016. The highlights of the event was the presentation of existing government policies on how the election and appointment of local authorities can promote smart resilient cities, social housing and infrastructure programmes, towards addressing the needs of the population. Experts educated participants on how to participate in protecting the environment while collaborating with governments, private sector, civil society organizations among others to build a better city, where everyone follow rules and regulations on urban policies. The event attracted a participation of approximately 1000 people.

Canada

International Reporting Program of the British Columbia's School of Journalism has revolutionized the way in which global reporting is taught and produced, through a new global partnership to report on urban resilience, with four major universities. All members of the project met remotely on 31 October to discuss the outcomes of Habitat III and to plan for a major reporting endeavor on four continents. The topic of their 2016 project was the future of cities. The school offers a year-long class on urban resilience.

Habitat for Humanity Prince Edward Island invited everyone to free cakes to celebrate World Habitat Day. The event was aimed at communicating the message that all people deserve the opportunity for a better future, and that a decent place to live can remove barriers to opportunity, health and success. The event took place at their ReStore.

Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North joined more than 2,000 affiliate partners around the world to celebrate World Habitat Day by hosting an Open House at their Courtenay and Campbell River Restores. The event kicked off a month-long ReStore Volunteer Recruitment Drive.

Cape Verde

Instituto Nacional de Gestão do Território (INGT) held an Urban talk on the theme of World Cities Day, Inclusive Cities, Shared Development with the participation of the city hall of municipality of São Vicente in the city of Mindelo. The event took place on 31 October 2016. The event was followed by an Urban walk to one of the city's neighborhoods will be heldilha da Madeira, which suffered from the intervention of a local association with painting of artistic facades.

Chad

UN-Habitat in partnership with the Ministry of Territorial Planning, Housing and Urban Development organized the Global Observance of World Habitat Day on 3 October 2016 in N'Djamena, Chad. The event was held under the theme of World Habitat Day 2016 *Housing at the Centre*, and included discussions on Urbanization of Africa and the New Urban Agenda. The event was officiated by Dr. Joan Clos the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Secretary-General of Habitat III, and Mr. David Houdeingar the Minister of Territorial Planning, Housing and Urban Development of Chad.

The Government of Chad held a National Urban Forum from the 26-31 October 2016 in N'Djamena as part of the commemoration of Urban October and celebration of World Cities Day.

China

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China (MOHURD), in collaboration with UN-Habitat and Fujian Provincial Government, held the 2016 World Cities Day Forum in Xiamen, China, on 31 October. The National Observance of World Cities Day focus on the theme Inclusive Cities, Shared Development, with a focus on global Sustainable Urban Development, the creation of livable cities, and China's cooperation with countries along or related to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road in the field of urban development. During the event, the Xiamen Initiative on Urban Development was adopted. The event was presided over by the Deputy Minister of MOHURD and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kyacira. Other invited guests included representatives of urban development authorities in China and around the world, city leaders and experts, particularly from countries along Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Shanghai Housing and Urban-Rural Construction and Management Committee and the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Planning and Land Resources hosted the 2016 World Cities Day-Shanghai Forum from 31 October to 1 November 2016 at the Shanghai Design Centre. The Forum was held under the theme Urban Culture and Quality City. This was one of the ten World Cities Day activities and events organized in Shanghai during Urban October 2016.

Walk21 Hong Kong, the 17th annual Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities, was held for the first time in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 3-7 October 2016. Walk21 Hong Kong is an international conference co-sponsored by Walk21 - a global leader in championing walking, and Civic Exchange - a renowned Asian public policy Think Tank. Hong Kong was earmarked as leading the charge to become one of Asia's most walkable cities. Participants were given a first-hand experience on how 'pedestrian-first' environments promote economic growth, social inclusion and health and well-being.

Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong joined hands with Baker & McKenzie to organize an Executive Briefing celebrating World Habitat Day on 3 October. The event was organized under the topic Understanding the case of urban slums in Hong Kong.

Among the guests were Mr. Vincent Ng, President of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Mr. Yip Ngai-ming, Professor of City University of Hong Kong and Mr. Tony Chan, the Chief Executive Officer of Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong. The main message of the event urging all sectors of society to work for the elimination of "Urban Slums" in Hong Kong.

Colombia

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) celebrated Urban October on the eve of the UCLG World Congress in Bogota, ahead of the Habitat III conference. It reaffirmed its commitment to the Right to the City for all and called on the international community to harness the New Urban Agenda to support local and regional governments and make it a reality.

Costa Rica

Centro Para la Sostenibilidad Urbana (CPSU) organized a local initiative that invited the Costa Rican population to reflect about how to develop sustainable cities, their role as an active part of the city, and the importance of joining efforts in collectively constructing a better version of our cities. A series

of interventions and activities were co-organized by central government entities, municipalities, civil society organizations and private companies. The Center for Urban Sustainability was one of the organizing partners and was in charge of setting up the monthly agenda, and organizing or co-organizing activities such as: Documentary screenings, Urban rallies, an Urban Cycling Sunday, a lecture on City Sanitation, City Drinks, a Multi-Modal tour, and a Metropolitan Solutions Conference.

Ecuador

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, the Shanghai Municipality People's Government in collaboration with **UN-Habitat** set up a six day World Cities Day Exhibition. The Exhibition run from 15-20 October and was part of the Habitat III exhibitions in Quito, Ecuador.

Corporación Gestión Sostenible in Guayaquil celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2016. The objective of the event was to bring together the main actors of the city interested in urban issues, to reflect on the importance of planning and managing cities, focusing on Sustainable Urban Development.



The French Urban Planning Agencies Network (FNAU) officially announced 17 October 2016 as the date to launch a 'global network of metropolitan planning agencies' dedicated to sustainable urban development, as part of the Habitat III conference in Ecuador. As a result of several months of reflection led by the federation, the Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme Île-de-France (IAU-IDF) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the network provides several objectives namely: 1) Facilitate exchanges between the agencies and allow sharing experiences, 2) Develop peer co-operations peer support and 3) The creation of urban locations worldwide.

Proaño y Asociados, a private sector company in Quito celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2016 in an event to re-educate citizens in ethical and moral values to restore social peace, and make any urban plan sustainable in the future.

UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Ecuador and Shanghai Municipal People's Government hosted *The World Cities Day Theme Forum* on 18 October 2016. The Forum, a Networking Event of the Habitat III Conference took place from at Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana in Quito, Ecuador. The Event had three main segments: A High-Level Segment with presentations from representatives from the four host organizations on World Cities Day and its theme Inclusive Cities, Shared Development ; the Launch of Shanghai Manual 2016 followed by an Experts Dialogue on the Manual; and a Substantive Discussion Session featuring speakers from select associations and academia.

UN-Habitat, the City of Quito and Shanghai Municipal People's Government held a 10-day World Cities Day Exhibition at Museo de la Ciudad, Quito, Ecuador. The exhibition run from 21-31 October 2016.

UN-Habitat, the City of Quito and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government hosted the Global Observance of World Cities Day on 31 October 2016 at the historic City Museum in Quito. The event offered an opportunity for both local and international stakeholders to discuss instruments to effectively put into action the New Urban Agenda. After listening the UN Secretary-General message, the session was opened by Mr. Bai Tinghui, Director of Shanghai Water Authority who shared China's best practices on sustainable urbanization and transformative urban development in line with the Quito Declaration principles. The Mayor of Quito, Mauricio Rodas, highlighted the commitment of Quito as the Habitat III hosting-city in being pioneer in implementing the New Urban Agenda with a long term urban plan that will enhance the public transportation, urban security, and city's environment.

Mr. Kumaresh Misra, Deputy Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference pointed that "it is essential to keep the momentum created by the Habitat III Conference and use this to channel resources and support towards an effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. For this reason the World Cities Day and other related initiatives acquire an even more important role to increasingly raise awareness on sustainable urbanization." The opening session was followed by a roundtable session dubbed the Urban Talk on the theme of World Cities Day, Inclusive Cities, Shared Development featuring Mr. Zhang Bing the Chief Planner, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, Mr. Julio Echeverría the Director of City Institute Quito and Mr. David Gerard Gouverneur Malakoff the Associate Professor of Practice, Penn Design Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

Fiji

The President of the Republic of Fiji, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konousi Konrote launched the 2017 calendar 'Amazing Fiji: Wildlife and Wild Places' in commemoration of World Habitat Day on 3 October 2016. The calendar is a celebration of Fiji's unique wildlife and wild places with photographs captured by amateur and professional photographers enthused by and passionate about Fiji. The President reminded those attending the launch, that, in reflection of World Habitat Day and how we can work together to make our homes, villages, towns and cities healthy, safe, just and sustainable, we must also take into consideration the other creatures and landscapes that we coexist with, and sustain us. The Director of Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti Ms. Nunia Moko said that Amazing Fiji was more than a calendar, but an educational tool especially to children, to showcase the amazing wildlife and wild places in Fiji.

France

Every year, the Day of Night event aims to recall the pollution caused by the over-illumination of our nights on the environment, biodiversity and human health. Coordinated by the association **Agir pour l'Environnement** and realized in partnership with 25 organizations and associations, the Day of the Night mobilizes many communities, associations and local structures to raise awareness about the effects and consequences of light pollution. The 8th edition of the Day of the Night was held on 8 October 2016 to highlight local initiatives and practices in favor of reducing light pollution. Implementing a global approach to the impact of artificial lighting in energy reduction considerations must indeed be a priority for local policy makers.

The little brothers of the poor organized the **'Brotherhood of the Flowers'** event on 1 October which was also in commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons. The event was dubbed Say it with flowers. On this occasion, a stand was exhibited throughout the morning market, Place Foch, with volunteers of the House of Elders distributing flowers and sharing a moment of happiness. The afternoon was devoted to nursing homes, where the children's social centers of the city visited the Rockrose, the Olivier Blue, St. Cecilia, Annex Eugenie and the Castelluccio Hospital, offering roses to the elderly.

Centre Européen de Recherche et de Prospective Politique held a high-level debate with local and regional government of the Rhône-Alps and Drôme Regions and local Mayors to commemorate World Cities Day. The topic of the event was engaging local governments and local organization in the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito. The debate was opened to public in Valence and was available on web-streaming.

The Blue Imperial Week took place on 3-9 October in Grossetti City. Activities and events were organized under the theme At any age to society.

The Urban Agenda 9th Concept celebrated 25 years of collective creation in Lille. After the success of the first edition of 'Urban Experiences', the City of Roubaix organized the second edition from 29 September – 2 October 2016. Four days were dedicated to hip hop, street art, urban sports and other 'urban experiences'.

ONG CEREPOL celebrated World Cities Day on 23 November 2016 in Valence. The aim of the event was inventing together the new opportunities of development for cities and local governments with the attended entry into force of the New Urban Agenda. Many local administrators from the South-Est Region were invited to participate this meeting to promote crosscutting issues related to the New Urban Agenda and propose inclusive engagements with populations. The meeting was held to address the main question 'How local authorities and civil society can play important role in interpreting and complementing the urban dimension of the SDGs?'

Germany

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) Research Network on Smart City-Regional Governance for Sustainability held the first conference on Smart City-Regional Governance for Sustainability - Experimental Smartness on 6-7 October 2016 at the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development in Dresden, Germany. The conference focused in particular on 'experimental smartness' with the aim of exploring

practical examples of how 'smartness' is approached by both policy makers and academia. This choice of focus addressed one of the primary aims of the RSA Network - to investigate meaning and practice of 'smartness' in city-regional governance.

India

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and UN-Habitat held the World Habitat Day national event on 3 October 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the theme Housing at the Centre. The event was graced by Mr. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu the Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Mr. Rao Inderjit Singh the Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa the UN-Habitat Regional Director of Asia and Pacific, and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev the UN Resident Coordinator in India. The guests visited the exhibition showcasing India's initiatives in the housing sector, participated in the launch of Habitat III India Report and distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held on the occasion of World Habitat Day. Mr. Fukasawa and Mr. Afanasiev appreciated the efforts taken by Government of India in promoting affordable housing and sustainable urban development. More than 500 people participated in the event.

Amity University Madhya Pradesh organized three events in the city of Gwalior on 3 October 2016 to celebrate World Habitat Day. The events were centered around the theme of WHD Housing at the Centre with the following titles being given to each event: 1) Low cost housing concept presentation 2) Logo designing 3) Model making. The event had 80 participants.

Integral University-Lucknow earmarked 3 October as an important academic event in its academic calendar with a participation of 250 people commemorating World Habitat Day. On this occasion a Seminar on the theme of Built Environment in Changing Cities was organized and presided over by Prof. S. W. Akhtar the Vice Chancellor of the University. The event was attended by the following senior professionals as guests of honour; Mr. M.S. Khan the Chairman of State Environmental Appraisal Committee, Prof. Jagbir Singh the Principal of the Faculty of Architecture, and Mr. D.S. Bhui a Senior Practicing Architect and Urban Designer. In addition to this, there were presentations by the students and faculty members of various architecture colleges of Lucknow, as well as a panel discussion by senior professionals in the field of Architecture, Town Planning and Civil Engineering on the theme of Built Environment in Changing Cities. The event was coordinated by Prof. Subodh Shankar the Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Integral University, Lucknow.

Indian Institute of Management Training (IIMT) College of Engineering organized a World Habitat Day event on 3 October 2016 to provide a platform for students to present their innovative ideas through poster making competition on Smart City and applications of Engineering. The program was organized by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering.

Meenakshi School of Architecture in Chennai organized its 3rd Annual Urban Design Conference on 6 October 2016 under the theme Sustainable Cities. The event featured talks, a panel discussion, video presentations and an exhibition in line with the theme. The event attracted a participation of 300 people.

Indonesia

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing held the World Cities Day celebration on 31 October 2016 in Gedung Auditorium Kementerian. The event which celebrated the theme of World Cities Day Inclusive Cities, Shared Development featured an exhibition was opened by the Minister of Public Works and Housing. The celebration was an opportunity to promote the New Urban Agenda which was presented by Dr. Ir. Lana Winayanti, an Expert Staff to the Minister of Public Works and Housing. The events conducted in the exhibition included a talk show and Q&A session, Socialization for Cities Without Slums (KOTAKU) Program, book launching, and photo exhibition. On this occasion, the winners of the photo competition namely 'Poros Penggerak Pembangunan Perkotaan yang Berkelanjutan' which interprets as 'The Axis of Sustainable Urban Development Driver' were announced. The prizes were presented by Mr. Basoeki Hadimuljono the Minister of Public Works and Housing, and Mr. Syarif Burhanuddin the Directorate General of Housing Provision.

Ireland

The Cork City Council organized a 'life in the city' event to celebrate Urban October. The aim was to promote Urban October as the month which showcases how well designed and managed public spaces have a positive impact on people who live in, visit or work in the city. It also highlights the many groups who are working together to make our city a better place to live and work in. Activities included art exhibitions, food fairs and street music to guided walks, educational seminars and dance lessons. The estimated participation was 5000 people.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The Tehran Municipality organized the Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award for the Top Urban Management Projects on 30 October 2016 in celebration of the World Cities Day. The award was given to the best projects and practices in cities and local communities worldwide. The aim is to value local governments and urban management in order to promote sustainable social and economic development, maintain cities' stability, and advance lives of citizens. It is a comprehensive, scientific, and non-profit plan which professionally concentrates on introducing and supporting the top international urban management projects as well as exchanging the experiences of the civic management. Annually and concurrently with World Cities Day, Tehran Mayor presents the award to the most influential city managers or citizens in delivering key urban projects and sustainable urban development. The event garnered the participation of over 1500 people.

Italy

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted the World Food Day Ceremony on 14 October 2016. The Director-General of FAO was joined by the Prime Minister of Italy Mr. Matteo Renzi, Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco and Mr. Macharia Kamau the United Nations Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate. The message to the world leaders, local authorities, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and all citizens was that climate change, hunger and poverty must be addressed together in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the international community.

The second Mayors' Annual Summit was held on 14 October 2016 in Milan. The event was attended by mayors and senior officials of cities across the world. It had come following the October 2015 'Milan Urban Food Policy Pact' signed by over 100 cities and uniting mayors in the search for local solutions to end extreme poverty and malnutrition, reduce waste, protect biodiversity and adapt to climate change. Since then the number of member cities has increased to 130. In 2016, mayors and city officials united for a second time to discuss their collaborative efforts in developing sustainable food systems in cities worldwide, and share experiences and best practices.

A family fun day held in Cork City, Ireland © Paul McGuirk



The 3rd RAMSES Stakeholder Dialogue was held on 4 October 2016 in Rome. The event addressed the topics of understanding vulnerabilities, assessing economic gains and unlocking the transformative potential of climate adaptation in cities.

Perugia hosted the 5th Edition of the 'Umbria Salute e Benessere Festival' that consisted of a series of events, activities and workshops in the historical city center. The event highlighted the importance of sustainable development in the city and ensuring a healthy lifestyle for its citizens. The festival took place from 12-17 October 2016.

Kenya

The Centre for Climate Change Awareness partnered with Consolata Shrine, Nairobi County Council and the National Youth Service in Nairobi in a cleanup exercise in the city's Waiyaki Way and Westlands area. The exercise was held on 8 October 2016 and involved collection of garbage and litter, in addition to unblocking drainage tunnels. The occasion was used to sensitize the public on the need to keep their habitat clean by taking responsibility. More than 200 people were involved in the initiative.

Muungano Development Gateways, a Community-Based Organization in Busia organized a World Cities Day Event on 20 November 2016. The event brought together local urban development partners together with the mission to identify better way to improve our city. The event, organized under the theme better city better life presented on the following topics: Environment, urban planning, cross border business strategy, security, health, slum upgrading.

Macedonia

Habitat Macedonia celebrated World Habitat Day by focusing on raising the awareness on the importance of urbanization of city slums in Macedonia and the importance of providing equal opportunities for sustainable development for every citizen. This was accomplished through an interview with Habitat's Deputy Director - Program on the Macedonian national TV station. The morning show featured the live interview informing about Habitat Macedonia's mission and activities in the country. In addition to the informative campaign, Habitat Macedonia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Kavadarci for cooperation and preparation of Registry of apartment buildings which is part of the activities within the local Solid Ground Campaign.

Malawi

Habitat III in partnership with the Government of Malawi held an Urban Breakfast in Lilongwe on 3 October. The event which also commemorated World Habitat Day was held under the title Financing Urban Development in the Context of the New Urban Agenda. More than 100 participants attended the event with representation coming from the National Government, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the Private sector.

Malaysia

The Ministry of Urban Well Being, Housing and Local Government (KPKT) celebrated World Habitat Day 3-4 December 2016 at Merdeka Square, Kuala Lumpur. The celebration was held as part of the Carnival KPKT 2016 which was held in December, with activities such as the Habitat Moment Program and Photojournalism Competition having begun earlier. In the spirit of National Blue Ocean Strategies (NBOS), World Habitat Day Celebration in Malaysia was celebrated together with the other three KPKT flagship events, namely; (i) World City Planning Day, (ii) World Toilet Day and (iii) National Recycle Day. Malaysia celebrated World Habitat Day under the theme the sub theme Sustainable Cities for Healthy Communities. Specific World Habitat Day events included:

Analysis Scenario Habitat Scenario Competition - The Analysis Scenario Habitat Competition was divided into 3 categories (lower secondary school, upper secondary school and students from higher learning Institutions). Each group had to produce innovative ideas in the form of articles contributing to the betterment of the environment. The theme for the competition was also Sustainable Cities for Healthy Communities.

Habitat Awareness Mobile Team - The team held an exhibition at two main KPKT functions. These included a Mural Day in the State of Perak, and during Carnival KPKT 2016 at Merdeka Square, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Habitat Magazine 2016 Publication - First published in 2009, the publication highlights current research by local universities, local authorities, municipalities and professionals towards improving living environment in Malaysia. This Magazine incorporates articles pertaining to the theme which Sustainable Cities for Healthy Communities.

House Build Program - The House Build Program involved the establishment of 46 houses.

Photojournalism Competition - The objective of the competition was to instill awareness and passion towards the environment. The participants were required to produce the photos according to the theme of the competition which was Sustainable Cities for Healthy Communities. The photo that won the competition will be featured on the cover for the 8th Issue of Malaysia Habitat Magazine.

Mexico

Mr. Santiago Martinez of the **Rural Interaction Project** planned a public art campaign in the city of Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo as part of his own expression and celebration of the World Habitat Day on 3 October 2016. He displayed #HabitatDay on his cart while selling coffee, wore a branded backpack container and posted content on his social media platforms related to climate change, biodiversity, ecology, art, urban development, social issues, social economy.

Morocco

Forum National de la ville (FNV) and Réseau Marocain Transnational Migration Développement (RMTMD) celebrated World Cities Day in November 2016 in Marrakech. The event was about inclusive and sustainable cities, cities and migration (climate refugees) and how to preserve the human rights in cities for all. The aim was to analyze the ecological problems in the sustainable cities for all.

Myanmar

The Government of Myanmar celebrated World Habitat Day with a reaffirmation of its commitment to make affordable housing a priority. UN-Habitat representatives joined members of communities from a slum area in Hlaing Tharyar Township in Yangon's periphery, who had organised a World Habitat Day event on the theme Housing at the Centre to draw attention to their lives. Visiting guests who included Members of Parliament, NGOs, and academics, were treated to cultural and traditional dances from the Ayarwaddy Region from where many had migrated from in the aftermath of natural disasters. Slum community members spoke of their needs and aspirations, including their biggest issue on the lack of security of shelter.

Pakistan

The Literate Pakistan Programme, a Community-Based Organization based in Rawalpindi held an event on 12 October 2016 to celebrate advocate for better education for all with a focus on non-formal schools.

Papua New Guinea

UN-Habitat organized a Public Relay to Port Moresby Citywide Settlement Upgrading and Prevention Strategy 2016-2026.

Spain

Gesplansa organized the Canaries Urban Dialogue to celebrate World Cities Day on 31 October 2016. The dialogue presented an opportunity to initiate discussions on urban planning and the challenges of sustainable urban development by welcoming participants to experience and witness successful planning tools and urban interventions. The initiative showcased affordable housing policy tools and models successfully appropriated by the community which have helped to preserve and create affordable housing in the Canaries, and also contributed to fighting land speculation and gentrification.

UN-Habitat office in Madrid celebrated World Habitat Day with an open event addressing political representatives, academy, civil society, local government, media and communication professionals. The event was held at COAM Madrid. Mr. Eduardo Moreno, Head of Research and Capacity Development at UN-Habitat, was invited to present the World Cities Report 2016 and participate in a round table panel discussion organized to discuss Housing at the center of the New Urban Agenda. Other panelists included José María Ezquiaga, Dean of Madrid's Architects Colleague; Anselmo Menéndez, a representative from the Ministry of Housing; Raquel Rodríguez, a Professor at Architecture University, Madrid; Juana López, a Spanish Federation of Cities and Villages representative, María Buhigas, an Urbanist and UN-Habitat consultant, and Pablo Linde, a journalist at ELPAÍS and the moderator of the session.

A total of 120 cities from around 20 countries around the world were represented this year in the **7th edition of Greencities, Forum of Intelligence and Urban Sustainability**, held on 5-6 October in the Palace of Congresses and Exhibitions of Malaga. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Francisco de la Torre the mayor of Malaga, Mr. Víctor Calvo-Sotelo the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and for the Information Society, Mr. Antonio Ramírez de Arellano the Minister of Economy and Knowledge of the Junta de Andalucía, Mr. Elías Bendodo the president of the Diputación Provincial de Málaga, Mr. José Ángel Narváez the rector of the University of Málaga (UMA), Mr. Javier González de Lara the president of the Andalusian Confederation of Employers (CEA), and Mr. José Manuel de Riva the president of Asociación multisectorial de empresas de la electrónica y las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación (AMETIC).

Sri Lanka

The Government of Sri Lanka held the national World Habitat Day 2016 celebration on Housing at the Centre on 3 October in Polonnaruwa District. The event, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, was graced by President Maithripala Sirisena and drew the participation of over 2,000 community members. The highlight of the event was the opening, by the President, of the Sugaladevi Model Village in Dimbulagala Division in Polonnaruwa, comprising of 24 permanent houses with infrastructure facilities. At the opening ceremony, the President stated that 2017 will be declared as 'The Year for Alleviation of Poverty' in Sri Lanka and that the Government will give priority towards addressing housing issues in the country.

The Minister of housing and construction stressed the importance of introducing environment friendly housing country-wide. He pledged to find solutions to the housing issues in Polonnaruwa district, commencing with 50 housing projects in 2017. The Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction, the Hon. Indika Bandaranayake, Chief Minister of the North Central Province, Hon. Peshala Jayarathne, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Management, Hon. Wasantha Senanayake and the Country Programme Manager of UN-Habitat, Mr. Chanaka Talpawewa, also participated at the event. Representatives from key housing and urban sector agencies in Sri Lanka were also present.

Mr. Chanaka Talpawewa reading the UN-Habitat Executive Director's message, stated THAT 'Adequate housing is a universal human right and should be at the centre of the urban policy. It is part of the right to an adequate standard of living and it means much more than having four walls and a roof.' He

further stated that the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal's target 'To ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums by 2030' are both fundamental to ensure a dignified life for millions of people worldwide. The event also featured song and dance presentations by local school children and concluded with the handing over of prizes to school children for art and essay competitions, awards to Construction Industrial development Authority (CIDA) trainees and house ownership documents to residents.

South Africa

eThekweni Municipality joined 50 other cities that participated in a series of Urban Breakfasts to raise awareness of the New Urban Agenda before the Habitat III conference in Quito in mid-October. This was a historic moment as provincial and city political leadership joined civil society stakeholders as they deliberated on pertinent themes related to Habitat III. The Urban Breakfast was themed Cities for the People and garnered more than 100 participants.

Habitat for Humanity South Africa mobilized teams of active citizens to join their World Habitat Day workshop which took place on 3-7 October 2016. The workshop provided homeowners with the knowledge and skills they need to make the changes and improvements they want to see in their homes and their community. On 3 October, in commemoration of World Habitat Day, Habitat for Humanity called on all South Africans to mobilize teams to join them in their WHD Events and help the communities of Orange Farm and Mfuleni with the building of new homes, and critical repairs to the homes of child-headed households, the elderly and the disabled.

Switzerland

Habitat III hosted an Urban Breakfast in Geneva on 3 October, on the occasion of World Habitat Day. The event was organized under the title Together Towards the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Breakfast provided a final update on the upcoming Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, and discussions on the draft New Urban Agenda. Participants included Mr. Arturo Cabrera, the representative of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva and other key stakeholders. The event comprised of a panel discussion with Jean-Yves Barcelo making a presentation about planning, decentralisation, and access to basic services as the primary objectives of the New Urban Agenda. Other speakers included

Rosa Mondardini who emphasised that listening to the public was an absolute necessity, and Amie Figueiredo who highlighted rising trends in inter-connectivity between European cities and building smart cities. The event took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Habitat III organized an Urban Walk was organized in Geneva on the 31 October to commemorate the annual World Cities Day. The goal of the walk was to discover proper lighting for welcoming inclusive and safe urban public spaces.

Sweden

Inda Design, a private company in Värnamo, held a World Cities Day celebration on 31 October 2016. The online event promoted #justanotherdayinparadise, an assortment of merchandise including artprints, pillows, clocks, totebags and traveler mugs to bring awareness of homelessness around the globe.

Thailand

In commemoration of World Habitat Day 3 October 2016 in Bangkok, **groups representing urban poor communities in Thailand** marched to the United Nations compound where they were welcomed by representatives from **UNESCAP** and **UN-Habitat**. Approximately 2000 people presented a petition to be forwarded to the UN Secretary General. Echoing this year's theme for World Habitat Day Housing at the Centre the petition called for the Government of Thailand and the United Nations to support more secure and affordable housing for the urban and rural poor in Thailand.

The Netherlands

The 15th World Conference Cities and Ports, "Crossovers" 2016 was held on 5- 7 October in Rotterdam. More than 400 business professionals, policymakers and academics from all over the world explored crossovers between port and city and crossovers for economic and social innovations fuelled by new technologies, innovative businesses and new planning strategies between city and port.

The International VOC-Symposium on sustainable public transport was held 5 October 2016. Presentations with a good variety of technical treatises, visions, pitches and discussions were done. During the breaks the participants were able to have a drink, meet other people and check out the electric vehicles that were lined up outside.

Ukraine

International Mayors Congress, an annual two-day forum of mayors, local government leaders and representatives of the major stakeholders of local development. The congress was held in Kyiv on 5 December 2016. It consisted of thematic panels, exhibitions for urban development, free communication and the presentation of the City Progress Index.

United Kingdom

The Sustainable Cities Group held a half-day World Cities Day event in Warwick to showcase cities research. Besides offering the opportunity to hear more about the wide variety of research being undertaken in the cities space, this event offered the opportunity to advance university wide relationships and to learn more about research opportunities linked to cities and the New Urban Agenda. This conference explored Warwick's research in the cities space, facilitated networking, discussion and collaboration between researchers and others keen to engage with and consider the new urban agenda and the challenges that cities face, and identified areas where the Sustainable Cities GRP can support the development of new, interdisciplinary research at Warwick.

Wiley, a publishing company in Oxford created an attractive micro-site and interactive map to celebrate World Cities Day. They compiled a list of the latest academic articles, books and blogs from across Wiley journal and book titles that are relevant to this year's World Cities Day theme and created a micro-site with the following sections:

- Economic Infrastructure
- Cultural Cohesion
- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion
- Sustainability & Affordability
- International Mobilization
- Designing for the Future

Each one of these sections explores its topic in relation to city dwelling and urbanization, across a range of academic disciplines. They also created an interactive map, detailing the majority of the articles and where the cities they discuss are located.

United Republic of Tanzania

Ardhi University in partnership with the Oxford Programme for the Future of Cities, the Kigamboni Community Centre and the ACTUS Project team organized the Kigamboni Urban Walk on 22 October 2016. In Dar es Salaam, it is estimated that 872,000 out of 1,100,000 houses are consolidated in informal areas. The gap between the supply and demand for surveyed land (8,000 plots against 150,000 plots annually) is widening; and competing land use requirements as well as government acquisition and compensation are increasing. The main message was that housing should be more than a shelter. Housing projects equally require adequate urban services within and around housing stocks in order to shape healthy and prosperous communities. The walk was organized to provide some insights on the issues and also the creativity and local solutions emerging from the community. The Kigamboni Urban walk highlighted the theme of World Habitat Day Housing at the Centre. The walk enabled participants to share their views and vision on how communities such as Kigamboni can grow. It was carefully designed to bring out the stories behind the challenges and opportunities existing in one of Dar es Salaam's most multifaceted peri-urban areas.

United States America

On the occasion of the World Cities Day, **Dr. Joan Clos, the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference**, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat presented the outcome document of the Habitat III Conference, the New Urban Agenda at a Media Briefing held in the **United Nations Headquarters** in New York.

Habitat III held an Urban Breakfast in New York to discuss the theme of World Cities Day, Inclusive Cities, Shared Development. The event took place at the United Nations in New York.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) hosted three Habitat for Humanity affiliates for World Habitat Day activities at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills, Michigan. More than 100 FCA employees volunteered their morning to build sheds for Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, wheelchair ramps for Macomb County Habitat for Humanity and picnic tables for Habitat for Humanity Detroit to support future Habitat homebuyers throughout the tri-county area.

Food Tank, a non-profit organisation based in the United States of America, celebrated World Habitat Day through the hashtag #UrbanOctober and a full page web article on Urban Agriculture written by Nina Sparling. The mission of the organization is to build a global community for safe, healthy, nourished eaters.

It spotlights environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways of alleviating hunger, obesity, and poverty and create networks of people, organizations, and content to push for food system change.

The City of Ames Mayor Ann H. Campbell proclaimed 3-9 October as World Habitat Week. For the week, Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa placed a door in City Hall to raise awareness of the need for decent housing, volunteer opportunities, and the security of tenure.

The Ecoroof Symposium was held on 3 October 2016 showcasing the most up-to-date research on the economic and environmental impacts that green roofs provide to buildings and cities. It hosted London's Dusty Gedge as a keynote speaker, as well as a research medley on topics such as enhanced real estate value, energy impacts, and biodiversity.

The Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, a conference and expo dedicated to green building was held in Los Angeles featuring several days of inspiring speakers, industry showcases, specialty workshops, tours of the host city's green buildings and invaluable networking opportunities. The event has previously been hosted in major cities across the U.S., including Chicago, Boston, Phoenix, Denver, San Francisco, and Philadelphia. Greenbuild estimated 20,000 visitors and 32 million dollars in business to the Los Angeles area with a goal to leverage the event to engage the broader local community in discussions and activities that raise awareness around sustainability and the built environment throughout the year leading up to the event.

Habitat for Humanity Anderson County in South Carolina held a Donate a Dollar campaign to help bring attention to the need for adequate housing around the world and in Anderson County. The campaign began on 4 October and run through the month of October.

Habitat for Humanity Catawba Valley celebrated World Habitat Day with two ceremonial mortgage burnings. The ceremony was held on 1 October. Beneficiaries who had completed paying their mortgage lit fire to their mortgage documents, symbolizing the end to their payment obligations. Friends and families of the beneficiaries as well as volunteers and donors were present at the event.

Habitat for Humanity Champaign county volunteers and workers celebrated World Habitat Day by building four additional homes. The Champaign county chapter has built more than 90 homes.

Habitat for Humanity Coastal Empire ReStore celebrated World Habitat Day 2016 with a Home Dedication ceremony where two families were gifted with newly built houses.

Habitat for Humanity Hillsborough joined with their partners in the community to help inform the public on the needs for affordable housing in Hillsborough County. Working with the Hillsborough County School District and doors donated by the Habitat Hillsborough East ReStore, they engaged Hillsborough County School Students in a World Habitat Day educational art project.

Habitat for Humanity International celebrated World Habitat Day through a call to join their Solid Ground Campaign. Solid Ground is their global advocacy's campaign aimed at addressing the fundamental issue of access to land for shelter.

Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley, California celebrated World Habitat Day on 25 October, on the day they also commemorated their 25 years of service. The main activity was the free screening of the documentary film Poverty Inc.

Habitat for Humanity La Crosse Area in Wisconsin celebrated World Habitat Day by promoting awareness of the need for safe, affordable housing. The main activities included a campaign which involved purchasing \$1.00 World Habitat Day Pin Ups which were displayed in their Restore and a Dream Home coloring Contest for children in ages between 5 and 12.

Habitat for Humanity Lakeshore held a World Habitat Day is a free "family fun" community event at the Holland ReStore. This event takes place in Michigan State every Urban October, with activities for children, food and drinks provided by Macatawa Bank Snack Wagon, door prizes, as well as discounts on ReStore merchandise. For more information please visit <http://www.lakeshorehabitat.org/world-habitat-day>

Habitat for Humanity teamed up with 4th grade students at Pinedale Elementary to celebrate World Habitat Day through a project titled 'What does home mean to me'. The project's aim was to bring awareness to a person's right to live in an adequate living space.

Zimbabwe

The Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing organized an unveiling and ribbon cutting ceremony at a housing development project in celebration of World Habitat Day. The event took place on 3 October under the theme Housing at the Centre. There were approximately 400 participants at the event.

MESSAGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD CITIES DAY

Cities are increasingly the home of humanity. They are central to climate action, global prosperity, peace and human rights. More than half of all people live in cities and human settlements, and that proportion is projected to grow to two thirds by 2050.

To transform our world, we must transform its cities.

Crime, pollution and poverty are taking their toll on hundreds of millions of city-dwellers. At the same time, urban areas are hubs of energy, innovation and economic dynamism. By investing in cities, we can advance progress across societies.

Momentum is building.

The recently concluded Habitat III Conference adopted the New Urban Agenda, a vision for cities that are just, safe, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable. This marked a milestone in setting global standards for sustainable urban development, sparking new thinking on how we plan, manage and live in cities.

Together with the other new global frameworks and Agendas – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda for Humanity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – this New Urban Agenda will put sustainable urbanization at the centre of our efforts to eliminate poverty and achieve development and prosperity for all. It can also complement the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Local action is essential to realizing the potential of these global agreements. On World Cities Day, let us renew our resolve to confront urban problems and forge lasting solutions. Together, we can show how success in cities inspires change across the world.

MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN-HABITAT ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD CITIES DAY

The World Cities Day is already an essential celebration on the calendar to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization.

This year World Cities Day is of big significance as it comes as a follow up of the recent United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III. The Habitat III Conference as a whole was a resounding success: 30,000 participants and almost 1,000 events in four days. Such high turnout is a testimony of the strong world interest in urban development, and in taking part in the global conversation about our cities.

The way cities are planned and managed is one of the main challenges of the 21st century for the sustainable global development, and it is the key to achieve equal and inclusive societies. This year World Cities Day is happening within the framework of a New Urban Agenda –first in this century- to make possible the change of the current cities' model for better urban life.

The New Urban Agenda shares a vision of cities for all, ensuring that all citizens are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable and sustainable cities for foster prosperity and quality of life.

In the line with Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris agreement on climate change, the New Urban Agenda envisages cities and human settlements where everyone can feel a sense of belonging and have equal opportunities to participate in. It opens a chapter for pluralistic societies, where the needs of all inhabitants are met, including those of vulnerable situations.

The New Urban Agenda is an impulse for better and greener urban future where everybody has access to the benefits of urbanization. A vision where all persons are able to enjoy equal rights and fundamental freedoms.

Together we have the knowledge to change our cities for better. Now we need commitment to make the change and to go into actions. This will require strong coordination among different scales and partnerships among sectors.

This year's World Cities Day theme on Inclusive Cities and Shared Development is result of this global discussion. The United Nations has selected it to emphasize social fairness and justice and to promote balanced development among cities.

I wish you a happy World Cities Day and, on this day, I call for action on the performance of the New Urban Agenda.

Thank you for being part of this historic shift of urban paradigm.

Cities are Our Home – Be an Advocate for Sustainable Urbanization
#CitiesDay #UrbanOctober #Habitat3







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