


# World Cities Day



October 31

BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE  
*Leading Urban Transformations*

2 0 1 4 R E P O R T





Over  
**50%**  
of the global population  
now lives in cities and  
the ratio continues to rise.



## **SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**



has therefore become  
one of the most pressing  
global challenges in the  
twenty-first century, and  
one that Governments  
must pay greater attention to.

They need to investigate  
critical issues in **URBANIZATION**  
and make joint efforts to  
**BUILD GREENER, MORE LIVEABLE,**  
**CONVENIENT, HARMONIOUS** and  
**ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY CITIES.**





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## Introduction

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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 new day in the UN calendar 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 will be done 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 will be chosen each year to celebrate different topics covering urban issues.

For the inaugural World Cities Day held in 2014, the theme was *Leading Urban Transformations*, which focused on redefining the urban paradigm for future generations and empowering people to contribute to creative solutions that can improve our shared urban future. It gave particular attention to innovations and new ideas that will bring about the city we need and the future we want.

The first World Cities Day also marked the conclusion of the first Urban October, which was conceptualized and implemented by UN-Habitat in 2014 to integrate the celebration of the World Habitat Day (first Monday of October), launch of Urban Thinkers Campus held on 15-18 October in Caserta, Italy, and the celebration of the World Cities Day (31 October).

Urban October was meant to synthesize activities to increase awareness, promote participation, generate knowledge and engage the international community towards sustainable urban development.



## The Theme for 2014: **Leading Urban Transformations**

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Humanity is at a crossroads, undergoing a major urban shift that is transforming our world. Urbanization has become an inevitable process that presents tremendous challenges, with cities growing at unprecedented rates in many nations. Nevertheless, urbanization should be seen as an opportunity to harness cities as engines of growth, and to lead a positive transformation towards sustainable development.

Urban transformation is inevitable: it will continue, for better or worse. If not critically reexamined, urbanization will continue to propagate negative trends, including: increased segregation, inequality, and environmental degradation. World Cities Day reminds us about the critical role that urbanization plays in development.

A hundred years ago, city dwellers were a minority of the global population. In the next few decades, urban dwellers will double in number, accounting for nearly three-quarters of the world's population. This phenomenon, which began a century ago in Europe and North America, is now occurring at lightning speed in Asia and Africa, where millions of people are moving to cities. In order to keep up with current growth rates, urbanizing countries will have to build a city of one million inhabitants every week for the next forty years.

Newly burgeoning cities are witnessing the rapid expansion of informal and unplanned settlements that lack access to clean water, sanitation, and proper infrastructure. The increase in manufacturing of export goods, fueled by the cheap labour of rural migrants, has been a typical scenario in developing countries, which deepens the economic divide. For the excluded

—unskilled workers and the jobless young people — urban growth is occurring without economic benefit. Attracted to the promise of the metropolis or unable to make a living on the farm, many pour into cities.

Many born in urban centers have no access to education. The supply of jobs can't keep up with the demand, which forces men, women, and children to depend on informal work to survive. Urban protests are on the rise due to the poor quality of life and rising inequalities.

Cities do offer enormous promises, with overwhelming potential for innovation and a better life. Cities can become engines of economic development and spaces of freedom, innovation, prosperity, and resilience. In order for cities and their inhabitants to thrive, a new urban paradigm is needed; one that recognises local contexts and is founded on the respect of public and private uses of land, sound urban design, and a well-coordinated system of systems.

If a city is to function properly, it must coordinate very diverse agendas related to land use, energy, water, waste, mobility, health and education, economic development, and the promotion of cultural vitality and social inclusion.

Leading urban transformation is about redefining the urban paradigm for future generations. It is about empowering people to contribute to creative solutions that can improve our shared urban future. It is about innovation and new ideas to bring about the city we need and the future we want.





## Global Observance of World Cities Day 2014 in Shanghai, China

The first World Cities Day was commemorated on 31 October 2014 and hosted by Shanghai Municipal People's Government, in collaboration with China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and UN-Habitat.

World Cities Day celebrations in Shanghai took place at the Expo Park, in an event attended by about 300 participants from 35 countries. Participation included high-level officials from the

Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and other national government institutions in China; top officials from UN-Habitat and other UN agencies; Mayors and representatives of various cities around the world; representatives of universities, research institutes; experts and scholars; and the media. Six parallel conferences on public diplomacy, new-type urbanization, infrastructure development, strategic planning, urban transformation, and urban health were also organized.



View of Pudong New Area, Shanghai, China @Shutterstock / Roman Sigaev



## Summary of **Key Messages delivered in Shanghai**

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The message of the United Nations Secretary General was delivered by the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat. In his statement he indicated that, the theme of this first World Cities Day — Leading Urban Transformations — highlights the pioneering power of cities. We must get urbanization right, which means reducing greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share.

Urban transformations require political will and the capacity to coordinate many actors and stakeholders. He highlighted that World Cities Day is also a moment to recognize the contributions of mayors and other city leaders, who give voice to their citizens and play a central role in building well-planned cities and making them engines of prosperity, innovation and inclusiveness.

The message of the Premier of the People's Republic of China was read by the Vice Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. In his congratulatory message he highlighted that cities are important platforms for human civilization's advancement and various countries' economic and social development.

World Cities Day shows the importance of cities' functions and people's visions for the sustainable development in the new

period. He stated that the establishment of the World Cities Day can help the international community pay more attention to the development of cities and learn from each other.

The message of UN-Habitat's Executive Director, delivered by the Deputy Executive Director, emphasized the transformative potential of cities to contribute to sustainable development. He indicated that cities are able to create positive transformations if well-planned and well-managed. A well-planned city making use of optimal density can provide services to its citizens in a more efficient and affordable manner than sprawling urban areas.

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs expressed that with more than half of humanity living in cities today; urbanization is a critical issue for the United Nations. The continuing population growth and urbanization are projected to add 2.5 billion people to the world's urban population by 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa.

He said that at the centre of this interlocking United Nations post-2015 development agenda will be the perspective of human-centred approach to sustainable urbanization and sustainable cities.





## World Cities Day Celebrations **around the world**

There were 38 World Cities Day events held in 12 countries around the world. Here is a list of the activities.

### 1. At the **country level**

#### **Canada**

The Convention on Biological Diversity under the United Nations Environment Programme released a message of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, on the occasion of world cities day. Read the statement here <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2014/sp-2014-10-31-WCD-en.pdf>

#### **China**

In Shanghai, several activities were held leading up to World Cities Day. See schedule below:

*On 2 September 2014*, the theme of the first 'World Cities Day' was unveiled and the World Cities Day, the Shanghai Coordination Center for the World Cities Day (SCCWCD) was established in September 2014. The theme of the first 'World Cities Day' was unveiled in Shanghai on September 2.

*On 29 September 2014*, World Cities Day logo and theme Leading Urban Transformations were launched, and a count-down clock to World Cities was set up at the People's Square Metro Station.

*On 29 September 2014*, an online on-line registration activity named 'Sign up to win gifts on the first Cities Day' (official website: [www.world-cities-day.org](http://www.world-cities-day.org)) was launched to attract citizens to participate in and promote public awareness of the first 'World Cities Day'.

*On 11 October 2014*, World Cities Day website in Chinese was launched, and World Cities Day posters displayed. The posters composed of artworks designed by the famous Shanghai artist Zhang Anpu.

*On 16 October 2014*, Four Seasons of Shanghai Photo Exhibition was co-hosted by the Shanghai Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Shanghai Propaganda Officials, and World Cities Day, the Shanghai Coordination Center for the World Cities Day (SCCWCD) in the Shanghai Shanghai Library. Mr. Wu Zhiming, chairman of the Shanghai CPPCC moderated opening ceremony of the exhibition.

*On 21 October 2014*, the First Art Publicity Week of World Cities Day was launched, bands and groups from Canada, Hong Kong, Holland, Portugal, and Israel brought open-air performances to more than 10,000 audience.

*On 24 October 2014*, a special train named the World Cities Day was launched by the Shanghai Shentong Metro Groups. Attending the launch were leaders from both Shanghai Municipal Urban-Rural Development and Management Commission, and the Shentong Metro Groups, together with representatives from UN-Habitat.

*On 31 October 2014*, World Cities Day was celebrated at an event organized by Shanghai Municipality People's Government and UN-Habitat. The event was held at the World Expo Center. In the afternoon of the same day, six forums titled World Expo Forums were held around Shanghai City, with more than 100 speakers and 2,000 in attendance. The forums received huge coverage by local and national media and received active response. (See Annex 2)

*On October 31 2014*, the second edition of Chinese and English version of Shanghai Manual, A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century was launched.

In Beijing, Mr. Alain Noudehou, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative addressed guests during the World Cities Day China-International Urban Development Forum. The event was organized by UNDP. Read more here: <http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/10/opening-remarks-world-cities-day-china-international-urban-devel/>





## Germany

ICLEI organized a series of important events during October on biodiversity, climate change, local renewables, eco-mobility, etc. and participated in various global events such as the Bonn Climate Talks, the CBD Conference of Parties, to name a few. All of these events showed how cities are moving towards a sustainable path and how critical it is to have a stand alone urban Sustainable Development Goal. For more information visit: <http://www.iclei.org/our-activities/our-advocacy/urbansdg.html>

## Holy See

The Holy See released a Statement of Archbishop Bernardito Auza Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, during the Conference on People-Centered Urbanization: Managing Ethnic Diversity in Today's Cities, on the occasion of World Cities Day. See statement here <http://www.holyseemission.org/statements/statement.aspx?id=515>

## I.R Iran

The UN-Habitat office in Tehran celebrated this event jointly with the Municipality of Tehran in a half-day ceremony with participation of the Chairman of Tehran City Council, Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development; UN-Habitat and FAO Representatives and senior municipality and government officials and members of the diplomatic corps. Mr. Serge Nakouzi, Representative of FAO in I. R. Iran, read the message of the United Nations Secretary General on World Cities Day. He also pointed to the purpose of World Cities Day that is to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push for cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and challenges in urbanization and contribution to urban sustainable development around the world. He also referred to the Habitat III Conference and said that this conference, which is to be held in 2016, offers the opportunity to define a new urban agenda.

Mr. Siamak Moghaddam, Representative of UN-Habitat in the I.R. Iran, read the message of UN-Habitat Executive Director. In his speech Mr. Moghaddam emphasized on the participation of people and communities in municipal affairs and management, and invited Iranian officials to document the experience of Iran in urban planning and urban management for an active participation

and contribution to the Habitat III Conference. Read more <http://www.un.org.ir/index.php/issues-development/issues-environment/829-1-nov-2014-world-cities-day-celebrated-in-iran>

## Italy

In Bologna, a debate on public spaces themed Life in Cities was held to mark World Cities Day. There was also a pop-up city exhibition from Fabio Mantovani.

## Kenya

At the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations and Dr. Clos, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat visited an exhibition mounted by UN-Habitat as part of the Urban October. The exhibition featured a paper city, and a photo exhibition on urban issues mounted by professional photographers based in Kenya. Read: Paper City – an Urban Story: UN-Habitat launches video on urban challenges <http://unhabitat.org/papercity/>

## Kuwait

UN-Habitat and Ooredoo celebrated the first World Cities Day where the regional representative of the UN-Habitat for the Gulf States Dr. Tareq Azmy commended “the pioneering role” of Kuwait in backing up the initiatives aiming to improve the quality of life in urban communities. See full report here <http://news.kuwaittimes.net/un-habitat-ooredoo-celebrate-world-cities-day/>

## Philippines

Angeles City in the Philippines also joined in World Cities Day celebrations.

## Russian Federation

On October 31, 2014 on the occasion of World Cities Day, the “Political Solutions and Sustainable Territorial Development” International forum was held in Volgograd under the slogan Better City, Better Life. The objective of the forum was to exchange best practices to be included in agendas for territorial development; and to find new solutions for urban development.

The panel discussions included:

- Territorial promotion through political solutions;



- Economic models of territorial promotion and sustainable development;
- Culture as an instrument for territorial promotion.

Participants included representatives of Volgograd's twin and partner-cities, international and interregional organizations and experts.

## Spain

*On 14 October 2014*, the UN-Habitat office in Spain organized an event themed "Leading Urban Transformations: Cities in the preparatory process of Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda", at Casa de América in Madrid. The event was attended by members of the press, representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Development and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and academics from different Universities in Madrid. Later there was a meeting with representatives and journalists from thirteen of the most important media houses in Spain to discuss on the role that the media should play on the preparatory process towards Habitat III. Please find below some of the media articles that were published:

- <http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/audios/miradas-al-exterior/miradas-exterior-dia-mundial-del-habitat-06-10-14/2793419/>
- [http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/10/07/planeta\\_futuro/1412695567\\_737992.html](http://elpais.com/elpais/2014/10/07/planeta_futuro/1412695567_737992.html)
- <http://www.20minutos.es/noticia/2257852/0/millones-viviendas/barrios-marginales/pobreza-onu/>
- <http://www.pactomundial.org/dia-mundial-del-habitat-2014/>
- [http://www.femp.es/files/11-5354-fichero/Nota%20de%20Prensa\\_DMH\\_2014.pdf](http://www.femp.es/files/11-5354-fichero/Nota%20de%20Prensa_DMH_2014.pdf)

*On 23 October 2014*, IESE University hosted an event themed Smart & Human Cities in commemoration of the First World Cities Day.

*On 27 October 2014*, the Ministry for Development of the Regional Government of Andalusia also held an event to mark World Cities Day 2014.

*On 28 October, 6 and 7 November 2014*, Rey Juan Carlos University, Complutense University and Politécnica University

of Madrid in collaboration with the United Nations Millennium Campaign, held a series of debates under the theme "Challenges of the cities in light of the New Urban Agenda and the Post-2015 Development Agenda".

*On 30 October 2014*, there were celebrations at Historic Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau in Barcelona, Spain.

*On 31 October 2014*, there was also an official opening of UN Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) offices in Barcelona. Officially launched at the World Urban Forum in 2012, the CRPP was created to help local governments make their towns and cities more resilient to the widest array of shocks and stresses to which they are exposed. Joining the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance, the CRPP team is based in the historic Sant Leopold Pavilion of the Sant Pau Recinte Modernista site.

On the same day the Ministry of Development organized two events as follows: The Habitat National Committee meeting: which outlined both the role of Spain in the preparatory process towards Habitat III and the Spanish National Report; and a Round Table on Sustainable Urban Development and the New Urban Agenda, comprised of the Representatives from Spanish Government, UN-system in Spain and the civil society.

## United States of America

At the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT's), the director of the Center for Resilient Design, Tom Dallessio gave an address at the United Nations to celebrate the inaugural World Cities Day 2014, a celebration of global urban transformations led by UN-Habitat. See address at <http://centerforresilientdesign.org/njits-tom-dallessio-speaks-at-united-nations-to-celebrate-world-cities-day-2014/>

The Baltimore Integration Partnership was featured in a video by Living Cities on World Cities Day where the Project Director, Kurt Sommer, discussed BIP outcomes. See video here <http://www.abagrantmakers.org/news/201489/Baltimore-Integration-Partnership-on-World-Cities-Day.htm>



## United Kingdom

The University of Manchester participated in conversations with academics, consultants, governments, NGOs, social movements, students and think tanks over the future fate of the world's many different types of cities. Drawing upon a series of on-going programs of research, below are a number of short pieces on some of the most pressing challenges facing cities in the words of the United Nations they are our contribution to the wider dialogue over "the city we need and the future we want".

- The mobile city by Jonathan Darling and Helen Wilson
- Leading urban transformations by Diana Mitlin
- Handle with care: the urban energy transition by Alastair Moore
- Infrastructure development by Cecilia Wong

More on the conversation at <http://www.cities.manchester.ac.uk/events/worldcitiesday2014/>

The Cardiff Convention was a 3 day event bringing together leading thinkers with city and community leaders. Over the three days we heard from experts, and also discussed what we, Cardiff, can do and what we should aim for in our city. The aim of the convention was to both ensure that Cardiff city's future is shaped by the leading thinkers across the globe, but also that it is shaped by the leading thinkers in Cardiff. The event was held across a range of venues across the city, to showcase the city. In addition to keynote speakers, the convention also ran workshops to help identify ways in which we can address issues that face cities such as Cardiff.

## 2. At the global level

In conjunction with UN-Habitat, The Guardian newspaper put 36 contestants in the 'hot seat' to tell us their city's best idea – and why other cities should adopt it. Competing cities included Buffalo, Paris, Helsinki, Berlin, London, Toronto, Mexico City, Calgary, Vancouver, Brussels, Beijing, and others, where three dozen cities made the finals. The winner of the contest was Gabriel Medeiros Gomes, for his entry, Which Bus Stops Here – a project to create blank bus stickers on which city residents can write down bus

route info. The runner up was Can Sucuoglu and the floating docks project, and second runners up, a three-way tie between Bogota's waste picker project, London's Thames Bath project, and Nottingham's Fair Food City. <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/live/2014/oct/31/2014-guardian-world-cities-day-challenge-live>

ArchDaily Celebrated World Cities Day by publishing 23 articles on Cities and Urbanism. ArchDaily is an online source of continuous information for a growing community of architects searching for the latest architectural news: projects, products, events, interviews and competitions among others. Find links here <http://www.archdaily.com/563217/archdaily-celebrates-world-cities-day-23-unmissable-articles-on-cities-and-urbanism/>

Cordaid Urban Matters, a UN-Habitat leading partner, celebrated World Cities Day by highlighting the important role urbanization plays in development. The organization highlighted the World Cities Day theme "Leading Urban Transformations" on the occasion of World Cities Day. <https://www.cordaid.org/en/news/world-cities-day/>

The Cities Alliance joined UN-Habitat in celebrating the first World Cities Day. The key message by William Cobbett, Director of Cities Alliance was "Manage our cities well, and manage our future." See full report here <http://www.citiesalliance.org/node/4971>

Natalie Duffield, CEO of intechologyWiFi highlighted the importance of World Cities Day stating, that it is an opportunity to open-up technology conversations. He made the following comment: "World Cities Day is an excellent means of raising awareness for how cities throughout the world can be transformed to improve the lives of their inhabitants.

Cities worldwide are faced with huge budgetary pressures, yet also need to deliver enhanced online and real-time services to their community in order to effectively manage sustainable urban growth. As city leaders grapple with these challenges and look to position their cities for growth, making them attractive centres for investment and innovation and ensuring they are fulfilling



places to live, World Cities Day provides us with an opportunity to open up conversations about these issues on a global basis.” Read more: <http://www.geoconnexion.com/news/world-cities-day-an-opportunity-to-open-up-technology-conversations/>

World Vision hosted three Children’s Assemblies in Recife, Brazil; New Delhi, India; and Beirut, Lebanon to provide a national platform for children to express their thoughts about their rights, hopes, and dreams for the cities that they live in. See complete report <http://www.wvi.org/urban-programming/world-cities-day-highlights-children%E2%80%99s-voices-%E2%80%98better-urban-future%E2%80%99>

### 3. At the UN headquarters in New York

The Permanent Missions of Italy and of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, the Alliance of Civilizations, and UN-Habitat hosted a dialogue between international organizations, governments, mayors and civil society representatives on the

need to pursue people-centered urbanization and manage social inclusion in today’s cities. The aim of the event was to contribute to the ongoing discussions on the Post-2015 development agenda and the Habitat III Conference. The event was celebrated under the theme “People-Centered Urbanization: Managing Social Inclusion in Today’s Cities” Read more [http://www.iesco-iesco.org/content/en-US/p2261\\_k2625.aspx](http://www.iesco-iesco.org/content/en-US/p2261_k2625.aspx)

On the same day, the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan, the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka, CG Global Consultant, Enviro Board Corporation, Sparta Matrix, International Organization for South-South Cooperation, Care King and Queen Foundation and SDR commemorated World Cities Day by hosting a round-table event at the United Nations. The theme of the round-table was: Promoting the new urban agenda of the United Nations towards the building of a Human Sustainable Cities. The event was held under the theme “The New Urban Agenda of the United Nations towards the building of a Humane Sustainable Cities”. The round table was moderated by H.E. Dr. Palita T. B. Kohona, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.

## Social and multi-media campaign

In addition to launch of a dedicated World Cities Day website [www.unhabitat.org/wcd](http://www.unhabitat.org/wcd), social and multi-media tools were used to popularize World Cities Day. Here is a report of the impact through Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

### Facebook

On World Cities Day a total of 165,000 people on UN-Habitat’s corporate Facebook channel were reached while the main Facebook post on World Cities Day reached 31,104 people.

### Twitter

World Cities Day Twitter post got 377 engagements and reached 14,529 people.

### Youtube

The “Paper City” video launched on World Cities Day received 6500 clicks and counting while the video Message of Dr. Clos on World Cities Day has 665 views and counting

### Cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information:

The main World Cities Day twitter post @UN got 461 retweets and 201 Favourites.

*(For a more comprehensive report see Annex 4).*





## News roundup

The following are among the articles published by various organizations and media houses promoting World Cities Day.

1. Living Cities report for World Cities Day "World Cities Day: Making A Difference for the Lives of Low-Income Residents" <https://www.livingcities.org/blog/710-world-cities-day-making-a-difference-for-the-lives-of-low-income-residents>
2. German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation report for World Cities Day "Minister Hendricks supports World Cities Day" <http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/hendricks-unterstuetzt-world-cities-day/>
3. UCLG article for World Cities Day <http://www.uclg.org/en/media/events/world-cities-day>
4. NDTV India article on World Cities Day <http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/october-31-is-world-cities-day-un-general-assembly-455630>
5. Global Dimension news article "Addressing challenges in urbanisation and moving towards sustainable urban development" <http://globaldimension.org.uk/calendar/event/4514>
6. Royal Haskoning DHV, The Netherlands news article for World Cities Day <http://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en-gb/innovation/world-cities-day>
7. African Business published an article "World Cities Day – getting urbanisation right" <http://africanbusinessmagazine.com/sector-reports/infrastructure/world-cities-day-getting-urbanisation-right/>
8. Inclusive Cities are Better Cities article for World Habitat Day "Bogota's Waste Pickers and World Cities Day" <http://www.inclusivecities.org/blog/bogotas-waste-pickers-world-cities-day/>
9. City Growth Commission published "World Cities day – from Devo Met to Bogota" <http://www.citygrowthcommission.com/world-cities-day-from-devo-met-to-bogota/>
10. Esa Earth Online published "Cairo, Egypt, in the spotlight for World Cities Day" <https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/missions/esa-operational-eo-missions/proba-v/image-of-the-week/-/article/cairo-egypt-in-the-spotlight-for-world-cities-day>
11. Bureau International des Expositions, an Intergovernmental Organization in charge of overseeing and regulating all international exhibitions published an interview "4 years after Expo 2010, Shanghai celebrates the 1st World Cities Day, with Mr. Cheng Jian". <http://www.bie-paris.org/site/en/news/87-news-announcements/bie-activity/787-world-cities-day-un-un-habitat-urban-city-cities-urbanization-new-urban-agenda-shanghai-china-bie>
12. United Nations Radio published the audio message by Dr. Joan Clos, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2014/10/shanghai-china-kicks-off-world-cities-day-celebrations/#VK0WnGMOaug>
13. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) published "UN Holds Inaugural World Cities Day" <http://sd.iisd.org/news/un-holds-inaugural-world-cities-day/>
14. Reall, a social enterprise that is dedicated to alleviating housing conditions in informal settlements across the developing world published "World Cities Day 2014: Building an Urban Future" <http://reall.xyz/world-cities-day-2014/>
15. Evergreen Brick Works promotional article for World Cities Day "UN-Habitat has declared Oct 31st the first annual World Cities Day" <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/blog/entry/un-habitat-has-declared-oct-31st-the-first-annual-world-cities-day>



16. Hogeschool van Amsterdam published "1st UN World Cities Day in Shanghai: Shanghai booms towards a Global City in 2050" <http://www.hva.nl/carem/over-carem/nieuws/nieuws/nieuws/content/folder/nieuwsberichten/2014/11/1st-un-cities-day.html>
17. Save the Children published the article "Raising awareness of urban poverty on World Cities Day" <http://savethechildren.typepad.com/blog/2014/10/save-the-children-supports-the-first-world-cities-day.html>
18. United Cities and Local Governments video message on the occasion of World Cities Day "Why we need an #UrbanSDG - 1st World Cities Day" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElQByFfVJ28>
19. ReWork launched a World Cities Day tweet chat #reworkcities <http://re-workblog.tumblr.com/post/101419954114>
20. Spatial Development Research Unit at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki published an article to promote World Cities Day <http://gkafkala.webpages.auth.gr/site/31-october-2014-world-cities-day/>
21. Future London published the article "Urban rivers are the lifeblood of the city: the largest public space, yet so often forgotten and underutilized. What if you could reclaim your river through swimming?" <http://futurecapetown.com/2014/11/world-cities-day-londons-best-idea/#VK0c7GMOaug>
22. Atbrand blogged about World Cities Day see blog <http://atbrand.eu/?p=585>
23. Market Place of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities article for World Cities Day "Shanghai Hosts the First World Cities Day!" <http://eu-smartcities.eu/content/shanghai-hosts-first-world-cities-day>
24. Local Government News Australia article "First World Cities Day" <http://www.lgnews.com.au/first-world-cities-day/#VK0pi2Moaug>
25. Cities Alliance article for World Cities Day <http://www.citiesalliance.org/node/4971>
26. ShanghaiDaily.com wrote a feature for World Cities Day "Milan sets example of urban transformation on World Cities Day" [http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article\\_xinhua.aspx?id=250066](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=250066)
27. Global Environment Society published "Inaugural World Cities Day hosted by Shanghai" <http://globalenvironmentalsociety.net/inaugural-world-cities-day-hosted-by-shanghai/>
28. Global Roundtable Issues published article "UN Observance: World Cities Day October 31" <https://globalroundtableissues.wordpress.com/2014/10/31/un-observance-world-cities-day-october-31/>
29. The Florentine promotes the World Cities Day contest by the Guardian at <http://www.theflorentine.net/articles/article-view.asp?issuetocId=9602>
30. UN News Centre published "On first-ever World Cities Day, UN spotlights need for sustainable urban planning" <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49215#VK4vIXzfrct>
31. International Channel Shanghai promotional video for World Cities Day <http://www.icshanghai.com/en/information/2014-09-03/26062.html>



Media coverage at one of the World Cities Day Arts Event, Shanghai, China @UN-Habitat





## Annexes

### Annex 1

#### Concept Note

##### 1. The history of World Cities Day

The General Assembly decided at its sixty-eighth session in December 2013 “to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, and invited States, the United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of World Cities Day, and stresses that the costs of all activities that may arise from observing World Cities Day should be met from voluntary contributions.”

The Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme adopted a resolution 24/1 at its twenty-fourth session on 19 April 2013 and decided to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that, beginning in 2014, 31 October of every year should be designated as World Cities Day.

All participants of Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, with the common aspiration to recall, renew and advance in the future the theme “Better city, better life”, joined the United Nations, the Bureau International des Expositions and the Organizing Committee of Expo 2010 in adopting the Shanghai Declaration on 31 October 2010, in which it was proposed to nominate 31 October as World Better Cities Day.

##### 2. The objective of World Cities Day

The objective of WCD is to raise the international awareness of urbanization trends, challenges and visions for sustainable urban development, to promote international cooperation and make contributions to the global efforts in building equitable, prosperous and sustainable cities and improving people’s living environment and quality.

##### 3. The nature of World Cities Day

WCD, approved by UN General Assembly, is a special UN day on cities. UN-Habitat, as a coordinating agency in the United Nations System on housing and human settlements, shall organise global WCD observations.

##### 4. The observation of World Cities Day

UN-Habitat shall take the lead in mobilizing the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders to observe the WCD, with the assistance and volunteer financial contributions from member states and other partners including Shanghai, China.

##### 5. The annual theme of World Cities Day

The annual theme of each WCD shall be developed UN-Habitat through consultation with CPR and other stakeholders in coordination with the World Urban Forum, Habitat III and new Urban Agenda after Habitat III.

##### 6. Activities in the observation

Activities to be undertaken in the global observation shall be developed on the availability of human and financial resources from voluntary contributions.

##### 7. The organization of World Cities Day observations

UN-Habitat, as mandated by the GA Resolution A/68/439, is responsible for WCD organization and observation, and accountable for reporting to the Assembly at its seventy-first session an evaluation of World Cities Day. It will set up a special task force for the organization of global observations activities, and mobilization of national and local governments and various Habitat partners to organize observation activities under their initiatives.





The first WCD observation in 2014 could be located in Shanghai, China, depending on the initiative and contributions from Shanghai.

#### 8. The partnership with Shanghai, China

A partnership between UN-Habitat and Shanghai, China could be built for the cooperation and organization of WCD, depending on the agreement to be reached between the two sides.

#### 9. The funding of World Cities Day activities

To follow the GA Resolution A/68/439 that the costs of all activities that may arise from observing World Cities Day

should be met from voluntary contributions, UN-Habitat will set up a special WCD Fund, and invite its member countries to make voluntary contributions to this Fund.

It is expected that Shanghai will make substantive financial contributions to this Fund and in-kind contributions for the operation of WCD task force in order to ensure that WCD observation and related activities shall be prepared and implemented properly.

## Annex 2

### List of side events in Shanghai

#### The 3rd International Forum on Public Diplomacy

- Theme: Practice and Exploitation of City Diplomacy: Dialogue between China and Europe
- Sponsor: China Public Diplomacy Association
- Organizer: Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries of Shanghai Political Consultative Committee Shanghai Public Diplomacy Association
- Venue: Sheraton Hotels & Resorts (No. 38, Pu Jian Road)

#### China New-type Urbanization Development Forum

- Theme: China's development of new-type urbanization
- Sponsors: Architectural Society of China; Support Units: Shanghai Municipal Urban and Rural Construction and Management Committee; Shanghai Municipal Transportation Committee; Bao'shan People's Government, Shanghai; Shanghai Planning and Territorial Resources Administration Bureau; Co-Organizers: Architectural Society of Shanghai; Shanghai Xian Dai Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd; Tongji Architectural Design Group Co., Ltd; CCDI
- Venue: Lake Meilan International Convention Center (No. 6655, Hu Tai Road)

#### Underground pipeline and city security academic BBS

- Theme: Strengthen the management of urban underground pipeline, improve urban safety operation
- Sponsor: Shanghai Highway and Transportation Society
- Organizer: Banshen Civil Engineering Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.
- Venue: Huating Hotel (No. 1200, North Ciao Xi Road)

#### Shanghai 2040 Summit Forum

- Theme: Shanghai Master Planning towards 2040
- Sponsor: Shanghai Urban Master Planning Compiling Work Leading Group Office
- Organizer: Shanghai Urban Planning & Design Research Institute
- Venue: South Hall, Shanghai Design Center (No. 499, Ban Song Yuan Road)

#### The Global City Forum

- Theme: The Transformation and Development of global cities
- Sponsor: The Development Research Center of Shanghai's Municipal People's Government; Shanghai Normal University



- Support Units: World Bank; World Committee of City Data (WCCD); Science and Technology Committee of Shanghai Urban and Rural Construction & Transportation Committee; University of Toronto
- Venue: Shanghai International Convention (No. 2727, Bin Jiang Avenue, Pudong Area)
- Shanghai Health Industry Development & Promotion Association
- Organizer: Healthy city cultural development special fund of Shanghai Cultural Development Foundation
- Venue: China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong (No. 99 Qian Cheng Road)

### The 2014 International Healthy City Forum

- Theme: International global cities
- Sponsor: China Association of Mayors

## Annex 3

### List of Media invited

#### Foreign Media

1. Yomiuri Shimbun
2. Asahi Shimbun
3. Agencia EFE
4. Yonhap news agency
5. Singapore's Lianhe Zaobao

#### Chinese Media

1. CCTV
2. Central People's Broadcasting Station
3. Xinhua News Agency
4. Guangming Daily
5. Securities Times
6. China Culture Daily
7. Construction Times
8. China Economic Herald

#### Shanghai Media

1. Shanghai TV station
2. Shanghai Radio
3. Liberation Daily
4. Wen Wei Po
5. Xinmin Evening News
6. Labor Daily
7. Oriental Morning Post
8. Morning News
9. Shanghai Daily
10. Youth Daily
11. LONDON
12. Shanghai Post
13. China Business Network Co.,Ltd
14. Shanghai Business
15. Shanghai Educational Television Station
16. Shanghai Educational Press Expands
17. Shanghai Educational News Net

18. Oriental Educational Times
19. Shanghai Science and Technology
20. Oriental Urban and Rural
21. The Bund
22. Shanghai Law Journal
23. Medias from other provinces and cities
24. Yang Cheng Wan Bao
25. Guangdong Television
26. The economic people magazine
27. China's modern enterprise
28. Oriental Outlook Weekly
29. ICS
30. Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao
31. Oriental Outlook Weekly
32. People's Daily
33. Xin Min Evening News
34. China News Agency



## Annex 4

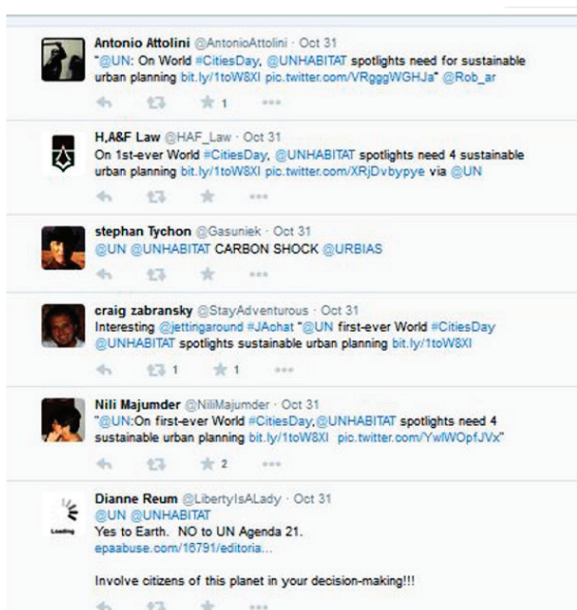
Main WCD Tweet on @UN



UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon WCD statement on twitter



User reactions on the main tweet on WCD













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