



UN-HABITAT

## THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

# OUR FUTURE:

## Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas Into Action

June 19-23, 2006, Vancouver, Canada



## PROGRAM OUTLINE

VANCOUVER CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

[WWW.UNHABITAT.ORG/WUF](http://WWW.UNHABITAT.ORG/WUF)

[WWW.WUF3-FUM3.CA](http://WWW.WUF3-FUM3.CA)



Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General  
United Nations

### Invitation from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan

Cities are home to half of humanity. While they offer tremendous opportunities, they can also be places of grinding misery. And with slums and poor neighbourhoods coexisting with great swathes of comfort and opulence, cities often show us the enormous gap between rich and poor and between those who benefit from urbanization and those who are marginalized from it. In endorsing the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders committed themselves to improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Reaching this goal will mean tackling some of the world's most critical social, economic and environmental challenges. The World Urban Forum – to be held this year as UN-HABITAT marks its 30th anniversary – is well placed to galvanize progress. Our goals may be global, but they can be achieved most effectively through local action. I urge all participants to work together and do their utmost to usher in a new era of truly sustainable urban development.



Anna Tibajuka  
Under-Secretary-General  
United Nations and  
Executive Director  
of UN-HABITAT

### Invitation from the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Anna Tibajuka

This session is of special significance because it coincides with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver in 1976, which led to the founding of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Much has been done since to place sustainable human settlements and the plight of the urban poor on the international agenda. The ideals that emerged in Vancouver were reconfirmed by world leaders in the Habitat Agenda – the global plan of action for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world – at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, in 1996.

Over the course of the next 30 years, people living in cities around the world will largely outnumber those living in rural areas. If current trends continue, extreme urban poverty is also set to double in that period to two billion people. The world thus urgently needs actions leading to innovative urban economic development, better urban governance, safer and cleaner cities – and cities without slums in which all have access to shelter, water, sanitation and other basic needs. This also entails alternative energy sources, better nature conservation for a cleaner urban environment and above all, action to make cities of the future more sustainable and less reliant on the world's dwindling natural resources. Here, the Millennium Development Goals provide us with a roadmap into a better future.

Canada and the city of Vancouver have a consistent record as a wellspring of novel ideas for sustainable urbanization. They are therefore a most appropriate choice for the Third Session of the World Urban Forum to generate new ideas and actions in support of our common quest for more just, inclusive and environmentally sound cities.

Turning Ideas  
into Action



### WORLD URBAN FORUM 3, 19-23 JUNE 2006, VANCOUVER CANADA

#### ***Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action.***

The World Urban Forum, held every two years, was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization in a world where half of humanity lives in cities and where in the next 50 years that proportion is expected to reach two-thirds of the global population.

Most of this urban growth is taking place in developing countries where the major challenge is to combat poverty and provide better access to basic shelter and services, like clean water and sanitation. Cities in wealthier nations also face problems of urbanization—like crumbling infrastructure, smog and social exclusion. For cities North and South the challenge is to find solutions—and seize opportunities—that alleviate poverty in cities, reduce pollution and facilitate sustainable urban growth and development.

The Third Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) will be hosted by the Government of Canada in partnership with UN-HABITAT in Vancouver, Canada. For five days, thousands of participants from more than 150 nations will discuss, debate and share experiences about how to make our cities better places to live.

#### **WHO WILL ATTEND WUF3**

Interest in the World Urban Forum has grown significantly: from 1,200 participants in Nairobi in 2002, to 4,400 in Barcelona in 2004. We are expecting more than 6,000 participants in Vancouver in 2006. The structure of the event will be engaging without the formal rules of procedure that govern official UN meetings.

The Forum will bring together experts, government officials and members of civil society from around the world, representing:

- All Levels of Government
- Local Authorities
- Intergovernmental Organizations
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- International Organizations
- Community Groups
- Urban and Business Professionals
- Academics and Students
- National and International Associations

#### **WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND WUF3**

Everyone is affected by urbanization of the planet. Solutions to the challenges we face are found in the sharing of ideas and best practices. WUF3 is an inclusive event that wants to hear from people committed to achieving sustainability.

Your participation in the World Urban Forum will allow you to:

- Meet participants from around the world and expand your network
- Discuss and share ideas and solutions with other participants
- Discuss and debate urban sustainable development issues with peers
- Learn and enhance your knowledge during hands-on training sessions with world-class leaders
- Discover innovative ideas showcased in the exposition
- Visit and enjoy Vancouver, one of the most beautiful cities in the world

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

TIME	MONDAY, JUNE 19TH	TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST	THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND	FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD
AM		CAUCUS MEETINGS PLENARIES	CAUCUS MEETINGS KEYNOTE	CAUCUS MEETINGS PLENARIES	NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT SESSIONS
	OPENING CEREMONIES	DIALOGUES DEBATES, NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	DIALOGUES DEBATES, NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	DIALOGUES DEBATES, NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	CLOSING SESSION
	OPENING SESSION & OPENING OF THE EXPOSITION				
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	RECEPTION ON EXPO FLOOR
PM	ROUNDTABLES NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	ROUNDTABLES NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	NETWORKING & TRAINING EVENTS	CLOSING CEREMONIES

## ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

A range of events are being planned for participants over the five days.

### Plenary Sessions & Keynote Addresses

These sessions will feature renowned speakers who will offer context and thought-provoking views surrounding issues of urbanization.

### Debates

Participants will argue opposing viewpoints on various topics related to urbanization.

### Round Tables

Roundtables will bring Ministers, Mayors, Parliamentarians, Youth, Women and other peer groups into smaller sessions to share experiences and views on the topics of the Forum.

### Caucus Meetings

Caucus meetings will be informal meetings held between peers every morning. They will focus mainly on the topics of that day.

### Local Government Sessions

Representatives of local governments will have a chance to discuss the particular challenges at this level of governance.

### Exposition

A highlight of the Forum will be an exposition showcasing leading-edge projects, ideas, case studies, experiences and best practices from around the world that address the challenges of urban sustainability. The exposition will also provide facilities for informal meetings, lectures, discussions, debates and award ceremonies, as well as multimedia services including computer and Internet facilities.

### Cultural Events

In addition to a content-rich program, many cultural events will take place in and around WUF3, including concerts, art exhibits and cultural performances.

### The World Youth Forum

The World Youth Forum will be held from June 16-18. It will bring together some 300 international youth leaders to network, share best practices and collaborate on global projects. The Forum seeks to arrive at a youth declaration to be officially presented at WUF3 and will culminate in a four-hour, interactive Global Hip-Hop and World Music Mainstage Concert, featuring international MCs, DJs and performers.

## ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM – Cont'd

### DIALOGUES

The theme of WUF3, **Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action**, is supported by three sub-themes. The main focus of discussion during the five-day Forum will be a series of dialogues that will bring together two or three speakers who will offer views on topics related to the sub-themes. Facilitators will engage participants from the audience to join in the discussion.

#### Sub-theme 1: Urban Growth and the Environment

Sound planning and management are major factors in ensuring sustainable urban development. Two dialogue sessions under this sub-theme will focus on:

- **The Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and Management**

How to involve citizens in planning and ensuring urban sustainability through new planning approaches, rational land use and the design of more liveable spaces.

- **Energy: Local Action, Global Impact**

How to reduce energy consumption of cities, lessen their contribution to global warming and develop sustainable transportation as well as affordable and efficient urban energy policies and strategies.

#### Sub-theme 2: Partnership and Finance

Cities with strong and vibrant economies depend on the partnership efforts of many stakeholders at local, national and international levels. Two dialogue sessions under this sub-theme will focus on:

- **Municipal Finance: Innovation and Collaboration**

How to balance the need for a strong fiscal base while attracting foreign and domestic investment and encouraging community-based economic development and the economic empowerment of youth and women.

- **Urban Safety and Security: Taking Responsibility**

How to put in place policies and practices for urban safety, crime and conflict prevention to contribute to economically productive, culturally vibrant and socially inclusive cities and communities.

#### Sub-theme 3: Social Inclusion and Cohesion

Good urban governance and leadership, including pro-poor, gender sensitive policies and legislation, are key to preventing marginalization, social exclusion and urban poverty. Two dialogue sessions under this sub-theme will focus on:

- **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing**

How to reach the water, sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the Millennium Declaration, while exploring the ability of slums to capitalize on economies of scale in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

- **Public Engagement: The Inclusive Approach**

How to put in place urban policies and strategies that engage all city dwellers: long-term residents, international migrants, the poor, marginalized groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, with a particular focus on migrants, youth and women.

More information at:  
[www.unhabitat.org/wuf](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf)  
[www.wuf3-fum3.ca](http://www.wuf3-fum3.ca)



One billion people  
live in the squalor  
of slums

## ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM – Cont'd

### Networking & Training Events

A series of more than 100 networking and training events will provide participants with an informal atmosphere to build knowledge, strengthen partnerships and share ideas and best practices.

#### Here is a sample of some networking and training events:

Creative Planning with Young People: The Growing Up in Cities Project of UNESCO

Organized by: UNESCO (GUIC)

City Networks: Engines of Urban Sustainability

Organized by: Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones (FLACMA)

Sustainable Energy Systems for Large Cities: Emerging Best Practices in Developed and Developing Countries

Organized by: LEAD International

Empowering Cities to Mobilize Domestic Capital: Enabling Framework and City Level Actions

Organized by: Cities Alliance

Cities of the Future—Global Competition, Local Leadership

Organized by: PricewaterhouseCoopers Sweden

Inclusive Governance in Conflict Cities—Achieving Safety and Security through Local Cooperation

Organized by: London School of Economics and Political Science and Development Studies Institute

Overcoming Barriers: Housing and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa and Aboriginal Communities

Organized by: Housing People of Zimbabwe, Lu'ma Native Housing Society and Rooftops Canada

Practices on Responsive Local Governance: Women Building Sustainable Communities—From Grassroots to Local Governments

Organized by: Asian Women Shelter Network

Rebuilding Homes in Sri Lanka—An Example of an International Partnership

Organized by: Government of Quebec

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The locus of global poverty is moving into cities in a process called the *urbanization of poverty*. In the next 30 years, slum populations will double if we fail to address this phenomenon adequately.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

### Registration

You must register to attend the World Urban Forum. There is no fee for participants, but you must pay for your own travel and accommodation and make the necessary arrangements to get the appropriate visa to visit Canada. To register visit: [www.unhabitat.org/wuf](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf).

### Venue

WUF3 will be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. It is located in the heart of downtown Vancouver and offers a wide variety of services.

### Visas

Many participants travelling from outside Canada will require a visa to enter the country. Should you need a visa, you must apply for it at least one month prior to your entry into the country. Individual invitation letters will not be issued by the Government of Canada or UN-HABITAT. For information regarding Canadian visas, please contact your nearest Canadian visa office or go to [www.wuf3-fum3.ca](http://www.wuf3-fum3.ca)

### Hotels

Vancouver offers a wide selection of accommodation and we have negotiated favourable rates for all budgets. Shuttle services will also be provided between the WUF3 venue and most of the accredited hotels.

### Languages

Major plenary sessions are expected to be in the six UN languages; most sessions overall will include French/English interpretation and in some cases a third language.

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### Would you like to organize a side event at WUF3?

WUF3 provides opportunities for you to organize a smaller gathering of selected participants. If you would like to organize a side event at WUF3, contact Silvia Ragoss: [silvia.ragoss@unhabitat.org](mailto:silvia.ragoss@unhabitat.org)



www.unhabitat.org/wuf  
www.wuf3-fum3.ca

## WELCOME TO VANCOUVER, CANADA

Vancouver is a cosmopolitan and multicultural city surrounded by spectacular scenery. Canada's gateway to the Pacific, it is the future home to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games. A leader in sustainable urbanization, Vancouver was where the first HABITAT conference took place 30 years ago. Since then, Vancouver has won the prestigious UN-HABITAT Dubai International Award for Best Practices and is widely considered one of the world's most liveable cities.

### Eco-Audit

Using recycled paper made with post-consumer waste and bleached without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds results in measurable environmental benefits.

6 Trees Saved  
5,230 Water Saved (gals.)  
1,076 Net Greenhouse Emissions Reduced (Lbs.)  
3,557 Wood Saved (Lbs.)  
555 Landfill Reduced (Lbs.)  
7,079 Energy Reduced (BTU) (000)

The Eco-Audit is an estimate based on research done by the Environmental Defense Fund.



TOURISM VANCOUVER

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### Photography

Cover first top left pic:  
JEARANA KUL-UNEP/Still Pictures  
Cover third top left pic: UNEP/Still Pictures  
Page 6 top left: UNEP/Still Pictures  
All other pix: Photos.com

### The WUF3 Greening Initiative – 100% Sustainable

Because the first steps toward global change start with us, the Third Session of the World Urban Forum is being organized in accordance with a green meeting strategy – the WUF3 Greening Initiative. This initiative guides our planning and ensures that decisions related to the event are made according to sound principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability.



### Enquiries about the World Urban Forum

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Canada



### Enquiries about local services in Vancouver

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