



WUF6

# WORLD URBAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY 4



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**WUF6** WORLD  
URBAN **YOUTH**  
ASSEMBLY

**WORLD  
URBANYOUTH  
ASSEMBLY 4**

**UN  HABITAT**

## WORLD URBAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY

**Project:** Participation of Youth representatives from developing Countries at the UN-Habitat World Urban Youth Assembly and World Urban Forum 6

**Project Dates:** 1 to 6 September 2013

**Project Cost:** 50,000 USD

**Expected Objectives:** To facilitate the participation of young women and men from developing countries at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum and the World Urban Youth Assembly

**Project funded by:** Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

First published in Nairobi in 2013 by UN-Habitat.  
Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme 2013

All rights reserved  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)  
P. O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA  
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)  
www.unhabitat.org

**HS/062/13E**

### Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers of boundaries.

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations, or its Member States.

Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Principal Authors:** Douglas Ragan, Mutinta Munyati and Victoria Chebet

**Author:** Youth and Livelihood's Unit

**Contributors:** Akolade Aderibigbe, Catherine Tololwo, Dana Podmolikova, Edinilson Ferreira Dos Santos, Eric Luguya, James Alcime, John Anugraha, Jon-Andreas Solberg, Kaja Weinandi, Lorenzo Casullo, Lucinda Hartley, Maya Mboup, Mir Ghulam, Murtaza Noonari, Paul Wambua, Philomena Modu, Rapheal Obonyo, and Safira De La Sala

**Editor:** Tom Osanjo

**Design and Layout:** Andrew Ondoo

**Administrative Support Team:** Grace Nduru, Joyce David, Jacqueline Macha and Mary Dibo

# Contents

Background	5	SESSION 5: <b>Engaging Youth in Urban Water and Sanitation</b>	39
Joint Opening session for Youth and Gender Assemblies	7	SESSION 6: <b>Sports as a catalyst for change and development;</b> harnessing the potential of sports in urban areas	43
Statement by <b>Dr. Joan Clos</b> , UN-Habitat Executive Director	9	SESSION 7: <b>Youth Employment, Trade and Job Creation</b>	47
Statement by <b>Mr. João Scarpelini</b> , Former UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board	11	SESSION 8: <b>State of the Field of Youth-Led Development</b>	51
Statement by <b>Mr. Nicola Formichella</b> , Parliamentarian, Italy	13	SESSION 9: <b>Equitable access to land -</b> Strengthening youth engagement in providing tenure security for all	55
Statement by <b>Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil –</b> State Secretary for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway	15	SESSION 10: Engaging Young People in Sustainable Urban Mobility	59
Statement by <b>Ms. Lakshmi Puri</b> Deputy Executive Director, UN Women	17	SESSION 11: <b>Youth 21, “Building for Change”</b> Road map from Nairobi to Naples	63
Key messages at the joint opening ceremony	21	SESSION 12: <b>Building Safer cities with and for young people.</b> Strategies to improve the quality of life for urban young people	67
SESSION 1: <b>Youth and the Prosperity of Cities.</b> State of the Urban Youth Report 2012- 2013	23	ANNEX 1: Statement by the Youth at the concluding session of the Sixth World Urban Forum (WUF) on 5th September 2012	70
SESSION 2: <b>Youth Climate Change and Green Jobs;</b> from a Rio+20 perspective	27	ANNEX 2: Financial Report/List of Participants	73
SESSION 3: <b>Information Communication Technologies;</b> Youth and Governance	31		
SESSION 4: <b>Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship and Social Responsibility;</b> The development of initiatives for Urban Youth	35		



*Delegates during the opening session of the Youth Assembly, World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.*  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu





## Background

The World Urban Forum (WUF) was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today- rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. The Forum is organized and convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 18/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements and United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/206.

The Forum is held in a different host city/country biennially drawing a wide range of experts from every walk of life including Habitat Agenda Partners, government leaders, ministers, mayors, diplomats, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, non-governmental and community organizations, professionals, academics, grassroots women's organizations, youth and slum dwellers groups as partners working for a better Urban Future. Since the first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002, the Forum has grown in size and stature as it travelled to Barcelona in 2004, Vancouver 2006, Nanjing in 2008, and Rio de Janeiro in 2010.

As an integral part of the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum, the fourth World Urban Youth Assembly was held in Naples, Italy on 2 September 2012. The holding of the Youth Assembly early in the programme of WUF provided youth

with the opportunity to deliberate on issues of particular significance to them including safety, employment, job creation, access to basic services, climate change and green jobs and governance. The discussions also highlighted the potential areas of youth contribution in the context of the theme of the main forum "The Urban Future".

The Youth assembly was attended by 380 people from around the world including the members of the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Urban Youth Fund, One Stop Youth Centre Coordinators and representatives of youth led organizations. The speakers included young people and specialists from the Academia/Research, Inter-governmental organization, Local government, National Government, United Nations, Non-governmental organization, Private Sector, and Foundations from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Latin American/Caribbean, and Oceania

The Youth Assembly approved a WUF6 Youth Statement that was read during the WUF's Closing Ceremony. A Naples 2012 Declaration on Urban Water and Sanitation and Urban Youth and Mobility were approved by the Assembly's attendees.

UN-Habitat would like to thank the Government of Norway and NORAD for its support of the Youth Assembly through supporting the participation UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board and developing countries youth representatives.



WORLD  
URBAN  
FORUM 6  
NAPLES, ITALY 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2012

UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Opening session during the World  
Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu



## Joint Opening session for Youth and Gender Assemblies

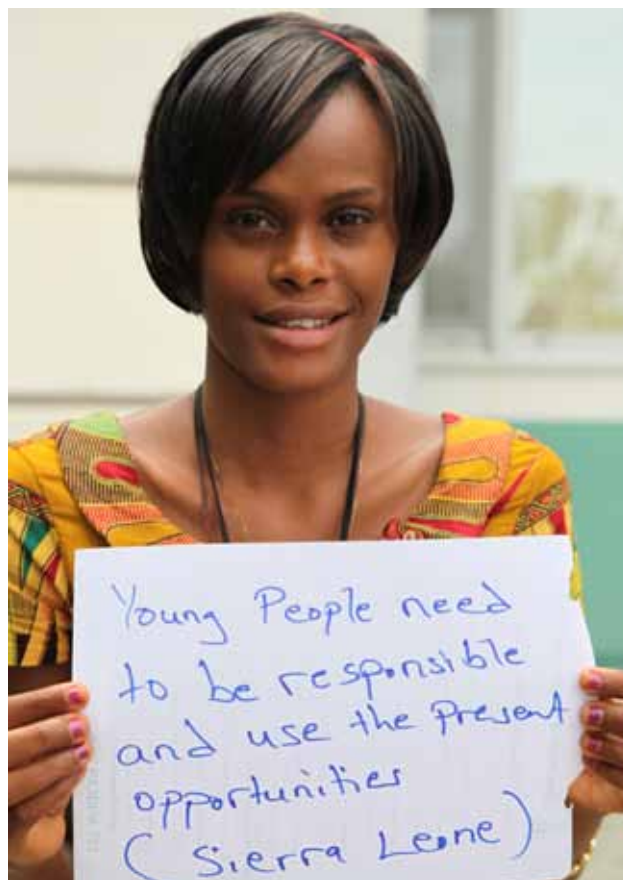
The Opening session was addressed by the Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil, State Secretary for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, Mr. João Scarpelini, Former UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board member, and Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka, Director, UN-Habitat among others.

**Moderators:** Mr. Bret Thiele; Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**Co -Moderator:** Sara Mohamed Ali, Plan International delegate

### Speakers

- **Dr. Joan Clos**, Executive Director, UN-Habitat and Under Secretary General of the United Nations
- **Ms. Lakshmi Puri**, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women
- **Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil**, State Secretary for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- **Ms. Giuseppina Tommasielli**, Equal Opportunity and Youth Policy Councillor of City of Naples
- **Ms Giovanna Del Giudice**, Equal Opportunity and Youth Policy Councillor of Provincia of Naples
- **Mr. Nicola Formichella**, Parliamentarian
- **Mr. Joao Filipe Scarpelini**, Former UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board



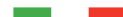
Youth delegate from Sierra Leone display her message during the first African Youth Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria 2011.

© UN-Habitat/ Julius Mwelu





*UN-Habitat Executive Director  
Dr Joan Clos addresses the delegates  
during the opening session of the  
World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.*  
© **UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu**



## Statement by **Dr. Joan Clos,** UN-Habitat Executive Director

**Dr. Clos** welcomed the participants to the opening plenary. He explained that UN-Habitat organizes the World Urban Forum every two years to give partners a platform to contribute and enrich the work of UN-Habitat. The outcomes of the World Urban Forum feed into the Governing Council that is also held every two years where Governments discuss the administrative/programmatic work of UN-Habitat.

Dr. Clos noted that during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century women rights had undergone very steeping points and beginning with the accession (this is not clear, please explain TO) in the social and political acceptance in the society/advancement of women rights. The Executive Director said it took quite a long time to grant women political rights in most democracies. He underscored the need to recognizing the immense efforts that generations of women have provided to elevate the civilization of humanity. In relation to urbanization, women are very strong force in the urban setting, we are seeing a lot of women in social urban responsibilities; social movements and we are seeing a lot of them fighting for the conditions of people in the cities. The city provides women an additional chance of women rights because they are out of the traditional settings. We should recognize the fraternity between cities and women rights, cities have a lot of problems but also provide a lot of new opportunities.

Dr. Clos, speaking on the progress of youth emancipation explained that in the traditional structural family settings, young people had no powers but rather they were to obey, and contribute to the new work force. He noted that lately, this has changed as young people are beginning a process of political, social and economic emancipation, and are beginning to say things. Young people are becoming the majority of the population in some regions for example in Africa the median age is 18 years. This expresses a lot of things, a lot of young population, need to develop their own lives, their futures but unfortunately most of these young people do not have decent livelihoods and jobs. He called upon the participants to express their ideas in the assemblies and that UN-Habitat will in turn relay the ideas to Governments, General Assembly and the UN family.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Clos noted that UN-Habitat recognizes the special importance of youth involvement and gender issues which is why it created special departments focusing on them.

WORLD  
URBAN  
FORUM  
NAPLES, ITALY



Former UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board Mr. João Scarpelini, addresses delegates during the Youth Assembly of the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu



## Statement by Mr. João Scarpelini, Former UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board

**Mr. Scarpelini,** highlighted the vital role that Forum plays in creating a meaningful participation of young people in UN-Habitat's work. It provided a great platform to celebrate the achievements and critically evaluate the progress of youth involvement in UN-Habitat's work.

Mr. João further noted that although meaningful participation of youth in programming is not easy, UN-Habitat has been able to achieve key milestones through the implementation of a number of initiatives throughout the world including:

**Urban Youth Fund:** With the support of the Government of Norway, UN-Habitat has been able to champion youth participation through the funding of youth led projects throughout the world. Through the funding young people are taking the responsibility to improve their cities and are working with local authorities.

**Youth and Governance:** He explained that through the Youth Advisory Board, UN-Habitat has been including young people in Governance. The Youth Advisory Board champions youth work in UN-Habitat, with a particular emphasis on mainstreaming youth across the agency and also by making sure that projects implemented by UN-Habitat put youth in the driver's seat.

**One Stop Youth Centers:** He noted that the One Stop Youth Centers provide youth with the much needed safe spaces in urban settings where they are able to meet and access information and resources critical to youth-led development.

He explained that the model utilizes an integrated approach to youth development and is implemented in partnership with local government entities.



“We have come a long way in the process of increasing the participation of young people as Co-Partners. We are here to celebrate all the achievements but also to critically look at what we have achieved and what needs to be done,” **João said**



**Research:** UN-Habitat has also championed research exploring the role of youth in sports, peace building, conflict resolution, information and communication, job creation and exploring the green economy alternatives. He emphasized the need to partnering with young people directly implementing these programmes in the grassroots.

**Youth 21** is an initiative created to strengthen youth participation not only within UN-Habitat but across the UN system, trying to listen to what young people have to say as well as challenging them to come up with their own solutions/ideas. He further challenged member states to join and create a platform to make the world a better place for young people based on equal partnership.



Risk Reduction  
& Rehabilitation

Youth discussing at the UN-Habitat  
exhibition area during the World Urban  
Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu





## Statement by **Mr. Nicola Formichella**, Parliamentarian, Italy

**Mr. Formichella**, speaking on behalf of the President of the Region of Campania (Mr. Stefano Caldoro) and the Italian Parliament noted that the region's hosting of the World Urban Forum meant being a major actor in the processes of change which involve the cities of world urbanization and sustainable development which are very sensitive issues. It is important that we involve younger generation in dealing with these issues to be able to build their future in line with these processes of modernization and urbanization, he said.



Volunteers posing for group photo during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy. © UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu

He explained that the region of Campania had devoted suitable attention to these issues with targeted programmes focusing on sustainable development such as the new urban housing plans, social housing plans and landscaping city improvements. Mr. Formichella, describing the major programmes that have been recognized as best practices in the European region, explained that the programmes aim to improve the whole of the region of Campania. He stated that the region had a major potential and that it can certainly deal with the challenge of change effectively. He further noted that the great challenge in the future of Italy and the region was the new generational challenge and unemployment of young people. He emphasized the need to provide young people with the opportunity of implementing enterprises so that they are able to see their own talents being recognized and put in practice. Young people cannot however do this on their own, but there is need to develop country systems and institutions which can incentivize the development of these ideas. To come out of this crisis, we believe that we need to invest in young human resources by making it possible to develop young people ideas through access to credit so that new enterprises and developments are created.



*Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil,  
Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Norway addresses the delegates at  
Youth Assembly during the World Urban  
Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.*

**© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu**



## Statement by **Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil** – State Secretary for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway

**Hon. Gadgil** started his statement with a special thanks to the Government of Italy for hosting the WUF 6, UN-Habitat, Youth Unit and Gender Units for organizing the special events for youth and women.

He noted that we are now in the middle of the storm, having to address some of the most important questions of inequalities which destroy everything that society stands for. He added that the mega trends in the world told us that what we were going to discuss in those twin forums are among the most important issues being handled on the international stage. They include rising urbanization, youth bulge which presents a lot of opportunities and some challenges, as well as the issue human rights and women rights especially sexual and reproductive rights.

Decrying the effects of inequality, Hon Arvin noted that inequality is the venom of society; that destroys everything that society stands for, including destroying the trust between the people and as well as governments. He said that inequality comes in three different forms including, secrecy, exclusion and greed (greed?) The issue of inequality hasn't been discussed on the international stage for a long time. He emphasized the need to deal with the issue of inequality through the following:

- We need to shift the power and participation that's never easy.
- We have to realize that if those that we claim to consult, do not feel like they have been consulted than they were not. It is not about our feelings and opinions, but theirs.
- Those who want to be heard to trust their gut feelings to stand up for themselves, raise their voices and speak up. It does not help to stand by and wait for someone else to do it.

He noted that panel debates alone are not going to save the community from inequality, the real antidotes are building personal relations and alliances. He called on the participants to build personal relationships through networking and building alliances, by using the spaces between the forums to exchange ideas.



*Ms. Lakshmi Puri,  
Deputy Executive Director, UN Women.*  
© **WorldBank/Mikael Ullén**





## Statement by **Ms. Lakshmi Puri** Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

**Ms. Puri** started her statement by thanking the Government of Italy, UN-Habitat, and all the partners for organizing and hosting this Gender and Youth Assemblies. She further commended the organizers for giving priority to youth and gender as two central themes in the context of this World Urban Forum.

Describing current global youth statistics, Ms. Puri noted that the number of adolescents and young people worldwide is at an all-time high. As the world is facing many interconnected challenges including financial, economic, food, energy, environmental and other crises, young women and men represent a huge resource as agents of change for advancing peace and security, development, human rights and gender equality.

She further stated that young women and men are also the most at risk with regard to changes in the economy, increasing inequalities within and between countries, and the impact of climate change. They continue to face challenges and limitations to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. This is an issue of denial of rights and a loss of potential that the world cannot afford. Young people face obstacles because of the lack of openness of political processes, because of biased perceptions of their experience and capacity, and lack of sensitivity to their demands and priorities. Political parties, parliaments, governments or international organizations are often led by older men (and women) who are gatekeepers and who control access to political positions.

In conclusion, Ms. Puri noted that young women and men are at the same time, part of the solution as demonstrated in their commitment and capacity to organize, to advocate for change and to contribute to all issues concerning them including political reform.



No consultation processes can be considered as democratic and inclusive if they do not reflect both young women's and men's views. Young people must be able to move from formal participation to the articulation of their rights, needs, and expectations.

There will be no future without young women and men shaping the development of cities – cities that have to be safe and sustainable for all, that provide the resources for economic empowerment, infrastructure and services-  
**Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women**





The youth delegate Sara Mohamed Ali from Egypt Arab World Spring talked about the challenges faced by young women like her particularly growing up in informal settlements of the city. Representing the girl child she talked about the issues related to space, safety and skills development in not only in the countries affected by Arab spring, but worldwide.



“All girls should have a safe space to express themselves, their dreams and share experiences,” **she concluded.**



Other speakers including Ms. Giuseppina Tommasielli, Ms Giovanna Del Giudice, and HH Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah representing the the Emir of Kuwait reiterated the need to place emphasis on investing in youth and providing mentorship



*World Urban Youth Assembly delegates from Africa visiting the exhibition stands during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.*  
© **Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat**



*Volunteers posing for group photo during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.*  
© **UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu**









RESILIENT TO THE NEXT DISASTER

RICOSTRUIRE CASE IN MODO CHE

"Good urban governance is the key. Inclusion of citizens is a must."  
My Catherine (spatial information and networking) Coordinator, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Dandong

Our experience tells  
solutions combine  
longer-term dev  
better homes

The delegates at the UN-Habitat exhibition area during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu



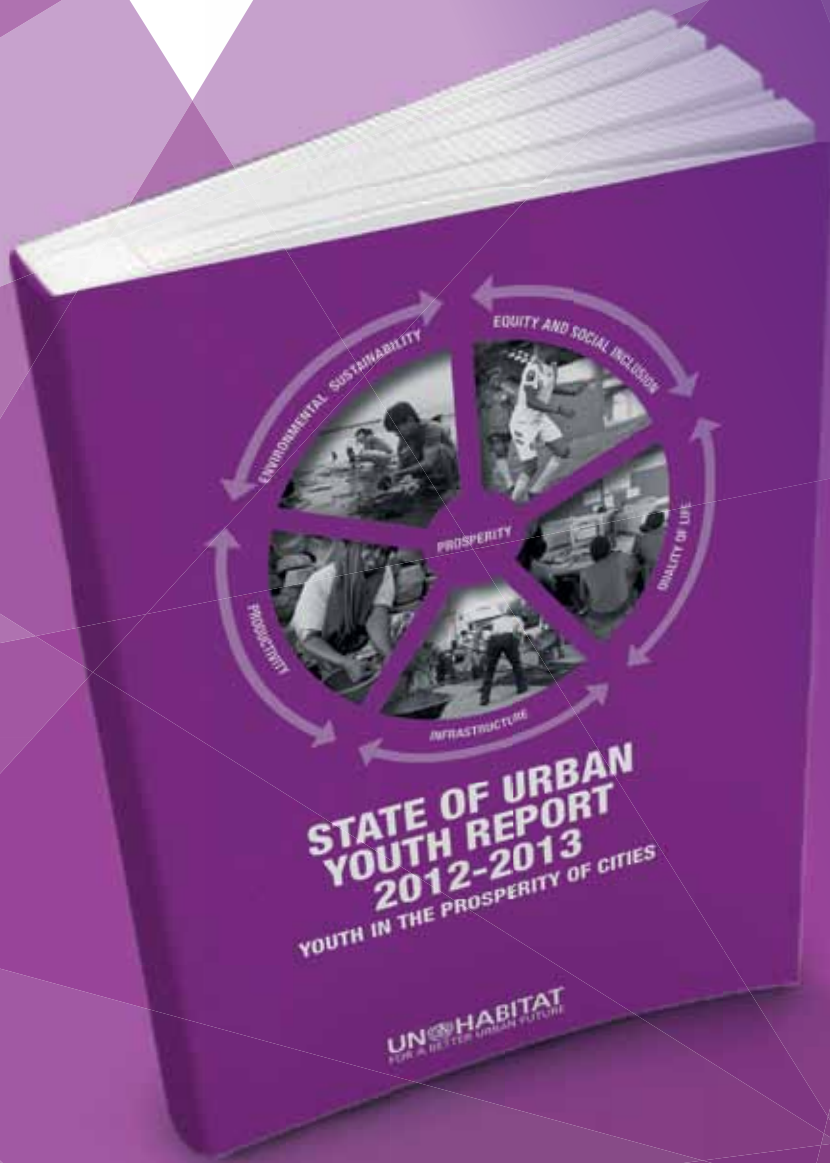
## Key messages at the joint opening ceremony

The following issues were highlighted by the Speakers:

- Cities should be designed and built for women and youth so as to attract them.
- Youth should be considered as assets as this has been demonstrated by their role in the Middle Eastern countries where they have been in the fore front driving positive and democratic change
- Young women in particular, face even greater barriers to decent livelihoods, with poorer access to education and jobs and often under threat of violence or harassment.
- Partnership with private sector was emphasized especially to support small businesses for youth development
- Local authorities must seek to mainstream youth issues into all aspects of their policies, planning and implementation.
- There is need to strengthen Youth Advisory Board as a mechanism to engage youth with UN-Habitat
- Young people must be able to move from formal participation to the articulation of their rights, needs, and expectations.
- There will be no future without young women and men shaping the development of cities – cities that have to be safe and sustainable for all, that provide the resources for economic empowerment, infrastructure and services
- Young people should have safe spaces to express themselves, their dreams and share experiences
- Young people should be provided with opportunities to implement enterprises so that they are able to put their talents into practice. This can be enhanced by the development of country systems and institutions that incentivize these ideas are encouraged.
- Strengthening partnership with young people in the grass roots who are directly involved with implementation of youth programmes.



*The delegates at the UN-Habitat exhibition area during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy. © UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu*



*State of Urban Youth Report  
2012-2013; Youth in the  
Prosperity of Cities.*  
© **UN-Habitat**





## SESSION 1: Youth and the Prosperity of Cities: State of the Urban Youth Report 2012- 2013

MODERATOR: **Prof. Oyebanji Oyeyinka**,  
Director, UN-Habitat

### SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Erik Berg, Senior Advisor**,  
*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*
- **Mr Anugraha John**,  
*UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, India*
- **Mr Alessandro Sansoni**,  
*President of Modavi Association*

### Introduction

The State of the Urban Youth Report 2012/2013 *“Youth and the Prosperity of Cities”* was presented by Prof Oyebanji Oyeyinka. The report builds on the 2010/2011 edition, *“Levelling the Playing Field – Inequality of Youth Opportunity”* and its insights into the state of urban youth. He outlined the key ideas that emerged from the report; in particular, the role of Pre-Determined Circumstances in the wellbeing of young people: young people have no control over several factors including access to education, the location of birth, the occupation of their mother and father. The factors influencing the prosperity of young people in cities including equity, quality of life, infrastructure, productivity and environmental sustainability were highlighted. Much like the findings of the last report, the 2012/2013 report continues to demonstrate

the fundamental importance of education to the development of urban youth. The report recommends a better match between skills and labour markets through vocational training and the participation of the private sector. The report suggests that ‘soft’ skills matter more in service-oriented economies, and that young people in informal settlements need entrepreneurial abilities, and their capacities must be better geared to knowledge-intensive business services.



*The opening session of the Youth Assembly during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy. © UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu*

## Emerging Issues

1. The formal sector in the developing world is not able to provide adequate employment opportunities for young people seeking work and livelihood
2. When young people in urban areas do find jobs, they are often in family-owned businesses, in small and low-productivity firms, in domestic employment or in the informal economy – all of which offer low incomes and little or no labour protection.
3. Unequal opportunities as well as the related issues of employment and underemployment are by far part of the greatest challenges faced by urban youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
4. Young people have no control over factors leading to access to education, like the location of birth, the occupation of their mother and father etc.
5. The degree of outcome inequality that defines youth exclusion or inclusion in urban life is highly related to the (un)equal opportunities that occur in successive life stages.

## Recommendations

- It was recommended that reports produced by UN-Habitat that are relevant for youth, be made more youth friendly, including:
  - Strategically distributing the reports
  - Strategically organized for web distribution
  - Organized for learning
  - Written in a format/language that is accessible to young people

- Offline components be made more available as many young people don't have internet access
- UN-Habitat has become very effective in its youth programs. This has been largely funded by the government of Norway. The government of Norway calls on other institutions, governments and private sector to contribute to the youth program of UN-Habitat



Students in a technical education program supported by the World Bank in Antioquia, Colombia. © Charlotte Kesi World Bank.



Opening session of the Youth Assembly during the  
World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu







**CONFERÊNCIA DE JOVENS  
PARA A RIO + 20**

**CONFERENCE OF YOUTH  
FOR RIO + 20**



*Impressions from Youthblast—the  
conference of youth for Rio+20.*  
© Youthblast/Andrea Arzaba



## SESSION 2: Youth Climate Change and Green Jobs: from a Rio+20 perspective

MODERATOR: **Mr. John Mwaura**

### SPEAKERS

- **Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil**, *State Secretary for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*
- **Prof. Mark Swilling**, *Division Head of Sustainable Development at the University of Stellenbosch and Academic Director of the Sustainability Institute, South Africa*
- **Mr. Marco Gioia**, *Member of "Friarielli Ribelli Association"*
- **Ms. Safira de la Sala**, *UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Czech Republic*

### Highlights of the discussion

The future of hundreds of millions of people in urban areas across the world will be affected by the different impacts of climate change such as weather related disasters, food and water insecurity, rising level of insecurity and increased vulnerability of urban economy. At the same time nearly 90 million young people around the world are unemployed and additional 300 million are "working poor", in unskilled, insecure employment and in unsatisfactory conditions. The largest number of youth in this situation is in global South, especially in Africa. One of the outcomes of Rio+20 is the

recognition of the need for a global strategy on youth and employment in the context of green economy policies. Rio+20 calls on all governments to address the global challenges of youth employment by developing and implementing strategies and policies that provide young people everywhere with access to decent and productive work. The creation of green jobs, such as work in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development, administrative and service activities that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality.



Youthblast—the conference of youth for Rio+20.  
© Youth policy.org





*Youthblast (the conference of youth for Rio+20) plenary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

© **youthpolicy.org**

In this context Climate Change mitigation and adaptation measures offer significant opportunities to create employment in green economy sectors. The objectives of the dialogue was to investigate how Climate Change affects the urban youth and their environment and explored how policy and the private sector can facilitate and promote green jobs for young people.. This session provided participants with a platform for peer to peer learning and the exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas. By identifying new perspectives and opportunities, the dialogue broadened the horizon for a further debate on this topic.

## Emerging Issues

- The dialogue provided a variety of perspectives, presenting the point of views of policy, science and civil society, showing practical solutions and discussing the challenges to mainstream a sustainable living style.
- In the context of sustainable city development it is necessary to rethink urban infrastructure in a more sustainable flow of resources to improve flexibility, adaptability and capacity, especially in jobs, mobility and food security.

- Ms. Laura Gioia, the Urban Activist from Naples, discussing how urban agriculture creates employment and solves the problem of food insecurity in a sustainable way, explained the positive social and ecological impacts of urban agriculture and raised the need for more people taking action in this field. The upcoming movement of urban agriculture organizes people around the natural system that connect to survival within the city. Moreover these activities rebuild new social relationships and create a new way of understanding the nature within the city.
- The panelists suppose that social media and the internet will be one of the main instruments to connect the movement and to mainstream ideas. Moreover it is necessary that local, national and international authorities provide the right meeting spaces for the movements to enhance networking and cooperation.

## Recommendations:

- To handle the challenge of mobilizing young people for more engagement, the panelists pointed out the need for more networking and exchange of ideas for example based on an internet platform or on networking events.
- Creation of a more intensive dialogue between civil society and politicians. The way forward should be based on a more practical and local way of thinking.
- It is important for young people to learn practical skills such as farming. Schools and universities could play an important role by encouraging young people to learn practical skills and to take action.
- Policy and local authorities facilitate spaces for innovation and support the new movements. There is a need to discuss how these social movements can

be better integrated in governance, which could be a further debate, especially with a regard to more collaboration between social movements and politics.

- National and international policy makers need to develop a global strategic plan for green jobs and to start a discussion between employers, governance, civil society and private sector. The world community should find a solution for a “greening” of all jobs and to make them accessible for the youth.
- There is a need of a deeper understanding of the own country and the complexity of our city systems



Orientation session during RIO+20 Youthblast conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. © [youthpolicy.org](http://youthpolicy.org)



*The event organizers and the volunteers preparing translation devices in preparation of the sessions during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.*  
**© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu**



## SESSION 3: Information Communication Technologies; Youth and Governance

The objectives in this session were to explore the potential for improved urban governance that has arisen from the intersection of youth, ICT and urbanization and to identify the priority areas of support and innovations for enhancing youth inclusive in urban governance through the use of ICT.

### SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Daniella Ben Attar**, *International Project Development & Management*
- **Ms. Jamie Lundine**, *Spatial Collective*
- **Dr. Tim Campbell**, *UrbanAge Institute*
- **Ms. Annalisa Buffardi**, *Lecturer, Naples University*
- **Ms. Carole MacNeil**, *MacNeil and Associates*

### Highlights of the discussion:

In her opening remarks, Dr. Kirabo Kacyira, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat talked about the impact of the growth in ICT, youth population, and the urban population on urban governance. Sharing her experience as a former Mayor, Ms. Kaycira noted that young people want to be engaged in making their cities work and expect urban governments to harness the potential of cities. Accessing more information and being able to connect quickly with other youth has made young urban citizens eager to transform their relations with public institutions and have a say in how education, employment, land, housing, safety, and many urban basic services are designed and delivered. She

called on the participants to identify priority areas of support and innovations for enhancing youth inclusion in urban governance through the use of ICT.

**Ms. Daniella Ben Attar** noted that there has been various research findings and discussion over the past two years in relation to the interconnectedness of youth, governance, and ICT. One of the organizations leading research in this field is International Project Development and Management. The research led to the development of four pillars of ICT: Adapting technology to impact, balancing inclusiveness and responsiveness, public openness through technology, and engaging citizens as partners in urban governance. The question many people are asking revolves around the outcome of adding the youth dimension. Daniella noted that the reality is that youth are leading the way, and government is lagging behind in developments. ICT has the potential to answer the how question as we see that more youth are using the internet, low cost mobile development is rapidly increasing, and there is innovative application with narrow based social networking such as Facebook Zero and Gmail SMS.

**Ms. Jamie Lundine**, co founder of the “Spatial collective” shared her organizations experiences in the mapping activities in Nairobi. She explained that in 2009, Kibera was mapped through an initiative known as Map Kibera. The initiative had a strong focus on open data and young people. Youth were trained in hand held devices and played an integral role in the mapping of Kibera. The same methodology is currently being implemented in the slum of Mathare.





*Digital Storytelling Track: Debate and Citizen Journalism Camp in Kyrgyzstan.*  
© World Bank

**Tim Campbell** was able to provide a strong perspective from the world of governance to the discussion. According to him, young people are over-whelming their local governments who remain not fully ready and committed to technological revolutions. Central governments however are more ready as can be evidenced by national initiatives. A solution proposed is the use of local governments to carry out national initiatives and more collaboration in that domain.

**Analisa Buffardi** discussed the challenges in ICT integration being a weak educational system in many countries. She stressed the need to train youth and the older generation on ICT and the role it can play. Carole MacNeil stressed that society should view youth engagement as benefiting everyone and reemphasized ICT not being the answer but being a tool.

**Maya Mboup** discussed how mobile technology is no longer just about making calls but also as a platform to accessing important information regarding health care, political parties. She emphasized the importance of leveraging this with content in the areas available to youth.

## Emerging Issues

The following emerging issues were identified in the session.

- A general consensus from the speakers was that youth have certain needs that should be taken into account. A daily bond with the government should thus be fostered which can be heightened through the use of social media to tune into youth discussions around those needs.
- Policy activity tends to come from the national levels of government and thus issues pertaining to localities tend to be lost in translation. A new solution to this is encouraging governments the integration of local governments in the delivery of ICT initiatives.
- Furthermore champions should be identified within governments and a larger strategy for change developed rather than concentrated focus on technology which is just a tool.
- Attention to the divide between rural and urban areas should also be considered when developing ICT strategies especially in developing countries.
- ICT can be used to engage youth as partners in Urban Governance as evidenced in an ICT training project carried out in Sri Lanka which led to a great impact on youth there.

- Young people are over-whelming their local governments who remain not fully ready and committed to technological revolutions. The solution is to use local governments to carry out national initiatives and strengthen collaboration with young people.

## Recommendations:

- Developing new programs for youth focused on ICT training
- Setting the opportunity of the mobile ICT revolution for youth in developing countries & cities,
- Develop new spaces for youth engagement
- Extend the impact of social media on local governance,
- Build the capacities of local government in the field of "ICT"
- To consider strategies for gainful employment in the ICT field.



*Youth are chanting the slogan "Build the youth Build the nation, destroy the youth destroy the nation" during the Africa youth assembly in Abuja, Nigeria 2011. © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu*



A student does arc welding,  
Afghanistan. © **Sofie Tesson-**  
**Taimani Films/World Bank**



## SESSION 4: Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship and Social Responsibility: The development of initiatives for Urban Youth

Youth unemployment is one of the ruling ideas of today's world, applicable to all corners of the globe. The problem is not well tackled by existing governments and structures as they all like to pass on the responsibility to solve the issue. Employability, entrepreneurship and education are thus extremely important in tackling the problem and finding solutions. Since young people are more affected by unemployment than ever, they should have an opportunity to create viable solutions to this problem.

The speakers shared their experiences of how they are directly engaging young people in the process of tackling unemployment and with employment opportunities.

### SPEAKERS

- **Mr. S. Ananthkrishnan,**  
*Former Youth Empowerment Advisor, UN-Habitat*
- **Mr. Michele Capasso,**  
*Architect and President of Fondazione Mediterraneo*
- **Mr. Erik Von Thorn,**  
*SMART Cities*
- **Mr. Robert Barnard,**  
*DECODE*

### Highlights of the Discussion

Mr. Erik Berg spoke about big corporations and their way of stimulating and bringing out opportunities for young people. He then introduced one of the most successful initiatives in Latin America, a project called Smart Cities that runs in Mexico. Young people from all around the country are called in a technological centre where they are challenged to think, create and develop new and exciting web (and mobile) applications to improve cities. The projects offer scholarships for few outstanding candidates to develop their applications further and possibly start their own business out of it. Applications they developed covered broad range of issues, including transformation of public spaces, change of attitudes of citizens towards the urban issues, motivating people to take active part in social change and become active citizens or promoting democracy and active participation of young people in local governance.

**Robert** from Decode introduced their new venture, the "Youthful Cities". This global initiative is first and foremost trying to change the negative association with the word "youth". Young people are perceived by many as unreliable and immature kids that need a guiding hand, not a power. Yet young people are critical to economic development of the cities and thus should be considered when making any decision on shaping or running urban settings. Youth Cities engage young people to join the efforts to make the cities



more liveable, playful and with employment opportunities. Any city would like to be seen in this light, yet not many are. The project is analysing cities based on these criteria and is suggesting ways to build cities with them in mind.

**Michele Capaso** from the Fondazione Mediterraneo stressed the importance of a change from the power of law to law of power for youth. Global economic systems have to be placing the youth economy in the centre of their policies. Not only has it to become the priority, it has to be beneficial to all young people.



*With increasing urbanization and poverty in urban areas, Urban Agriculture is providing food and jobs in Bugesera, Rwanda.*

© Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat



**Doug Ragan** spoke about the Youth programmes that should be in place to improve the livelihoods of youth, especially those in slums and unplanned settlements, through their inclusion in governance and the social and economic life of cities. Youth unemployment is growing rapidly which can mean two things: it can be a positive force which will lead to economic boom or, it can be a negative force to overthrow governments out of rage and dissatisfaction with the situation.

## Emerging Issues

- Young people need to be challenged to come up with issues and their solutions. They should be part of every step of city transformation and should be given a space to act quickly and responsibly as well as share knowledge and experiences.
- The current world allows young people (and not only them) to move freely. They have way more options to travel or change cities (even countries) than any other generation before. This can be a massive advantage when approached responsibly. Young people need to man-up a little and step outside their comfort zones if they want to see a change.
- Young people should be viewed as assets and as capable citizens that are not hindered by their age or inexperience. Media can help substantially with changing the image.
- The creativity of young people should be taken advantage of, as the youngsters taking part in the project proved to all around.
- We need to focus on finding interventions that can be possibly replicable around the world, not trying to find a job for every young person out there.

- Youth unemployment is growing rapidly and its force can have positive (economic boom) as well as negative (overthrown of government) impacts.
- We need to focus on finding ways of making all tools available to young people around the world. Some parts of the world have a huge problem with no access to internet or other useful devices of the modern era.
- We also have to break the vicious circle of unpaid labour of young people. No revenue, no business and no market. It is a very dangerous territory and therefore UN-Habitat in cooperation with ILO has developed a number of tools to help boost local economies.
- Education has been given a particular importance. There has to be enough secondary and tertiary educational facilities with an emphasis on skills available in cities. Youth entrepreneurship should also be encouraged as it is proven that businesses started and run by young people often employ other young people from the city.
- Policy makers should not underestimate the power of youth and should help to improve their public image and perception. Young people have to be seen as an asset, not a burden. Their age should be seen as an advantage as their minds are fresh and uncorrupted by years of fighting for better lives.
- Youth-led development should be more widely promoted as a successful template for others. Media can play a substantial role in this process of image transformation.

## Recommendations

- Global economic system has to start placing youth economy at the centre of their politics and challenge the current attitude and lack of interest. There has to be a shift from the power of law to law of power for youth.
- Young people should stand up and challenge governments that are not doing their job right.
- It would also be extremely helpful to agree on a common definition of youth within international institutions.
- CSR departments of companies should go beyond the traditional charity work and really focus on young people as they can bring energy, vibrancy, ideas and creativity to companies. CSR in itself is not a solution.
- As a starting point, it would be helpful to unify a definition of youth. Different institutions, governments and cultures see the age limit differently. In these definitions, the age brackets differ but start from anywhere from 14 to 32 or up to 35 years. (really?) A common definition would make any intervention easier to implement across multiple territories.



A women empties water  
at Pidie, Indonesia.

© UN-Habitat/Veronica Wijaya





## SESSION 5: Engaging Youth in Urban Water and Sanitation

Access to safe water and sanitation is a major challenge facing many communities in the developing world. Although some progress has been made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets for Water and Sanitation (watsan), because of the rapid urbanization and increase in the number of urban poor, the number of urban residents using unimproved water sources or without improved sanitation facilities has actually increased between 1990 and 2010 (UNICEF, WHO, 2012). A panel consisting of policy makers and youth leaders in the sector presented case studies that highlighted examples where youth have made a difference in ensuring access to sustainable water and sanitation services, and suggested ways to scale up such practices.

This session analyzed the global situation and trends in urban watsan services and the role of youth in improving access to watsan, particularly for the urban poor. It provided policy makers and youth the opportunity to deliberate on issues of urban water and sanitation.

### SPEAKERS

- **Ms Joyeta Goswami**, *International Research and Development Fellow/Government Relations and Advocacy, Habitat for Humanity International*
- **Mr. Lovy Rasolofomanana**, *Country Representative, WaterAid, Madagascar*
- **Mr. Sushil Gyewali**, *Executive Director, Town Development Fund, Nepal*

- **Ms. Anna Crispo**, *Researcher in Public Health of ANGIR-Napolitan Association of Young Researchers*
- **Dr. P. Jayapal**, *Executive Director, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)*
- **HE Dr. Biunchanh Sinthavong**, *Member of the National Assembly and Vice-Minister of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR.*



Participants of World Urban Youth Assembly in Naples, Italy.  
© UN-Habitat/Victoria Chebet



## Emerging Issues

- Policy development and decision making for pro-poor approaches – mainstreaming water and sanitation in government policies and strategies.
- Implementation, including financing – Youth are willing contribute with labor to reduce investments costs, support savings groups and other financing models; encourage repayment from communities.
- Education and awareness - Schools are perfect entry points for youth (also engaging children) to promote wider awareness on water and sanitation at the community level.

## Recommendations

- Continued dialogue is required among the youth, government and other actors considering the youth as agents of change.
- Considered and engaged youth as key stakeholder in decision making, implementation and monitoring processes.
- Capacity building and youth empowerment are critical particularly through existing youth groups.
- Youth need to be more involved in water and sanitation issues at all levels (see above)
- Recognition that water and sanitation should not be viewed as expenditures but more as investments, and not only physical investments but also social and economic investments.
- There is need to carry forward the discussion with potential partnership and agencies to follow up on the outcomes and declaration of the session, and where possible include it in the program design.

A draft of the Naples 2012 Declaration on Urban Water and Sanitation was presented at the session.



*Unidentified African children fetch water many miles away from home and do not attend school to help their family in Lusaka, Zambia*

© Shutterstock



Unidentified African children fetch water many miles away from home and do not attend school to help their family in Lusaka, Zambia. © Shutterstock







Participating teams in the Habitat Cup  
during the World Urban Forum 6 in  
Naples, Italy. © **Victoria Chebet**  
**UN-Habitat**



## SESSION 6: Sports as a catalyst for change and development; harnessing the potential of sports in urban areas

Governments and private organizations have long been using sport as a tool in global development because of its potential to transform lives in unique and powerful ways. In fact, there are few areas in development where sport cannot be used as a platform to strengthen communities and improve lives. Through role models, sports can promote leadership and reach out to youth. Adding an educational message to sports or sporting events can raise awareness on societal issues. Sport can reach a much larger audience and can be used as a powerful platform for youth development, to create jobs, encourage school attendance, improve people's health, support economic development, promote gender equality, and raise sustainable urban development awareness. Sport has the power to change the world, create hope, speak to youth in a language they can understand and laughs in the face of all types of discrimination. Moreover, well-designed sport policies at the local, national and international level can contribute to achieving international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Habitat Agenda.

The speakers at this session analyzed the role of sports in harnessing sustainable development and its catalytic role causing social change.

### SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Solveig Straume**, Author UN-Habitat "Urban Youth and Sports for Development Report"
- **Mr. Anders Levinsen**, Founder Cross Cultures
- **Tommasina Pianese**, Research in Sports Marketing University of Naples Parthenope



UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr Joan Clos addressing the media after the Habitat Cup in Naples, Italy. © Cubo Creativity Design/ Fondazione Campania dei Festival





Participating teams in the Habitat Cup during the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, Italy.  
© Cubo Creativity Design/Fondazione Campania dei Festival

## Emerging Issues

During the breakout sessions, the participants highlighted the role that Sports plays in the Society.

- Sports create jobs
- Sports brings people together
- Sport creates community
- Sports prevents crime
- Sports creates leadership and team spirit
- It is a way of entertainment, and is good for health

## Recommendations

- Involve multiple stakeholders sports in programmes including youth; governments to provide land for and create sports spaces, develop sports policies; Schools and communities (teachers, parents, families); and Sports clubs and organizations (volunteers, coaches, hard and soft infrastructure)
- Establish sports facilities and organization that are managed by youth for youth - Establish governance and physical infrastructures by letting the young people run their own sports organizations

- Encourage young people to learn through practice
- Support (financial, mentoring, education etc.)- Society should provide all round support to the young people
- Engaging the community to give room for organized sports to raise funds to further the opportunities that sports give for development
- Introduce sports to organizations that are outside sports e.g. UN-Habitat where they can push for policies for governments to provide separate budgets for sports
- Young people need empowerment/physical mentorship (To the young people, sports should have a meaning, motivation and reward and the need for it be created)



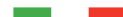
Training session of the girls football team from Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya.  
 © Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat







*Municipal workers lay asphalt  
in the Atanasio Tzul avenue,  
zone 12, Guatemala City, Guatemala.*  
© **World Bank/ Maria Fleischmann**



## SESSION 7: Youth Employment, Trade and Job Creation

The global youth population has risen to 1.2 billion, with majority of them residing in developing countries (UN-Habitat Youth Report 2010/2011). While the global youth population has risen by 10.5% over the past decade, youth employment has only grown by 0.2%, which has resulted in vast numbers of unemployed youth both in the developing and developed economies. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and over 75 million youth worldwide are looking for work. In recent years, the impacts on the world economy caused by structural reforms, technology advancements and globalization have further severely hampered youth employment. According to the ILO 2012 Report on “World Youth Employment Trends”, the global youth unemployment rate under the age of 25 rose to a new high of 12.7%. These figures are projected not to improve before at least 2016.

This session analyzed global employment trends situation and the role of local, national, and the private sector in generating jobs particularly for the urban youth.

**MODERATOR: Mr. John Anugraha, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board**

### SPEAKERS

- **Mr. Gulelat Kebede**, Branch Coordinator, Urban Economy Branch, UN-Habitat

- **Mr. Jiang Mingjun**, Director General, International Eco Safety Cooperative Organization
- **Ms. Shan Fengping**, Deputy Director General, International Eco Safety Cooperative Organization
- **Mr. Giovanni Grillo**, President of the Youth Forum, Region Campania
- Other Contributors
- **Lin Dongmei**
- **Gao Qinghong**
- **Li Porong**

### Highlights of the discussion

**Jiang Mingjun** speaking on youth employment and mobility underscored the importance of youth creativity and imagination in the development of employment opportunities and sustainable development. He described the successful strategies undertaken by the International Eco Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO) to contribute to urban poverty elimination including the construction of a new village Xingshisi in China that helped improve the living conditions of residents and the rural economy and establishing the International Youth Employment and Skills Training Centre.



**Shan Fengping** highlighted the vital role of the media in promoting youth development. She explained that young people are generally confronted by a paradox which includes suffering from unemployment and the media playing a strong role in popularizing scientific knowledge, and guiding the perception of social values. Therefore the media environment is another important factor to be considered while speaking on the youth ideologies, social attitudes, and outcomes.

**Lin Dongmei**, speaking on the creation of jobs through innovative technologies outlined the case of JUNCAO Technology that they have been using to leverage grassroots to drive economic growth in China. The technology is renewable and highly effective and can be used to grow mushrooms. JUNCAO also provides training, education, research, and facilitation of projects and have centers in training centers in three countries: Fiji, Rwanda, and South Africa. Currently training in JUNCAO technologies is available in 11 languages including English, Japanese, Portuguese, Zulu, and Russian.

**Gao Qinghong** explained how IESCO has adopted paper cutting technologies that have created employment opportunities for youth. Paper cutting is one of the longest standing traditional folk arts and crafts of the Chinese people. Her organization has trained more than 400 people in paper cutting. To expand job opportunities for the youth and help them to find their niche in society, Qinghong Paper-cut has carefully orchestrated the plan to set up “International Training Base of Techniques and Skills” and “Cultural Initiative Industry Demonstration Park of Youth Organization, Datong, China” together with International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization which has been committed to protecting the rights and interests of women and children, youth training and environmental development and Datong Finance and Accounting School.

**Li Porong** emphasized the value of college students in the employment market because they are educated, ambitious, and are looking for jobs to launch their careers, and the fact that jobs to them aren’t just about money. She encouraged young people to work in rural areas to help develop local resources, attract entrepreneurs to create businesses, and to also take the stress out of the cities. Consequently, students moving to rural areas can help solve the following 6 issues:

- Job shortage can be decreased as rural based job opportunities are leveraged
- Promote youth to stay within their local communities
- Decrease the stress from rapid urbanization in big cities such as traffic, unemployment, education, safe cities and population.
- It can foster entrepreneurship
- The students can help develop local resources
- The students stepping in to rural areas will help increase the prosperity in such regions

## Emerging Issues

The following issues emerged from the discussion.

- Creativity and imagination of youth are extremely important with it comes to development of employment opportunities.
- There are various opportunities for job creation in both rural and urban areas as can be seen by the many opportunities leveraged by the International Eco Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO), JUNCAO Technologies and other organizations.

- Young people are generally confronted by a paradox which includes a new generation suffering from unemployment and the media playing a strong role in popularizing scientific knowledge, and guiding the perception of social values.
- The media environment is an important factor to be considered while speaking on youth ideologies, social attitudes, and outcomes in society.
- Not all sectors contribute to creating jobs therefore the number of the working poor remains staggeringly high. If job creation does not increase then a large number of the working poor will remain vulnerable.
- The ratio of youth unemployment to adult unemployment can be as high as to two to three times in severity.
- Release timely information on youth employment to guide decisions on location based development.
- Run youth training centers on climate change, ecological training, and ecological agriculture.
- Create new green jobs- pledge to create 20,000 new job opportunities in the coming 5 years.
- Actively pushing towards a green economy
- Encouraging youth to seek out opportunities in rural areas
- Create an annual report on youth unemployment

## Recommendations

- There is need to assess the current skills and matching those to available jobs.
- Make sure policies are supportive of informal activities such as fair and urban policies, and supportive public services.
- Connect rural youth to urban youth
- Fund youth to undertake various projects
- Develop working networks and co-host an assembly with UN-Habitat on ecological safety and promotion of green employment.
- Maintain a list of ecological safety and youth employment initiatives and publish a bilingual magazine called Unity which will highlight important information on youth unemployment.



*African Urban Youth Assembly Participants register at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre Abuja, Nigeria 2011. © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu*



*Mohammed Abdel Ati Alhusein's is a successful business owner in Kassala the capital of Kassala State in eastern Sudan. He bought himself one brick-making machine and used a microfinance loan to purchase the rest.*

**© World Bank/ Salahaldeen Nadir**



## SESSION 8: State of the Field of Youth-Led Development

The term “Youth-Led Development” was coined in the process leading up to the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada in 2006. Where is the State of the Field of Youth-Led development today? Through three research reports (The Challenge and the Promise of Youth-led Development, The State of the Field of Youth-Led Development and The ICT, Urban Governance and Objectives) the Youth Unit in UN-Habitat gives a broad overview of the field and where the leading edge is at the moment. Preliminary research from ongoing unpublished research will as well be presented. The second initiative presented in this session is the Hack Day Initiative from Latin America. In this innovative and unique approach, the projects gather youth interested in programming and improving their community. Anyone interested in youth-led development and youth empowerment should not miss this unique opportunity. The session explored ways of generating employment opportunities for youth especially in urban areas.

MODERATOR: **João Scarpelini**

### SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Carole MacNeil,**  
*Fulbright Scholar and Principal, Macneil and Associates*
- **Mr. Douglas Ragan,**  
*Unit Leader, Youth and Livelihoods, UN-Habitat*
- **Ms. Daniella Ben Attar,**  
*Head, International Project Development and Management*

- **Mr. Erik Vittrup Christensen,**  
*Senior Human Settlements Officer with UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.*
- **Mr. Willem Van Vliet,** *Director, Children, Youth and Environments Centre (TBC)*



Shelter construction , Washington. D.C. USA.  
© UN-Habitat/Nathan Kihara





Participants during the WUF6 in Naples, Italy.  
© Victoria Chebet/UN-Habitat

## Emerging Issues

- Ninety percent of youth-led organizations count on adults' support. 33% are own funded, which shows that the people involved are really caring for the subject, but differently from what we can assume, they are not only looking for financial support, but also (almost 50%) for capacity building and monitoring. The organizations are closer to the national government, so it's necessary to bring it together to the local level policy as well.
- Mobile technology has shown to be the most powerful tool, especially when associated with technologies that are not the latest in the market, which allows access to a larger part of the population.

- For the current generation (2008), ICT is also reducing the gender inequality. Finally, hackathons are getting more space, and are being stimulated by the provision of funded incubators (6-months scholarships).

## Recommendation

Continue to monitor Youth-led organizations, and improving the support by knowing their demands



Youth Vocation Training in Kabul, Afghanistan.  
© UN-Habitat







Map Kibera project is to improve living conditions in the Kenya's largest informal settlements.

© UN-Habitat



## SESSION 9: **Equitable access to land -** Strengthening youth engagement in providing tenure security for all

Land tenure for all is a central issue in the dialogue for creating equitable and prosperous cities. Conventional urban planning and land administration has proven to be inefficient in preventing shrinking public spaces, incorporating the continuum of land rights and ensuring inclusion of social groups, such as youth, in decision making processes. Youth represent both a target group for land access and drivers of change within the land sector. The range of land rights that youth require in the city can be clustered as: economic rights of land for livelihoods; work, economic assets, income generation and access to services; social rights of land for shelter and family life, education, recreation and sports, parks and health facilities; cultural rights such as land for community events, religious practices, entertainment and cultural/arts events and civil and political rights such as land allocated for youth projects, information, meeting places and advocacy. A recent scoping study conducted by The Global Land Tool Network ([www.glt.net](http://www.glt.net)) has highlighted that there is a significant gap in literature and research on youth dimensions of land, in particular by youth themselves.

This session highlighted key aspects of the Youth-Land connection with discussants on their specific entry points to create awareness about the importance of the youth dimensions to land.

MODERATOR: **Jean DuPlessis**

### SPEAKERS

- **Kate Fairlie,**  
*Young Surveyors Network, Australia*
- **Jemma Donaghey,**  
*International Tenants Union, Australia*
- **Luisa Marro,**  
*Member of ITER- Councillor for Youth Policy of Casoria town.*
- **Catherine Nimusiima,**  
*Slum Dwellers Federation, Uganda*
- **Deena Ledger,**  
*Landesa, USA*
- **Sosina Bezu,**  
*Norwegian University of Life Sciences/  
University of Addis Ababa*
- **Siraj Sait,**  
*University of East London, UK*





Speakers at the Equitable access to land - Strengthening youth engagement in providing tenure security for all session during the WUF6 in Naples, Italy. © **Victoria Chebet/UN-Habitat**

## Emerging Issues

The following emerging issues were identified during the discussion focusing on the issues of youth and land.

- Youth engagement in land policy discussion and land programmes is pivotal. Youth need to be engaged and involved in the processes even though they don't have a stake in the land as owners.
- Youth as tenants is important. Tenure needs to be a legitimate option that can provide security for the people who choose that option including youth. This is also in line with the growing recognition of a range of human rights.
- It also became clear that the issue of land and tenure security is underlying many other issues of marginalization and poverty; such as education, poverty, employment and gender. It's important to educate girls and boys on equality, as in many places the inheritance goes directly to male members to the family. Also we must educate our children on land issues (as recently happened with financial education to kids- where was this done?TO).
- Youth need to take an active role in development of land tools, both as professionals and as community members. This was highlighted by representatives from both the Young Surveyors network as well as the Uganda Slum Federation that has piloted the Social Tenure Domain Model in Mbale in Eastern Uganda.

- Policy makers need to make greater efforts to include youth in discussions and debates. More productive discussions on youth and land dimension can be done between groups/ countries facing similar barriers to providing security of tenure. (e.g. city to city, country to country).
- It is important to collect best practices on how to involve youth in these processes. Developing land policies and land tools without the active engagement of youth can lead to wrong assumptions about what youth want and need.
- From the discussion it was concluded that there needs to be a two pronged approach. Youth need more information about land and how to protect it and learn to use the land as a resource for economic and social activities. From African discussants the issue of youth needing to take more responsibility and be less wreck less with the land was raised. It is clear that there is a continued inter generational communication gap.
- The resource and capacity typical of youth must be used and valorized by public organs. With regard to public policies, it was pointed out that the Australian government has a program on affordable housing for youth.
- Participants in the meeting were urged to follow up with youth participants who were particularly active in the debate (including YAB and former YAB members) to create a core group of Youth Champions for Land
- Initiate the process of defining “youth” in the context of land
- Develop a quick guide to Youth and Land basing on the inputs of the speakers and the discussions.
- Continue with the debate, for both rural and urban property. A training course is expected to be realized by GLTN in the next few months.
- Further to this it was highlighted that the definitions of youth is clarified, as it seems there are a variety of groups and a variety of actions.

## Recommendations

- Organise and advertise the competition “youth and land: what is your story?” (We can’t advertise what has not been organised. TO)
- Organize meeting between GLTN partners who are leading in land tool development and youth champions for land.



*One of the youth participant makes his remarks during the first Africa Youth Assembly that took place in Abuja, Nigeria 2011.*

© UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu



*The tramway service between Rabat and Salé cities. The total length of the dual-line tramway network is 19.5 km, with 31 stops. The mass transit system is expected to bring many economic and social benefits. The average daily ridership on the tramway service is expected to be 180,000 a day.*

**© Arne Hoel / World Bank**





## SESSION 10: Engaging Young People in Sustainable Urban Mobility

### Introduction

This session examined the global trends in sustainable urban mobility and highlighted the role of urban youth in making urban mobility more sustainable.

MODERATOR: **Mr. Bernard Gyergyay**

### SPEAKERS

- **Prof. Karen Lucas**, Oxford University, Transport Studies Unit, United Kingdom (Did not attend)
- **Prof. Gina Porter**, Durham University, Anthropology Department, UK (Did not attend)
- **Mr. Prashanta Khanal**, Clean Air Network, Nepal (Did not attend – presentation given in absentia)
- **Mr. Carlos Moreno**, Fundacion Despacio, Colombia
- **Mr. Samuel Kavuma**, Chairperson of the Uganda National Youth Council (Did not attend)
- **Mr. Lorenzo Casullo**, Steer Davies Gleave/UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Europe
- **Mr. Tony Viterale**, Mayor of Afrano-Salerno

**Mr. Carlos Moreno**, Fundacion Despacio, noted that **Public spaces have an important link to urban mobility**. He described experiences in Columbia where footpaths in low income areas and bicycle paths have created public spaces and improved neighbourhoods; and in Ciclovía where streets are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays, creating active urban spaces

**He highlighted the linkages between socio-economic conditions and urban mobility**. He further noted that, for many young people in developing countries; a car is a ‘dream’ for many people – equated to success and wellbeing. There is increasing demand for cars in developing countries and public transport use declining. **He emphasized the need to challenge these social norms**, so that young people do not aspire to own a car but are satisfied using public transport.

**Mr. Carlos Moreno** presented the case of Medellín, where past and present mayors have invested in high quality public spaces and urban mobility corridors in the city, including electric escalators and cable cars in poor neighbourhoods to enable access to employment and the city.



Participants at the prosperity of youth is prosperity of cities dialogue session Abuja, Nigeria 2011  
© UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

**Mr. Prashanta Khanal**, Clean Air Network, Nepal speaking on urban transportation in Kathamandu noted that though the city **used to be a walking city, it is now choked by cars/motorbikes and cycling has become dangerous.** He explained that some groups are promoting cycling but noted that this alone was not enough. He advocated for an integrated approach addressing transport safety as well as the **need to challenge social norms that look down upon cycling as a 'poor man's choice rather than smart man's choice**

**Mr. Lorenzo Casullo**, Stear Davies Gleave/UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Europe explained that for youth in Europe, the main concerns for mobility are affordability and sustainability– it is about what young people can afford and if they can have positive environmental impact through mobility choices

**London Olympics was presented as a case study** of public transport use. The Olympics used existing infrastructure combined with a strong public campaign to get the public to change habits. The majority of volunteers at the Olympics were young people.

## Emerging Issues

- Develop an integrated approach addressing transport safety as well as challenge social norms that look down upon cycling as a 'poor man's choice rather than smart man's choice
- Current public transport patterns don't cater for young people – they are oriented towards commuters
- Young people are limited in transport options because they don't have access to funds

- Public spaces are linked to transport and transport corridors can, if planned correctly, be part of the public realm. Examples were cited from Bogota and Medellin in Colombia
- Public spaces have created opportunities for young people and reduced other issues affecting young people such as safety and crime.
- Young people in developing countries often aspire to own cars, which in turn is increasing the numbers of cars on the streets.
- Young people need sustainable mobility that allows them to access job opportunities, education and take part in social life of the city.

## Recommendations

- Place equity and fairness at the centre of development strategies. Equity in the accessibility of public space and public transport:
- Develop sustainable mobility that is accessible and inclusive for all and does not harm the environment and its urban citizens. The facilities should encourage walking and cycling
- Proper land use planning that reduces the need to travel by bringing functional spaces closer to each other.
- Stakeholders need to acknowledge the role of youth in urban mobility by ensuring their full and effective engagement in decision making processes at all levels.
- A need to gradually shift away from cars by planning public spaces and mobility spaces to change our mobility choices

- Develop a children and youth comprehensive approach. Youth have the right to have a say in urban mobility decision making
- Policy makers should develop sustainable mobility education and awareness programmes. Mobility should be introduced in the school curriculum: explaining the effect of choices to children



*Non-motorized transport is environmentally sustainable and well suited for making short trips in most cities (London, UK) © Alex Segre / Alamy*







*UN-Habitat Executive Director,  
Dr. Joan Clos gives his remarks during  
the Youth 21 initiative in Nairobi, Kenya*  
© UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu



## SESSION 11: Youth 21, “Building for Change” Road map from Nairobi to Naples

MODERATOR: **Mr. Ravi Karkara, UN-Habitat**

### SPEAKERS:

- **Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil**, *State Secretary for International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway*
- **Ms. Hanne Marte Furset**, *International Advisor, Norwegian Children and Youth Council, Norway*
- **Mr. Joao Felipe Scarpelini** – *Former UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Brazil*

### Highlights of the discussion

**Mr. Ravi Karkara**, started the session with a quick overview of the Youth 21 Initiative. He explained that, in 2011, UN-Habitat with support from the Government of Norway and the UN Inter-agency Network on Youth developed a report titled *Youth 21: Building an Architecture for Youth Engagement in the UN System*. This report explores how youth can better be meaningfully engaged in the UN system.

Since its inception, the UN has always recognized the unique role that the youth play in development. This recognition has come through global observances such as the International Youth Year (IYY), and through policy declarations such as the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). Following the completion of the most recent IYY, there was a renewed commitment by the UN expressed in paragraph 25 and 26 (GA/

RES/65/312) to evaluate the achievements and shortcomings of UN programmes and from this evaluative input, forward recommendations on how to more effectively address youth issues and youth engagement. This report seizes on the opportunity provided by paragraph 26 from the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting on Youth in July 2011, and has put forward four possible scenarios related to the improved engagement of youth. These scenarios, found in detail in the report, are as follows:

1. **SCENARIO 1:** Scale up the UN DESA Youth Program to an Institutional Level
2. **SCENARIO 2:** Establish a Special Representative of the Secretary General on Youth
3. **SCENARIO 3:** Establish a UN Permanent Forum on Youth, inclusive of a Youth Platform Assembly, and Special Representative on Youth

In his opening remarks, **Hon. Arvinn Eikeland Gadgil**, the Minister from Norway explained that the Youth 21 process was moving quite fast because he seriously believed that there was a demand by the youth and for the youth for a change in paradigm within the UN system. He highlighted the challenges and partnerships in the journey of Youth 21 process starting from the Oslo Planning Meeting held in November 2010, the briefing to the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki moon, Youth 21, Building for Change meeting held in March 2012; UN SG’s Special Message on Youth 21, Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, and the World



Kenyan gospel artiste Eko Dydda performing during the Youth 21 in Nairobi, Kenya.  
© Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat

Urban Youth Assembly, September 2012. He explained that the focus now was to see how the initiative could be enforced in the upcoming events such as the UN General Assembly 2013, Commission for Social Development 2013 on Youth and ECOSOC 2013.

**Ms. Hanne Marte**, highlighting the importance of youth inclusion, challenged policy makers to take youth seriously. The youth have so much potential and ideas. Powershift is not easy and always opposed but has become the need of the hour. It is time for youth to take leadership and strengthen the Youth participation in the UN System through processes such as the Youth 21.

**Mr. João Scarpeleni**, speaking from his experience as a Youth Advisory Board Member of UN-Habitat highlighted the fact that participation is hard and not as easy as one may think. His personal experience in working in the UN system as well as at the grassroots level makes him realize how important a youth platform in the UN system is. He further stated that although having a Special Advisor for Youth appointed by the Secretary General was a good step, he/she may not be able to represent the voices of the youth from all parts of the world. There was a need for a bigger platform, a permanent forum for Youth in the UN system and a change in the governance level.



## Emerging Issues

- The goal of the Youth 21 is not to become another consultative body, but rather to be a platform for young people to set the agenda.
- The initiative isn't the end, but rather a tool and part of a process. The challenge should be on how the Youth 21 recommendations can be translated into actions nationally and locally
- How can we engage rural/indigenous youth
- We understand it is a Member State process - but this cannot be driven by Member States alone, we need to engage youth throughout the process, and youth need to take ownership over the process.
- Identify a problem with the UN and try to crowd source solution with young people (hackaday)
- Emphasize the importance of local action, and its reflection in the process

## Recommendations

- Continue to strengthen the Youth 21 initiative and further strengthen interagency collaboration by involving more UN agencies who are also working in rural areas, thus targeting both urban and rural youth.
- The Youth 21 agenda should be seen as important as the Post 2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Agenda, the two topics which will be key during the UN General Assembly in 2013.
- We need clear mechanisms for accountability and re-think of sub-national action plans

- Develop strategies to deal with youth that are from political parties, or don't understand collaboration, or just want to replicate old models of political engagement
- Adopt the Idea of training trainers, and use the concept of Ambassadors to champion Youth 21
- Bring youth groups closer to this process, make information about it more accessible



*Delegates taking part in one of the sessions during the Youth 21 in Nairobi, Kenya. © Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat*





*A worker separates waste at the Mamak recycling facility near Ankara, Turkey.*

**© World Bank/Yusuf Türker**



## SESSION 12: **Building Safer cities with and for young people.** Strategies to improve the quality of life for urban young people

The Safer Cities Programme of UN-Habitat has over the past 15 years focused on an approach that targets prevention interventions focused on the transition between childhood and adulthood; that enhance young people as resources to be developed and not problems to be managed. Young people now represent the majority of the population in many low- and middle-income cities, and addressing their specific vulnerabilities in the urban environment is vital to any action seeking a cumulative improvement in citizen security. The disturbance and erosion of social cohesion by pervasive violence in neighbourhoods expose youth to increased risks. Young people, especially young men, are acutely affected by the stresses of life in the informal city, as well as by social breakdown, erosion of community control, and other effects of violence and insecurity.

The session presented and discussed city policies and community practices that have positively transformed young people in situations of risk and approaches that enhance values of citizenship among young people in urban areas

MODERATOR: **Mr. Juma Assiago, UN-Habitat**

### SPEAKERS

- **Ms. Juana Lemus de Pacas**, Mayor of Mejicanos, El Salvador
- **Mr. Yehudi Van De Pol**, Community Artist - Safer Cities Darua Platform
- **Mr. Hector Castillo**, Director General, Circo Volador, Mexico
- **Ms. Ruth Owuor**, Assistant Director of Education, City Council of Nairobi, Kenya
- **Ms. Amanda Parris**, Community Youth Artist - Lost Lyrics, Toronto, Canada
- **Ms. Francesca Corrado**, Research in wellbeing- Vice President of Well\_B\_Lab- University of Modena
- **Dr. Margaret Shaw**, Co-author, UN-Habitat Strategy Paper on Urban Youth in Africa - a focus on the most vulnerable categories & Safer Cities Youth Source Book.
- **Dr. Rosa Maria Olave**, Co-author, Safer Cities - Youth Manual for Latin America
- **Dr. Steve Edwards**, Specialist on Safe Schools in Urban Centres, USAI Director – Ignitius Worldwide/ Global Youth Crime Watch Association
- **Ms. Aline Rahbany**, Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, World Vision, Beirut.

**Steve Edwards** spoke about the need for schools to be considered as urban spaces instead of government institutions. He discussed the role schooling plays in a child's life given the amount of time spent there and the importance of a child feeling that their school is a safe space. Graffiti can be viewed from various perspectives. Some view graffiti as being art and other view graffiti as vandalism. The same multi perspective approach is used when assessing school. Youth should be in-



involved in the governance of their schools and within their involvement it should be taken into consideration the heterogeneous nature of youth.

The speaker discussed the importance of considering gender factors when assessing safe cities. She shared a case study from India in which she worked with a community of youth comprised of both girls and boys. She asked the girls what they wanted in order to be able to enjoy their community, and they asked for a playground because they wanted to be able to play. Upon completion of the playground, it was evident that the girls weren't using the space built for them to play even though they requested such a space. When asked why, they said the boys would be playing in the playground and they aren't comfortable playing there. The approach taken by the organization resulted in the space being utilized by both the boys and girls and the girls feeling safe to play in the space after specific times were designated for safe play. The case study was used to provide a simple yet profound level of perspective needed when taken into account gender dynamics and their role it has on the perspective one has on a safe cities. Women have many gender specific criteria used when assessing their personal safety in cities and communities that can in many cases be quite different from the experiences of male counter parts.

**Hector Castillo** shared his sociology background and various roles he has played in ensuring cities are safe and livable for youth in Latin America and Mexico specifically. He attributed street and gang violence to the fact that many youth were hanging around in the streets as a result of not having anything constructive to occupy their time. Realities for many youth include: school doesn't work, unemployment levels are hitting the youth cohort hard, family members may tend to not worry themselves on the wellbeing of their children, authorities are viewed as being corrupt. All of those factors combined with additional impacts to over-all moral negatively

impact the actions youth may take, actions that many times directly impact their cities and communities. Castillo worked on a radio project in which gang members would congregate and use the portal to speak and share their opinions. The radio station was an interim solution for that community at the time as it gave troubled youth the opportunity to share their perspectives on the governance of their own city. A challenge with this approach was found when assessing the actual constructiveness of the opinions heard and whether or not meaningful contributions to policy developments from the youth cohort were being presented as a result of the initiative. Castillo believes that using music and art the address gang culture could result to safer cities

**Amanda Parris** highlighted the important role art plays in fostering safe cities and the actions Lost Lyrics (Who are what are these?) has taken in utilizing art to promote safe cities in Toronto, Canada. She emphasized the need for political reform in Canada and Toronto specifically and posed the question on how youth organizations are to survive considering the various political agenda's that often time change as parties go in and out of power. To many youth, violence equals power which in turn equals money. The goal should be to encourage youth to not place such high importance on superficial things.

**Dr. Margaret Shaw** closed the session by posing a very important question around what people have actually been doing to prevent crime and violence. Various books have been written over the years documenting such actions, theories, views, and ideas. Often times they are the same ideas, from different people, with a boost of energy and enthusiasm, but for the most part relatively tiny alterations. There is a high importance in collaborating within communities and not only putting individual achievements on a high pedestal.

## Emerging Issues

- It is important to enhance the concept of young people as resources to be developed and not problems to be managed
- Young people now represent the majority of the population in many low- and middle-income cities, and addressing their specific vulnerabilities in the urban environment is vital to any action seeking a cumulative improvement in citizen security
- The disturbance and erosion of social cohesion by pervasive violence in neighbourhoods exposes youth to increased risks. Young people, especially young men, are acutely affected by the stresses of life in the informal city, as well as by social breakdown, erosion of community control, and other effects of violence and insecurity

## Recommendations

- Recommendations of areas of action towards building safer cities with and for young people
- Presentation of UN-Habitat's Youth Manual for Latin America and the Caribbean on Art as a tool for Youth Crime Prevention
- Education system (schools) should serve as a perfect platform for children and young people to voice their opinions and be involved in the school governance
- Explore wider solutions to the problem, e.g. radio station where young people will have a chance to express themselves as well as gain some level of responsibility
- Using music and art to address a gang culture could lead to safer cities
- All projects and initiatives have to be sustainable and ideally replicable
- Stress the importance of negotiations between people as opposed to individual achievements

## ANNEX 1: Statement by the Youth at the concluding session of the Sixth World Urban Forum (WUF) on 5th September 2012

There are three billion young people in the world. Over 80% of these youth live in developing countries and by 2030 over 60% will live in urban societies. This 'youth bulge' will be the critical factor in shaping our urban future. Successful urban development will be won or lost based on youth participation.

Young people remain disengaged from the process of city planning and decision making. Decisions are routinely made without their sufficient participation. We want to be heard and want to be heard in powerful ways. We are active stakeholders who need to participate. Together we have a role in ensuring that our urban future is a bright and prosperous one.

Firstly, we acknowledge the support of UN-Habitat for young people, in the establishment of the World Urban Youth Assembly at the World Urban Forum (Resolution GC/22/4, 2009). The 2012 Assembly in Naples, Italy highlighted the important contribution of young people in education, climate change, employment and land issues in urban areas. We ask UN-Habitat to commit to giving young people an active role in shaping the agenda and format of future World Urban Youth Assemblies, and leading panels and discussions to ensure that more young people are part of the road map of our collective urban future.

Secondly, the Urban Youth Fund is a fantastic example of support for youth-led projects. We acknowledge the support of the government of Norway and call on for further support from other governments, the private sector and habitat agenda partners. Furthermore, we emphasise that the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) has a role in communicating the outcomes to the wider youth community. We ask UN-Habitat to promote these projects, as a catalyst for further youth empowerment, through the YAB and other youth communication channels including the global youth help desk.

The outcomes of the youth assembly include the following:

### Employment

We ask that youth be recognized as assets and capable citizens, unhindered by age or relative inexperience.

Youth are leading the way in technology adoption. **ICT will be key to providing new opportunities and we request acknowledgement that youth can** contribute to increasing government capacity and technological ability.

**We also urge UN-Habitat to support youth entrepreneurship.** Young people around the world are already solving their own problems however further support is required to ensure sustainability.



## Climate Change

Youth are one of the most vulnerable sectors to climate change. Young people are already leading the way in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. We ask UN-Habitat to partner with us and further our collective efforts in both contexts. We seek recognition of youth efforts and support in providing a sound evidence basis for further work.

## Education

Quality education is an essential component for responsible citizenship.

To ensure youth engagement and improvement in education, more research needs to be undertaken by youth, for youth. Further, a standard that recognises youth-friendly monitoring practices, including social media, are required to provide a sound evidence basis for youth-led education initiatives. Informal learning is critical to the knowledge sharing process.

Communication is key to education initiatives, and the way in which we share knowledge needs to be accommodating of local context.

Moreover, as most young people don't have access to land, we ask UN-Habitat to improve education of young people on land rights, and on the use of land beyond a commodity.

## Land

Youth relationship with land is dynamic and conventional models of land tenure and use of public space are increasingly less relevant.

We urge that youth be meaningfully engaged in city governance and other initiatives like the World Urban Campaign, geared towards creating safe and sustainable cities. We also urge UN-Habitat to engage with the Youth Advisory Board, and youth groups, in its programs that address infrastructure. We, the urban youth, need sustainable, affordable and accessible mobility choices, that do not harm the environment nor our fellow urban citizens. We, as young people commit to making sustainable choices on use of the environment with urban spaces.

Youth need safe public open spaces, affordable and sustainable transportation, housing needs, and involving youth in decision making around infrastructure.

**We urge-UN Habitat to recognize and highlight the concerns of the urban indigenous youth** and to acknowledge the realities that indigenous youth face in an urban context. Indigenous youth, globally, share common perspectives and specific needs which should be discussed at international tables and forums to further policy implementation processes, research agendas, and to add to areas of program development.

The UN-Habitat Global Land Tools Network is already acknowledging the need for youth tools and training in relation to land. There is a role for youth to take part in communicating, piloting and up scaling the Social Tenure Domain Model, in particular enabling community input and feedback. Other models for managing and enforcing legitimate land relationships will also be important.

To conclude, it needs to be recognized that youth are not a homogeneous category and thus a mix of solutions are required that address this.

Given the platform of knowledge established at the World Urban Youth Assembly, we ask UN-Habitat to commit to giving young people an active role in planning for Habitat III in 2016. We ask that young people are not only involved as participants at the meeting, but also have an active role in shaping the agenda.

Furthermore, we acknowledge that UN-Habitat with support from the UN Interagency Network on Youth developed and prepared a report called *Youth 21: Building an Architecture for Youth Engagement* in the UN System. We ask for continued support from UN-Habitat to strengthen this initiative. As part of this architecture, we strongly support the Secretary General's creation of a special advisor on youth. We would encourage

the Secretary General to involve young people in the selection of the special advisor and to appoint the advisor at his earliest convenience. We as well support the creation of a permanent forum on youth as further mechanism to engage youth globally.

Finally, with all expectations come responsibilities. Youth are committed globally to ensuring the success of our urban future. We as young people commit to taking the necessary steps and engaging various stakeholders in this process of sustainable urbanization for the betterment of our urban future.

HS/062/13E

The World Urban Forum (WUF) was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today- rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. As an integral part of the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum, the fourth World Urban Youth Assembly was held in Naples, Italy on 2 September 2012. The holding of the Youth Assembly early in the programme of WUF provided youth with the opportunity to deliberate on issues of particular significance to them including safety, employment, job creation, access to basic services, climate change and green jobs and governance. The discussions also highlighted the potential areas of youth contribution in the context of the theme of the main forum "The Urban Future".

The Youth assembly was attended by 380 people from around the world including the members of the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Urban Youth Fund, One Stop Youth Centre Coordinators and representatives of youth led organizations. The speakers included young people and specialists from the Academia/Research, Inter-governmental organization, Local government, National Government, United Nations, Non-governmental organization, Private Sector, and Foundations from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Latin American/Caribbean, and Oceania. The Youth Assembly approved a WUF6 Youth Statement that was read during the WUF's Closing Ceremony. The statement highlighted the important contributions of young people in education, climate change, and employment and land issues in urban areas.

The Governments of Italy and Norway supported youth participation at the assembly.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
P.O.Box 30030,Nairobi 00100,Kenya;  
Tel: +254-20-7623120;  
Fax: +254-20-76234266/7 (central office)  
Infohabitat@unhabitat.org

**UN HABITAT**

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

