

# HABITAT III THEMATIC MEETING



## FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

09-11 MARCH  
MEXICO CITY,  
MEXICO

Host Partners



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## HABITAT III

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October, 2016. In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”, building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

Member States of the General Assembly, in resolution 67/216, decided that the objectives of the Conference are to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document. Habitat III is to play an important role in making cities and human settlements equitable, prosperous, sustainable, just, equal and safe.

The Conference welcomes the participation and contributions of all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

Habitat III is one of the first major global conferences to be held after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfil their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence shape the implementation of new global development goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

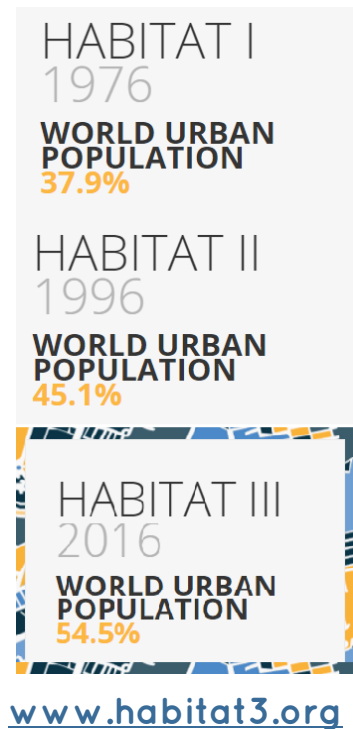
## THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Urbanization is an unprecedented challenge. By the middle of the century four of every five people might be living in towns and cities, and the great majority of slum-dwellers in 2030 will be Asian or African. Urbanization and development are inextricably linked and it is necessary to find a way of ensuring the sustainability of growth. Urbanization had become a driving force as well as a source of development with the power to change and improve lives.

By embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements, more appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, and can assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks.

Habitat III can help systematise the alignment between cities and towns and national planning objectives in their role as drivers of national economic and social development. Rising inequality, sharing prosperity, urban poverty, and spontaneous (i.e. unplanned) urbanization are high on the agenda of Habitat III.

Habitat III has the convening power to bring together the actors needed to achieve these objectives. Solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization can only be found by bringing together Member States, multilateral organizations, local governments, the private sector, and civil society.



## HABITAT III REGIONAL AND THEMATIC MEETINGS

In a number of official high-level regional and thematic meetings involving a wide range of participants, a series of debates are held over priorities for the New Urban Agenda and policy recommendations in the form of a final participants' declaration. The final declarations from regional and thematic meetings are considered official inputs to the Habitat III process.

Thematic and regional meetings are both international in scope, though regional meetings may identify and address topics based on regional considerations and prioritize regional and geographic participation. In this regard it is assumed that a regional meeting will gather recommendations reflecting the consensus reached at the regional level on a specific topic or on the entire spectrum of a proposed New Urban Agenda.

Thematic meetings, which are based on specific and relevant topics, issue thematic recommendations. As a result of a call for proposals, UN Member States, local governments, and other institutions expressed their interest in hosting a regional and/or a thematic/regional meeting for the preparatory process towards Habitat III.

Regional and thematic meetings were selected based on the quality of the proposal, relevance of the topics, as well as envisaged participation and commitment to the Habitat III process.

The Thematic Meeting FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT: THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE will debate and propose solutions for the strengthening of municipal finance, to identify strategies for the formation of institutional and financial capacities, as well as to contribute to the acknowledgement of the city as a relevant stakeholder in the definition of the New Urban Agenda, particularly within the topic of financing development.

THE FINAL DECLARATION WILL BE CONSIDERED AS AN OFFICIAL INPUT TO THE NEW URBAN AGENDA ZERO DRAFT.

### THEMATIC MEETINGS

theme	place	dates
Civic Engagement	Tel-Aviv, Israel	7 September
Metropolitan Areas	Montreal, Canada	6-7 October 2015
Intermediate Cities	Cuenca, Ecuador	9 - 11 Nov 2015
Sustainable Energy and Cities	Abu Dhabi, UAE	20 January 2016
Financing Sustainable Urban Development	Mexico City, Mexico	9-11 March 2016
Public Spaces	Barcelona, Spain	4 - 5 April 2016
Informal Settlements	Pretoria South Africa	7 - 8 April 2016

### REGIONAL MEETINGS

region	place	dates
Asia-Pacific	Jakarta, Indonesia	21-22 October 2015
Africa	Nigeria	24-26 February 2016
Europe – North America	Prague, Czech Republic	16-18 March 2016
Latin America and the Caribbean	Toluca, Mexico	18-20 April 2016



## FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT: THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE



Cities generate more than 80% of the world's gross domestic product.

Despite their economic importance, cities do not have sufficient funds to guarantee their development needs. Intergovernmental transfers do not always respond to fair criteria of redistribution and also depend on political factors or adjustments to national budgets. Local authorities in some countries do not have the capability to define local taxes, limiting their capacity to expand the tax base and/or public debt, particularly against the national and international financial markets.

To cope with the expansion of cities and improve the delivery of basic services in areas that are already urbanized, innovative and effective financial mechanisms are needed, as well as robust legal and institutional frameworks. Even though the majority of local financial systems are not adapted to the current global context, there are countries that are betting on a clearer delimitation of the responsibilities of local authorities and facilitating tools for the generation of revenue at the local level.

The Thematic Meeting Financing Urban Development: The Millennium Challenge, organized by the Government of the City of Mexico and the United Nations System will gather different stakeholders to propose solutions for the strengthening of municipal finance, to identify strategies for the formation of institutional and financial capacities, as well as to contribute to the acknowledgement of the city as a relevant stakeholder in the definition of the New Urban Agenda, particularly within the topic of financing development.

## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME\*

HOUR	WEDNESDAY 9	THURSDAY 10	FRIDAY eleven
9:00	REGISTRATION		
9:00 to 11:00		Plenary 1: Governance of local finances: multi-level and multi-stakeholder coordination	Plenary 3: Finance, decentralization and local autonomy
11:00 to 11:30			
11:30 to 13:30		S1a: Efficient use of resources: planning, transparency and accountability S1b: Local priorities on the global agenda of urban finance S1c: The metropolitan phenomenon: sub-national economies and regional development	S3a: Strengthen and innovate in tax revenues locally S3b: pooled funding and local access to credit S3c: Relocating the economy and finance: land and reducing inequalities
13:30 to 15:00			
15:00 to 17:00		Plenary 2: Sources and innovative financing mechanisms for urban development	Drafting Committee of the Final Declaration
17:00 to 17:30			
17:30 to 19:30	Opening ceremony	S2a: S2b: Cities, climate change and green backgrounds S2c: Urban Century: public-private partnership and new alliances	Closing Ceremony
20:00 to 22:00			

\*Note: This programme may be changed.

## THE VENUE

Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco — UNAM,  
Ricardo Flores Magón Núm. 1, Colonia Nonoalco-Tlatelolco,  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc, Mexico City, CP. 06995

## MEDIA ADVISORY

Media interested in covering the event have to be registered online at official web page ([habitat3.org/mexicocity](http://habitat3.org/mexicocity)) and accredited in the venue.

### Media Centre

An equipped media centre and open to all the registered media will be held at the venue Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco – UNAM, Ricardo Flores Magón Núm. 1, Colonia Nonoalco - Tlatelolco, Delegación Cuauhtémoc, CP. 06995, Mexico City.

### Urban Journalism Academy (UJA)

On Wednesday 9 March 2016 from 11.00 a.m. to 02.00 p.m., the UJA is taking place as a pioneer and innovative initiative intended to train journalists and media professionals who are interested or engaged in urban development themes.

To participate contact us at [habitat3media@un.org](mailto:habitat3media@un.org)

### Press Kit

The press kit is available at [www.habitat3.org/mexicocity](http://www.habitat3.org/mexicocity)

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### Official web page

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