



Rio de Janeiro - Brazil  
22-26 March 2010

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



*Pictorial Report of the*

# **WORLD URBAN FORUM 5**

THE WORLD'S PREMIER  
CONFERENCE ON CITIES

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL | 22-26 MARCH 2010





# WORLD URBAN FORUM 5 VENUE RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL



Above and right: Photo © Rodolpho Machado/Government of State of Rio de Janeiro, Left: Photo © UN-HABITAT/Bruno Mendez

## Front Cover

Top: Rio de Janeiro, Copacabana © UN-HABITAT/Silvia Ragoss, Others: Photos © Ag. Gingafotos/Government of State of Rio de Janeiro

## Back Cover

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**H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil at the opening ceremony:**

"In 2003 I promised first to do the necessary, then to do what was possible, and finally to try to do the impossible."



**Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat at the closing ceremony:**

"How will our world look in just two generations to come when it is projected that 70 percent of humanity will be living in towns and cities? We must muster the political will to make our cities fit for our children, and the time to act is now!"

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# OPENING CEREMONY



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## INTRODUCTION

The fifth session, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was held from 22 – 26 March 2010, attracted a total of 13,795 participants from 150 countries, making it one of the largest global United Nations meetings held in Brazil since 1995. Of this figure, 6,413 participants came from the host country which goes further to justify the principle of regional rotation in hosting the Forum. This not only encourages participants from a given region some of whom would not participate in the session were it held elsewhere, to join in the debate, but it ensures that some challenges posed by urbanization which are peculiar to the region, as well as best practices in addressing them are brought into the limelight and shared with the rest of the world.



# BRAZIL HOSTS THE WORLD URBAN FORUM 5

## Statement by the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Mr. Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, welcomed all participants to Rio de Janeiro, noting that the city was the first in Latin America to host the World Urban Forum. Over the years, Rio had become the venue of choice for a number of global events, including the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Olympics. He underscored that the focus of the Forum on the urban divide was well-timed in view of the rapidly growing inequality in cities globally. The world's 1 billion slum dwellers were a clear testament to that inequality. The Forum, he noted, would make a significant contribution towards a better understanding of how to bridge that divide. He thanked all parties involved in the organization of the Forum and extended special thanks to UN-Habitat in that regard. He further commended UN-Habitat on its extensive work to tackle the problem of urban poverty. He said the current Forum constituted a historic opportunity for the diverse group of urban stakeholders in attendance to share experiences and ideas on how to bridge the divide.



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## Statement by the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro

Mr. Sérgio Cabral, Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, in extending a welcome to all participants, described Rio de Janeiro as an extraordinary city undergoing major transformations towards improving the lives of its residents. The city, he said, was living testimony of how appropriate government investments and policies could lead to significant changes in the quality of life in urban areas. He invited all representatives to visit various parts of the city, and also other urban centres in the country, to experience for themselves and to learn how the lives of poor urban dwellers were being improved. He noted the achievements of the Growth Acceleration Programme, which had provided housing, water and sanitation and the provision of a number of other services to thousands of favela dwellers in Rio de Janeiro. A major national programme on public safety had also significantly reduced security threats in underprivileged communities. Such initiatives, he concluded, had led to dramatic improvements in the quality of life in those communities and could serve as exemplary learning experiences for others seeking to bridge the urban divide.



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# A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE...

## Secretary-General of the United Nations



Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, read a welcoming statement on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General thanked the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian Government and the city and people of Rio de Janeiro for hosting the meeting. In the coming decades, he said, up to two thirds of humankind would be living in cities, many of them having to cope with devastating urban poverty and the worsening impacts of climate change. Commending participants on their efforts to tackle those problems, he said that over the previous decade some 22 million people in developing countries had managed to leave slums. At the same time, however, the total number of people living in slums around the world had increased from 776 million to 827 million. Describing slum conditions as a violation of human rights, he said that helping slum dwellers reclaim their rights would strengthen society as a whole and help protect the shared environment. Given that cities generated 80 per cent of all waste and 60 per cent of greenhouse gases, by tackling urban poverty, those numbers could be reduced. The new World Urban Campaign mounted by UN-Habitat would advance the work of the international community to achieve those life-saving goals.

## Executive Director of UN-Habitat



Ms. Anna Tibajuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, opened her remarks with a special tribute to the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the people and the city of Rio de Janeiro, the city's Mayor and the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Acknowledging the generous financial, material and diplomatic support provided by the host country, along with those of other Governments and partners, she thanked everyone concerned for having contributed to the success of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum. She observed that the large number of participants present in Rio de Janeiro was also a tribute to the innovations mounted and successes achieved by the city, for example in pioneering participatory governance, thus providing an inspiration to people around the world. She noted that other cities in Brazil had also generated initiatives aimed at tackling the urban divide that were now being emulated in many other parts of the world. Those include the example of participatory budgeting in which ordinary people were involved in the determination of priorities for resource allocation and in ensuring the delivery of the desired outcomes. She also commended Brazil's City Statute, which, among other things, asserted the social value of urban land.

During her address, she requested participants to stand and observe a minute of silence for the victims of recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile and of landslides in Uganda.

Returning to the remarkable growth of the World Urban Forum both in stature and size, she related that growth to the significance of the urbanization agenda, and in that context cited estimates that, in just over two generations, cities around the world would accommodate 70 per cent of the world's population. Within that process, however, she also noted the troubling situation of slum settlements. Even in the advanced countries more than 6 per cent of the urban population lived in slum-like conditions. She recognized women as key stakeholders in coping with poverty and inequalities in cities and also in creating inclusive cities for all.

She announced the launching by UN-Habitat of the new World Urban Campaign as one of her final official responsibilities as she prepared to leave office later in the year having served two full terms as Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the level of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.



# WORLD LEADERS SPEAK OUT AT THE FORUM

## Statement by the President of the Republic of Uganda

Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, thanked the Government and peoples of Brazil for hosting the World Urban Forum and for the warm reception and hospitality shown to him and his delegation. He also commended the UN-Habitat Executive Director on the success of the Forum. Focusing his address on two dimensions of the Forum: the importance of cities for social transformation; and equitable access to facilities by all urban dwellers, he observed that cities had great potential for generating social transformation. Diversities within cities and the presence of an array of facilities and services such as banks, insurance services, educational facilities and hospitals were critical assets for social and economic transformations. He underlined the interlinkages with the rural hinterland, which was the base for agricultural products and which relied mostly on human labour. Cities, he said, provided skilled labour and higher level services, which were essential in adding value to social production and sustenance. Underscoring the need for cities to invest in education, vocational training and literacy programmes, he cited the example of his country, Uganda, which in 1999 had introduced universal free education from primary school to university. The long-term results of those investments were manifesting themselves in scientific and other innovations taking place in different aspects of people's lives.

Specifically addressing the issue of equity and bridging the urban divide, he noted that the rural-urban divide became blurred as countries developed. In contrast, in Uganda, the urban population measured 18 per cent of the total, thus revealing a significant rural-urban differentiation. The United States of America, where more than 87 per cent of the population lived in cities, also had a less conspicuous rural-urban differentiation. He noted that, on the whole, urban areas manifested social and economic divides, including the digital divide, as well as inequitable access. In order to narrow that divide in urban areas, cities needed sustained financial mechanisms, a diversity of housing alternatives, adequate work places and good infrastructure. He concluded that lessons should be learned from the history of cities and the role that they played in fostering development, and also from the factors that influenced their development and prosperity. Those lessons could be very useful in understanding and acting on the success factors for modern-day cities.



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## Statement by the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, welcomed all participants and thanked them for having come to Brazil and having accepted Rio de Janeiro as the host of the Forum. Recalling that Rio was also the city chosen for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games, he noted that the choice was in line with the image of a new Brazil resulting from investments in urban and social policies, strategies and finances. He said that it would be possible to build a new country that in turn built new urban policies for developing countries. Present-day Brazil, he said, was proving that such a goal could be attained, by introducing new policies and programmes and following a forward-looking vision, rather than blaming the past. Investments in slum upgrading and housing had increased in all Brazilian cities, thanks to improved governance and economic stability.

He invited participants to visit the projects that were being developed in all the country's 27 capitals. He also highlighted that there was less emphasis on flashy projects and more on improved living conditions in cities where there had been more investment in sanitation. He said that, in his view, there was no need to wait for the economy to change before action could be taken on improving the lives of the poor. He believed that one of the cheapest, simplest things that a Government could do was to take care of the poorest – economic growth and income distribution could be carried out concurrently, leading to a better quality of life. He recalled that, in 2003, he had promised first to do the necessary, then to do what was possible, and finally to try to do the impossible. He highlighted that a change in knowledge and best practices was very important, the Forum providing such an opportunity to learn from international experience. He expressed his hope that Brazilian participants at the Forum had learned valuable lessons from the conferences that had been held.



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## Statement by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America



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Mr. Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, United States of America, paid tribute to the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, to the Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro and the Mayor of the city of Rio de Janeiro. He said that the Forum was meeting at a critical moment as, for the first time in history, more than half the global population were city-dwelling. That, he said, was also a trend in the United States, where people were moving closer to cities and suburbs under the pressure of factors ranging from housing to transportation and jobs. Currently, American cities generated 90 cents of every dollar in the economy and housed 80 per cent of the population. He said that the pace of that transformation would increase in coming decades as the country's population grew by another 50 per cent. By 2050, two thirds of the world's population would be living in metropolitan areas. Thus, either it should be accepted that within three decades one in three people would live in near total despair, or a greener and more sustainable future should be embraced for the world's metropolitan areas. He said that he was therefore honoured to lead the United States delegation in discussions on how to work together to lift the standard of living for billions of people, promote democracy, human rights, enhance global health, food security and energy efficiency. That, he said, was the reason why President Obama had fought for more than a year to establish health care for all American citizens and the United States Congress had approved landmark healthcare legislation that the President would soon sign into law.

He expressed his belief that the Forum offered three key opportunities for partnership: to build communities more sustainably; to restore security to housing markets; and to embed innovative and sustainable approaches in the way communities planned for disasters. Under the leadership of President Obama, the drive was to create green jobs and products, build affordable, energy-efficient homes and promote more sustainable development patterns without compromising the future of the country's children and grandchildren. On the issue of disaster response, he described the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group as the most far-reaching government-wide effort in his country's history to rebuild smartly and to start implementing sustainable practices before disaster struck. Referring to the megacities of Africa, south-east Asia and Latin America, and the recent disasters in Haiti and Chile, he said that every country had to participate in the new era of sustainable economic growth. By working together, he concluded, all countries could seize the historic opportunity before them to shape the forces of urbanization, and to create a healthier, more inclusive future for their cities and metropolitan regions and chart a more sustainable global future for generations to come. That, he said, was the goal of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

## Statement by the Third Vice-President of the Government and Ministry of the Spanish Political Territory



Mr. Manuel Chaves Gonzalez, Third Vice-President of the Government and Ministry of the Spanish Political Territory, began his statement by giving thanks, on behalf of the Spanish Government, to all delegates participating in the inaugural session of the fifth World Urban Forum. He congratulated UN-Habitat for having organized, once more, the Forum and expressed Spain's wish to strengthen its commitment to the organization and its objectives. He noted that, with good management and appropriate policy, urbanization was a great ally for economic efficiency and social equality. At the same time, however, he observed that

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