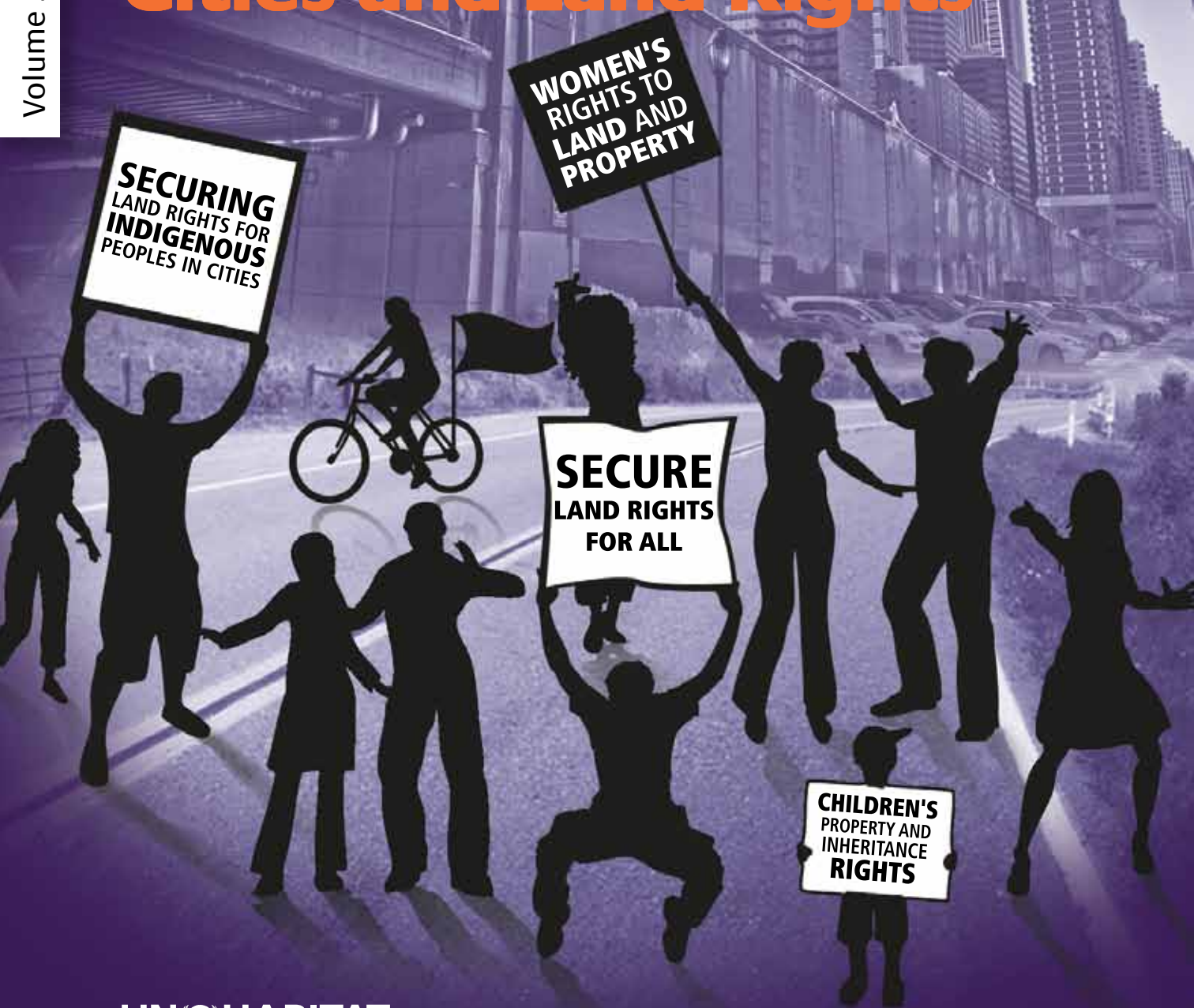


# urban WORLD

## Cities and Land Rights



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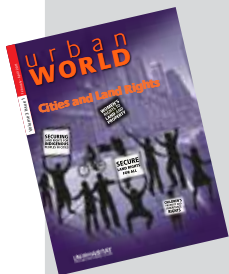


IMAGE © ANDREW ONDOO

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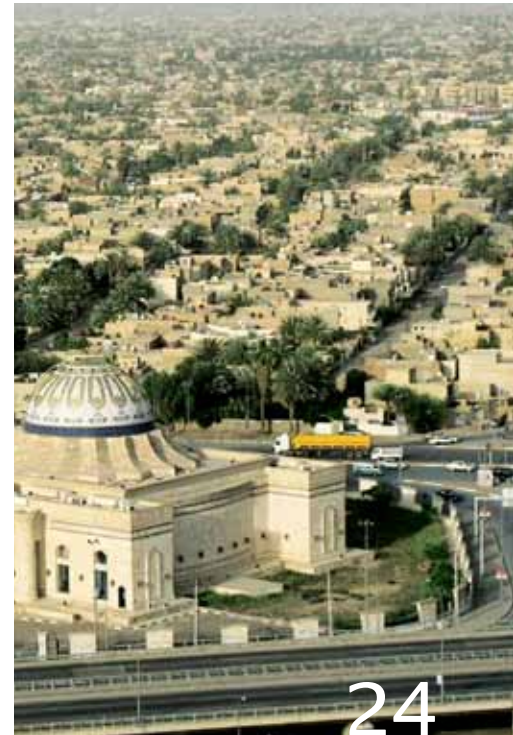
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**L**and is a scarce resource involving a wide range of rights and responsibilities. When poorly managed, it can become contentious often leading to disputes, conflict, degradation and other problems, all of them drivers of slum development and poverty in urban areas.

A complex problem the world over, land management and administration is an immense challenge in many developing countries. Subject to countless legal, administrative, cultural and religious practices, many of them discriminatory against women, it is something that has to be addressed by taking a number of factors into account simultaneously.

These include land policy, land tenure (including rentals), land use planning, land information, gender, state land and private land, governance matters, environmental and climate change considerations, as well as land tax and capacity building.

Equity is crucial to reduce poverty and exclusion and to promote progress and development. Cities will only prosper if they manage to develop equal and just institutions and distribute resources and opportunities fairly.

Access to land is thus critical to the delivery of housing, infrastructure and services on a large scale. The increasing land needs of rapidly growing cities must be managed in such a way that residents have security of tenure, decent housing, services and infrastructure, and thus a better quality of life.

It is UN-HABITAT's view that governments must develop and implement innovative land policies and reforms, along with relevant institutional and regulatory frameworks to provide equitable access to land and security of tenure for all.

With mounting pressure and competition over land in cities, towns and peri-urban areas, land governance is becoming increasingly important. There are six simple steps that can be taken to improve the quality of land governance and expand equitable access to land for all:

First, **promote the recognition of the continuum of land rights**. We need to move beyond a narrow focus on individual titling. Security of tenure can deliver many of the same benefits as individual titling without the costs of gentrification and unaffordable and unsustainable land registration systems.

Next, **make urban land markets work more effectively for all**. Land markets in developing countries are largely distorted and skewed towards the minority high and middle-income earners. This means that often slum dwellers pay more for land, infrastructure and services than their richer neighbours in the better parts of town. By improving the regulation of land markets, local municipalities can implement equitable land and property tax systems, reduce



land speculation and improve land use planning.

Third, **ensure that women enjoy the same equal access to land and property rights as men do**. A gender responsive approach is essential to address persistent inequalities, which in most cases discriminate against women. Think of this: it is estimated that only some 2 percent of land in developing countries is registered in the names of women!

Fourth, **promote a more holistic view of urban and rural**. The divide between rural and urban is artificial and no longer tenable. There is a growing appreciation that the two are connected in a larger system characterized by the dynamic flow of goods, finances, resources and people.

Fifth, **promote more effective coordination in the land sector**. Changes in the land sector require long-term commitment and support from development partners, donors and non-state actors.

And finally, **develop innovative land administration systems**.

I am delighted that we are making some progress here. A new resolution adopted in 2011 by Member States overseeing our work at the agency's 23rd Governing Council endorses the pluralism of tenure systems, alternative forms of land administration and records systems, as well as land-based taxation mechanisms.

It gives the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and its partners a strong mandate to continue developing pro-poor and engendered land tools.

UN-HABITAT and GLTN will continue to produce and document innovative, gendered and pro-poor land tools to address these six steps and expand equitable access to land for all.

Joan Clos  
Executive Director



# Land and climate change in a new urban world

Although towns and cities constitute just 2.8 per cent of the earth's surface, since 2008 more than half of the global population now lives in urban areas. Rapid urbanization is occurring largely in developing countries where a massive demographic shift has enormous implications in terms of poverty, natural resources and the environment. Here, **Mohamed El Sioufi**, Head of UN-HABITAT's Shelter Branch, explains how this combined with climate change affects the land we use and occupy, as well as our rights.



Floods in Pakistan.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT



Kabul, Afghanistan - land at a premium.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT projections show that in coming decades, the developing countries will be responsible for 95 per cent of the world's urban population growth.

Levels of urbanization are expected to rise, with the least urbanized regions of Asia and Africa transforming from largely rural societies to predominantly urban regions during the course of this century. By 2050, the urban population of the developing world will be 5.3 billion. Asia alone will host 63 per cent of the world's urban population, or 3.3 billion people.

Population growth and economic development cause drastic changes in land use in many parts of the world and institutional arrangements need serious reforming to ensure sustainable use of the increasingly scarce land resources.

The ecological interaction of cities and their hinterlands take on a whole new impetus and sense of urgency in the context of rapid urbanization and climate change. The challenges are complex and daunting, and require continuous engagement and effort at all levels. The climate change phenomenon is making the issue of sustainable urbanization a matter of urgency.

Climate change is now recognized as one of the most pressing global issues of our planet. It is no coincidence that global climate change has become a leading international development issue at the same time as the world has become urbanized. The way we plan, manage, operate and consume energy in our cities

will have a critical role in our quest to reverse climate change and its impacts.

To focus more on land and climate change matters, UN-HABITAT helped set up the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and assumed the role of technical secretariat for the Network. The main environmental challenges related to land identified in a joint recent study include:

#### Tenure:

- Tenure insecurity in relation to urban expansion
- Tenure insecurity for poor slum dwellers in developing countries
- Tenure insecurity undermining investment and leading to environmental mismanagement in urban and rural areas.
- Threats against flexible tenure systems in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas
- Increasing pressures on customary tenure systems that are in need of revisions.
- Only 30 per cent of plots are registered in developing countries and in sub-Saharan Africa, just 2-3 per cent of the land is owned by women. The continuum of land rights proposed by the GLTN is an important milestone in addressing tenure security matters.

#### Land use:

- Encroachment of agriculture in particularly vulnerable and valuable habitats.
- Deforestation and forest degradation leading to carbon emissions, loss of biodiversity and mud slides.
- Environmental damage in "frontier" areas for new energy sources
- Sharp increases in demands for land for food and bio-fuel production displacing the poor.

Seventy-five percent of commercial energy is consumed in urban and peri-urban areas. In addition, 80 per cent of all waste is generated from our cities and up to 60 per cent of Greenhouse Gas Emissions which cause global climate change emanate from cities.

#### Climate change:

- Increasing threats in coastal areas due to sea water rise and severe weather risk.
- Increasing threats to human settlements in coastal areas and islands
- Increased probability of droughts and erratic rainfall due to climate change

There have been warnings recently that the sea level is rising twice as fast as was forecasted, threatening hundreds of millions of people living in deltas, low-lying areas and small island states. But the threat of sea-level rise to cities is only one piece of the puzzle.

More extreme weather patterns such as intense storms are another. Tropical cyclones and storms, in the past two years alone, have affected some 120 million people around the world, mostly in developing and least developed countries. Indeed, in some parts of the world, inland flooding is occurring more often and on a more intense basis.

The world is witnessing more floods and droughts in the same year, having a major impact on food security, energy and water supply. This is an almost daily occurrence for many of the world's less fortunate people who live in life-threatening slums.

For them, the climate is already out of control and, perhaps equally important, beyond comprehension.

The impacts of climate change will be felt strongly in the years to come. If sea levels rise by just one meter, many major coastal cities will be under threat: Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Los Angeles, New York, Lagos, Alexandria, Egypt, Mumbai, Kolkata, Dhaka, Shanghai, Osaka-Kobe and Tokyo, just to mention some mega cities that are under imminent threat.

**Unequal land distribution**

- Geographical poverty-environment traps.
- Increasing land fragmentation in densely populated areas.

- Unequal land distribution, land degradation and inefficient land use
- Unsustainable management including increased activity in land rental markets and short-term strategies on rented land.
- Threat by elite capture undermining land reforms.
- International efforts are important to enhance the transparency and accountability in situations where the poor loose out.

The target of the Millennium Development Goals calling for a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, is a central concern of UN-HABITAT.

**The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) has identified 14 priority areas :**

1. Land tenure reform.
2. Land rights records and registration.
3. Land use planning.
4. Regulation of land markets to enhance sustainable land use.
5. Land management, administration and information.
6. Slum rehabilitation and resettlement.
7. Land law, regulation and enforcement.
8. Payment for environmental services.
9. Payment for resource dividends.
10. Participatory public works programs / productive safety nets.
11. Collective action for enhancement of environmental services.
12. Integrated rural and urban development.
13. Providing tenure security and slum rehabilitation.
14. Rescue plans for areas threatened by sea level rise and storm floods.

This target must be seen in connection with the factors causing rapid inflow of new migrants, as well as the fact that some of these areas are in coastal zones threatened by rising sea levels and weather risk.

Development and land reforms in rural areas can contribute to reduce the flow of people into towns and cities and therefore be an important part of the solution. Similarly, rural development can be seen as one of the means of alleviating poverty and increasing incomes for both rural and urban people.

At the same time it must be an international responsibility, particularly for the countries which have contributed most to carbon emissions to provide funds for adequate compensation and alternative livelihoods for those most vulnerable. UN agencies should continue to take a leading role in the planning of strategies to tackle this problem.

The world is at a cross roads: The fight to combat poverty and climate change is to be won or lost in our cities. Cities, as much as they embody the challenges also offer the solutions. The hundreds of communities and cities we recognize for their good practices symbolize this potential.

**Getting ideas into action**

The challenge is that many cities in the developing world are not endowed with the capacity to harness and mobilize knowledge.

A sustainable city must be a learning city which is continuously exploring and innovating, sharing and networking. Universities and knowledge centres have much to contribute to this endeavour.

Indeed, so daunting are the challenges facing cities with regard to climate change, that no entity, public or private, governmental or non-governmental, academic or practitioner, can face these challenges alone. All those who are committed to turning ideas into action are invited to join UN-HABITAT and its partners in the quest for more sustainable urban development.





# African ministerial meeting adopts new action plan

The Third African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) met in Bamako, Mali, 22-24 November 2010. Here, **Remy Sietchiping** of UN-HABITAT's Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section explains the new plan of action they adopted.



Bamako, Mali the seat of AMCHUD III

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT



**F**or Dr. Joan Clos it marked the first African ministerial meeting in his role as UN-HABITAT's newly appointed Executive Director.

"It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the *Bamako Declaration and Plan of Action*," he said after African governments adopted the new plan after three days of deliberations. "What we have achieved this week must take us into a new era when we can say we have brought the percentage of people living in slums below the 60 percent level of Africa's urban populations."

Land, they recognized, is critical for sustainable urban development. They recognized too that land is at the core of housing and urban development in Africa.

At the same time they agreed that progress was shackled by weak political will and the kind of leadership required to undertake reforms which address the needs of the urban poor. The conference made it clear that the development of adequate policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks were both urgent and paramount in enabling government agencies dealing with land and urban matters to work effectively.

It was thus that Dr. Clos, hailed the joint Land Policy Initiative for Africa (LPI) of the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), supported by UN-HABITAT's Global Land Tool Network. He noted that over 14 African states now had a range of good tenure practices allowing the protection of the poor.

They also agreed that access to urban land was fundamental for sustainable urban development and the housing sector, as a catalyst for economic development, poverty reduction and employment generation.

Indeed, the *Bamako Declaration* underscores the key role of land for supporting housing delivery and achieving sustainable urban development. The Declaration encourages African governments to embark on implementing innovations and reforms for improving systems of land management and providing secure access to land for all segments.

The *Bamako Plan of Action* carries a set of land-related activities to be undertaken between 2010 and 2012. For example, African countries committed to support the organization of an international conference to share experiences on security of tenure and access to shelter for all in particular for slum dwellers in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

African Governments attending the Conference accepted the recommendations of Mr. Ouedraogo and adopted a series of actions on LPI.

They agreed in Bamako to build on the existing political will and high level leadership and support to the Initiative, to develop or overhaul their land policies and land laws in line with the framework and guidelines set out in the Initiative.

They agreed to conduct "feasibility studies for the establishment of a fund to promote land policy development, implementation and collaboration with Regional Economic Commissions". Of particular interest was the commitment of African governments to collaborate with Regional Economic Commissions West Africa Economic and Monetary Union [WAE-MU] and the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] and others to pilot a regional land observatory to effectively monitor the implementation of urban land policy, land administration and land information.

The Land Policy Initiative for Africa (LPI) process started in 2006 and has culminated in the development of a Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa. Endorsed by African Heads of State and Governments in 2009, the initiative was launched in Malawi on 21 October 2010. The Initiative will aim at: (1) supporting national and regional processes for land policy formulation and implementation to strengthen land rights, enhance productivity and secure livelihoods; (2) providing guidelines for policy formulation and implementation, the LPI will undertake programmes to facilitate lesson sharing and peer learning; and (3) promoting progress tracking in land policy reform and implementation on the continent.

Ms. Gakou Salamata Fofana, Minister of Housing, Urban Planning and Land of Mali was elected African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) Chair for a two-year term. She said she was delighted with the organization and outcome of the conference despite the complexities of the matters at hand. Calling it a "very positive" contribution to this sector in Africa, she praised the efforts on the theme, *Land in the context of sustainable urbanisation*, as very important.

"Africa cannot succeed without good urban land management which takes into account the rights of women and youth," she added.

Dr. Clos congratulated governments for looking into land policies, at new land ideas, at better land governance - "in short, at one of the most important areas where we can bring visible improvement for all in this rapidly urbanising continent."

The fourth AMCHUD meeting was scheduled in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2012. ♦

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"Despite Africa land resources, land matters were associated with urban and rural poverty, conflict, corruption and bad governance. He said African Heads of State had to transform land commitments into action on the ground, and implement policy harmoniously, taking women's needs and rights for all into account." **Hubert Ouedraogo** Representative of the (AUC-ECA-AfDB) group

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# Five years into the GLTN – A perspective from our partners around the world

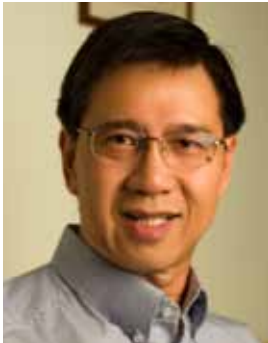
The UN-HABITAT facilitated Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) – a network of 45 global partners which aims to alleviate poverty through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure – is celebrating its fifth year of operation. **Eirik Sorlie**, of UN-HABITAT's Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section, solicited the views of five partners to hear how it is advancing pro-poor land rights.



Baseco informal settlement in Manila, Philippines.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/GERALD M. NICOLAS





**CheeHai Teo**

**President, International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).** The Federation and its immediate past President, Stig Enemark, was key in helping establish the network.

**Question:** What benefits has the Federation had from being a part of the network?

**Answer:** “A key benefit has been the opportunity to provide our expertise in tenure issues and to contribute to the work of the GLTN. It has been a platform to show our members and individual surveyors that in partnership with the United Nations and civil society, we

can contribute to addressing land issues in support of the global development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.”

**Question:** What are the most important achievements of GLTN in its first five years of existence?

**Answer:** “The GLTN has achieved its main goal in setting an international agenda on pro-poor land tools and creating a global network of partners to pursue this agenda. As key outcomes I would like to mention the development of the Gender Evaluation Criteria and the Social Tenure Domain Model which provides a tool for

including informal settlements and customary tenure areas in land administration systems.”

**Question:** How can GLTN best work to advance pro-poor land rights in the future?

**Answer:** “One of the key issues is to get the results of network tested and implemented at scale in many developing countries struggling with tenure rights. Another key issue is to facilitate a broad understanding of the complex role of land rights and their relevance to the development of society. In this regard, the training and capacity building aspect must not be underestimated.”



**Esupat Ngulupa**

**Board Member, Masaai Women's Development Organisation**

**Question:** Your organization has represented the Huairou Commission and grassroots organizations on the GLTN International Advisory Board. What benefits have you had from being a part of the network?

**Answer:** “The main benefit for us has been the GLTN

grant. It has helped us conduct land rights training for the grassroots women in northern Tanzania. Pastoral women are now participating in decision making processes, they have gained secure tenure rights and land ownership certificates”.

**Question:** In your opinion, what are the network's strengths?

**Answer:** “The main strength in the first five years has been its ability to build the capacity

of grassroots women at local and national level and link them to the international level.”

**Question:** How can the network best work with grassroots organizations to advance pro-poor land rights in the future?

**Answer:** “GLTN must continue to build the capacity of grassroots organizations to be able to advocate for and implement land rights projects.”



**Arvinn Gadgil Eikeland**

**Junior Minister, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Question:** Norway has always been a staunch supporter of the network. Why do you put this importance to pro-poor land rights?

**Answer:** “Our support reflects the Norwegian Government's understanding of land as a key asset for the welfare of the urban and the rural poor. Providing appropriate land tools to undertake land reform,

improved land management and security of tenure are prerequisites for pro-poor development in both developed and developing countries.”

**Question:** What are GLTN's most important achievements in its first five years of existence?

**Answer:** “In a world where the implementation of women's land, property and housing rights is frustrated by the lack of effective tools, GLTN has become a leading global player promoting the importance of gendered land tools. Its work on gendered land tools in Islamic contexts is particularly

innovative and promising.”

**Question:** How can the network best work to advance pro-poor land rights in the future?

**Answer:** “It should continue to do what it already does well: working with partners to develop pro-poor and gendered land tools which help the poor, and in particular women, gain access to land rights. However, GLTN should try to strengthen its advisory outreach functions further to assist marginalized groups in their continued struggles for security of tenure for all”.



## Jaap Zevenbergen

Professor, ITC (Faculty of Geo-information Science and Earth Observation) University of Twente, the Netherlands.

**Question:** The faculty has worked extensively with the network to build the capacity of land professionals and local governments. What are its strengths?

**Answer:** “GLTN is a group of very committed partners who share similar visions, missions and mandates. The joint initiatives of GLTN partners can build on the expertise and experience in the network, thus

acquiring an independent and respected status which eases implementation and increases impact.”

**Question:** What has it achieved in its first five years of existence?

**Answer:** “It has put “land” on the global agenda and in particular the views and concerns of the poor in society. GLTNs recognition and development of tools to implement the continuum of land rights, rather than individual land titles, is a long overdue development in the land sector which addresses the position of the poor and also recognises traditional rights and values.”

**Question:** How can GLTN best work to advance pro-poor land rights in the future?

**Answer:** “Our recommendation for GLTN is to pay special attention to the dissemination of knowledge and capacity building in the application of existing GLTN land tools. This work should not be restricted to education and training, but also include awareness raising, advocacy campaigns and the use of media to achieve secure land rights for all. This would require enlarging the network of partners by incorporating institutions in the south that specialize in capacity building.”



## Ztéphane Zecevic

Council Member, The International Union of Notaries (UINL)

**Question:** UINL recently became the network’s 43rd partner, what benefits do you see from joining the Network?

**Answer:** “Joining the Global Land Tool Network will give us access to a collection of tools and lessons learned that can sharpen our awareness and improve our response to various land issues.”

**Question:** What has been your experience so far in engaging with GLTN?

**Answer:** “Our first interaction with GLTN took place in relation to Haiti, where GLTN approaches to post-disaster reconstruction proved very informative. GLTN’s recent work on participative enumeration, as demonstrated in the publication, Count me in, further presents new ways to formalize land rights when no public records exist.”

**Question:** In March 2011 UINL and GLTN jointly organised an expert group meeting on pro-poor land. How does UINL plan to contribute to the network on advancing pro-poor land rights in the future?

**Answer:** “Legal issues are integral to most land issues.

UINL is an international organization of practicing land lawyers and can propose bottom-up solutions to legal issues such as dealing with land inheritance, which is a major challenge to the sustainability and accuracy of land records and registries. Our work with GLTN on developing pro-poor land tools will be based on two firm beliefs: One, a cost-efficient prevention of conflicts provides better access to justice than any method of conflict resolution. And two, the contractual source of evidence can be a useful supplement to the classical opposition between statutory law and customary practice.”





In the Netherlands, drinking clean water from the tap is already common practice for over 100 years. This is not the case for more than 1 billion people elsewhere. That's why Vitens-Evides International offers to share its knowledge and experience to support water companies all over the world to operate more efficiently, to become financially sustainable, and to increase access to water and sanitation facilities.



## A reliable partner in urban water and sanitation

### Vitens-Evides International

The two public parent companies, Vitens and Evides, embrace a corporate social responsibility to share their know-how and experience with water companies all over the world. Together they provide high-quality drinking-water to nearly half the Netherlands' total population of 17 million people. Through its international subsidiary, make their knowledge and expertise available to demanding water companies around the world in order to improve their operations and contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals. Currently Vitens-Evides is involved in partnerships with water companies in Ghana, Mozambique, Mongolia, Vietnam, Yemen, Malawi and Surinam, targeting over 20 million people.

### Our approach

With its public, not-for-profit identity Vitens-Evides International focuses on improving the day-to-day operations of local water companies. It thereby does not pursue equity ownership. Through operator partnership arrangements (TA, Service,

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- Unique concept for NRW reduction.
- Focus on operational and financial performance.
- Develop and guide sector investment programs.
- Strengthen local capacity through transfer of know-how and expertise.
- Raise attention for sanitation services and hygiene promotion.

### More information?

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## The Global Land Tool Network



Cairo, Egypt.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

The main objective of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is to contribute to poverty alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure. The network has developed a global land partnership. Its members include international civil society organizations, international finance institutions, international research and training institutions, donors and professional bodies. The network aims to take a more ho-

listic approach to land issues and improve global land coordination in various ways:

- Establish a continuum of land rights, rather than just focus on individual land titling;
- Improve and develop pro-poor land management and land tenure tools;
- Unblock existing development initiatives;
- Strengthen existing land networks;
- Improve global coordination on land;
- Assist in the development of affordable gendered land tools;
- Disseminate knowledge on how to implement security of tenure.

The GLTN partners, in their quest to attain the goals of poverty alleviation, better land management and security of tenure through land reform, have identified and agreed on 18 key land tools to deal with poverty and land issues at the country level across all regions. The Network partners argue that the existing lack of these tools, as well as land governance problems, are the main cause of failed implementation at scale of land policies worldwide. The GLTN is a demand driven network where many individuals and groups have come together to address this global problem. For further information visit the GLTN web site at [www.glt.net](http://www.glt.net).



Women in Longido district, Tanzania who have received land certificates

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/ASA JONSSON.



# Land governance for rapid urbanization

Managing the rapid expansion of cities will be a key challenge of the 21st century. Providing affordable and secure land and shelter for expanding populations is crucial to make this urban development sustainable, write **Clarissa Augustinus**, Chief of the Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section of UN-HABITAT, and **Eirik Sorlie**, of UN-HABITAT's Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section.



Onitsha, Nigeria.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/ALESSANDRO SCOTTI

### The urban challenge

Although urban areas cover only 2.8 percent of the earth's land surface, rapid urban expansion will require an increasing supply of land and more efficient land use in urban areas.

In the future, many cities will be characterized by poverty and inequality as urban growth will become virtually synonymous with slum formation. Adding the 1 billion people that live in slums and other sub-standard housing today, close to 3 billion city dwellers will need access to land, shelter and basic infrastructure and services by 2030. This translates into the need to complete 96,150 housing units on serviced land per day over the next 25 years.

Millennium Development Goal 7 commits the international community to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. But hopes of reaching even this very limited goal are not high. In 2005, one of three urban dwellers lived in slum conditions –lacking at least one of the following basic conditions for decent housing: adequate sanitation, improved water supply, durable housing and adequate living space.

### The pro-poor land agenda

Conventional land administration and land titling approaches to urban development are fairly well covered and understood by researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. But this is not the case when it comes to pro-poor land tenure and administration tools for urban development. However, thanks to the work of the Global Land Tool Network's partners ([www.glt.net](http://www.glt.net)) there is now an agreed agenda and work to address large scale pro-poor land tools is now underway.

The pro-poor land agenda is huge and it will take many years and a lot of resources to achieve results on a global scale. However, over the last decade we can note some key developments in the global discourse on land: a more holistic view of the linkages between rural and urban land, the mainstreaming of land governance, a wide consensus on the need to include a range of land rights, and the first gender evaluation criteria for large scale land tools and projects.

We need a new pro-poor shelter policy for urban development. This is because there

is no common framework for systematic shelter intervention which works at scale. International and government support for shelter for the urban poor has dwindled in the past decade, shifting the burden to the private sector, local governments, community groups and individual households.

Current models for social housing are not able to integrate the large groups of poor migrants arriving in cities. If sustainable cities are to become a reality, social housing and other subsidized housing schemes for the poor must be re-invigorated. The market alone has not been able to provide affordable, adequate shelter and basic services and infrastructure to all segments of society.

### Delivering land and shelter to the urban poor

Despite the general lack of knowledge and tools in regard to pro-poor land and housing, some key lessons can be identified based on UN-HABITAT's experience.

Subsidized housing estates for low income groups have not worked. Generally subsidized housing schemes have been too small and too slow to meet the demand. Many fully or partially subsidized housing schemes have been reserved for civil servants while neglecting the poor. Other schemes have been fraught with maintenance problems, turning public housing estates into regular slums.



Urban housing improvement project, Istanbul.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT



New thinking explores how cross-subsidy policies and local sources of income can facilitate social housing. A wide variety of sources, including property taxes, land value capture, micro-financing and flexible mortgage schemes, should be used to finance housing solutions for the poor.

Inappropriate planning standards can block upgrading of informal settlements. The allocation of legal land tenure to slum dwellers is problematic as their settlements seldom conform to planning regulations. With the high density of people living in slums and the prohibitive costs of slum upgrading, many informal settlements are never, or only partially, upgraded.

A pro-poor solution would be to undertake a full upgrade of informal settlements, including security of tenure, by applying local, rather than national planning standards. The local standards would be based on the 'as built' environment as far as possible, to limit disruption to people's lives and property.

Land use planning of the "as built" environment remains unsolved. The allocation of formal land use rights at the parcel level remains fraught with problems. Planners conventionally rely on cadastral information to make new urban plans. Given the large scale informal developments and absence of cadastral information in most cities in developing countries this approach does not work.

New land administration and land use information systems, which do not exclusively rely on legal data, must be developed to facilitate land use planning and the allocation of formal land use rights. The Social Tenure Domain Model, developed by our partners in the Global Land Tool Network, is one example. However, the capacity of institutions and officials must be strengthened for these tools to work.

The path to the legalization of properties and buildings must be made more efficient. In many countries individual households acquire land and buildings which are illegal and then spend years legalizing them by making incremental adjustments to their property and paying bribes to acquire the right permits.

Some countries have found more efficient ways to legalize properties and buildings. In South Africa, for example, special planning



Orascom affordable housing in Haram City, Egypt.  
PHOTO © ORASCOM

boards have been set up to examine existing slum settlements and ascertain to what extent they need to be changed, while avoiding adverse effects of poor planning, such as overflowing sewers. In Albania, a special Ministry was established to systematically upgrade slums and liaise with relevant line Ministries.

Harmonization, alignment and coordination are key to delivering at scale. The multiple donors in the land sector often have contradicting technical approaches, easily overwhelming government officials in charge of development programmes. In relation to shelter the challenge is increased by the cross-cutting nature of programmes and the fragmentation of responsibility across government departments.

The Paris Declaration on Harmonization, Alignment and Coordination addresses this challenge by stipulating a new architecture for development aid. In countries which rely on donor funds for shelter development, a separate urban sector within the HAC framework is crucial to deliver land and housing at scale for the urban poor.

Post-conflict responses to land, housing and property matters need a fresh start. Early phases of responding to post-conflict environments are dominated by emergency response and short-term planning, while land, housing and property issues are largely ignored. By the time these problems are dealt with, there is often little funding left for reconstruction.

Through the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs which oversees the emergency response system, UN-HABITAT is trying to improve the way land, housing and property issues are dealt with, by ad-

vocating longer term measures to be put in place from the outset.

New approaches to land administration must be introduced. The understanding of land issues worldwide has undergone a major paradigm shift. Whereas a decade ago individual land titling was considered the only robust way of delivering land, today the range of land rights, a more pro-poor approach, has been introduced by many governments.

The range of rights requires new types of land administration and land information systems to be developed. The involvement of key actors in the land sector and their approval of the need for improved land governance is crucial to this development.

### The road to improvement

Given the enormity of the problem, authorities in many countries are already struggling to cope with the impact of urbanization. Managing the expected geographic expansion of cities will require large scale investments to ensure that urban development is sustainable.

UN-HABITAT's experience points to several steps which can help redress the challenges:

- Revitalize the shelter agenda and integrate it with national strategies for economic growth and poverty reduction;
- Conduct research, documentation, dialogue and advocacy for shelter and land;
- Link land and housing more closely in regards to both normative and operational activities at country level;
- Move from slum upgrading to systemic slum prevention, keeping in mind the lessons provided by countries that done this at scale;
- Grasp opportunities to implement better regulations, such as the current financial crisis with its linkages to the housing and mortgage markets;
- Develop pro-poor and gender responsive land tools and scale them up through established institutions such as the Global Land Tool Network.

Finally, we must strengthen national and local shelter policy development and implementation to better meet the Millennium Development Goals and deliver land and housing to the urban poor. ♦



# SMART WATER SMART GRID

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# Communities making new gains

In a world where women face a constant struggle to ensure that they enjoy the equal access to land and property rights, UN-HABITAT Human Settlements Officer **Åsa Jonsson** looks at the slow, but important gains being made at community level in four countries around the world.



Women of Ponte do Maduro in Recife, Brazil have gained secure tenure after 40 years struggle.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/MALCOLM BOORER

**T**hrough a set of pilot projects in Brazil, India, Tanzania, and Peru, the Global Land Tool Network is slowly helping communities and their governments devise innovative, fairer and gender-sensitive land allocation policies that are replicable elsewhere in their regions and further afield around the world.

The idea is to involve the local community or neighbourhood.

And thanks to a series of training workshops, women in one of the many Maasai communities in Longido, northern Tanzania now understand the *Village Land Act*

in terms of their land rights. After 40 years of struggle in Ponte do Maduro, Recife, in northeast Brazil, a women's group have successfully convinced the State Governor to regularize their communities. In Lima, Peru, women's groups are conducting their own community assessments and initiating community-led planning. In India, the practice of self-enumeration or data collection by slum-dwellers themselves is a well-established tool with over 8 million people involved. Self-enumeration has prevented forced evictions and secured tenure, facilitated appropriate relocation, and demonstrated demand for services.

Groups such as these across Africa, Asia and Latin America are empowered and know their rights. What's next?

With support from local affiliates of the Global Land Tool Network, Slum Dweller International and the Huairou Commission, these community and neighbourhood groups are taking charge of negotiating on new terms. They include the *Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres* in India, the *Masaai Women's Development Organization* in Tanzania, *Espaço Feminsita* in Brazil, *Mujeres Unidas para un Pueblo Mejor* and *Estrategia* in Peru.

Ready to engage with more technical land concerns, the Tanzanian group has had considerable success in educating women and men about their land rights. And now, they are questioning the political and bureaucratic hurdles delaying village certification, such as the high cost of surveying plots.

*Espaço Feminista* knows that the public proclamation of land regularization is only a start. To ensure equality and that critical information is taken into account as part of gender-sensitive land policy, they are using the GLTN's gender evaluation criteria, and an experienced lawyer.

*Mujeres Unidas* are pushing to replace expensive top-down surveys with their own community assessments.

And the *Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres* (SPARC) is aiming for a proactive approach that facilitates progressive urban planning and policy implementation at city level.

The Huairou Commission and Slum Dwellers International, together with other organizations such as the *International Land Coalition*, are active members of the Global Land Tool Network, and showing the way in how other GLTN partners can best complement and support their work.

The network's community strategy is four-fold — ensuring local community participation in large-scale land tool development; strengthening their participation in land administration, and promoting community-level participation among all network partners.

These initiatives consider the communities as active partners, rather than as passive beneficiaries when it comes to policy implementation.

However, the communities and their organizations often face difficulties in moving beyond small-scale, pilot innovation. By providing modest grants, GLTN is therefore enabling a process of learning and communication aimed at eventually making that critical leap.

The potential of the grassroots land initiatives described are large. In India, there is increasing interest from municipal authorities in the potential of enumerations to facilitate city-wide slum-upgrading processes, for which there exist significant subsidies. The Rajeev Awas Yojana national-level programme aims to make India “slum-free” in five years, and a strategic aim of the alliance



Participatory mapping exercise in Mahila Milan, Orissa, India.

PHOTO © SPARC.

is to embed the enumeration approach into this large-scale federal programme.

In Brazil, at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro last year, representatives of the State Government of Pernambuco said they would regularize land long in dispute after much lobbying by *Espaço Feminista* with GLTN support.

The news brought much relief to the 55,000 local residents. Ms. Patricia Chaves of *Espaço Feminista* said: “This represents a 46-year struggle for the communities involved and the majority did not believe it could ever happen. I am delighted.”

“We built and engaged in different partnerships with a special emphasis on partnering with Pernambuco state and federal government bodies. What is most important for us is that through these partnerships we built awareness of the importance of land regularization of the area from a historical and political aspect.”

The gender approach built into the regularization sets an example to grassroots groups in Brazil and worldwide.

Tanzania's Village Land Act similarly holds huge potential benefits, especially for poor women. It provides for the certification of communal land tenure at the village level, and also for the certification of individual and group tenure rights within the community by an elected Village Land Committee and Vil-

lage Council.

It provides for certificates that record the rights of both men and women (instead of having everything only in the husband's name), and there are provisions for equal representation of women in the village-level governance structures. The up-scaling of training and advocacy workshops is helping more and more women claim land certificates, as well as making their husbands aware and supportive of the benefits.

In Peru, *Mujeres Unidas* and *Estrategias* want to increase the number of women and communities who understand the legal and policy instruments to secure tenure and better housing. They also want to integrate their approach with government agencies. The women's groups already have a track record in successfully building voluntary initiatives taken up and adopted as policy by the authorities.

A “writeshop” meeting scheduled in November 2011, is expected to produce a joint publication, and give GLTN partners a chance to gauge progress on all its initiatives, including a look at supporting community involvement, since 2005.

Indeed, there will be critical lessons coming out of these processes for the Global Land Tool Network, UN-HABITAT and our partners. ♦



## A big boost for energy efficient buildings in East Africa

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved a USD 2,853,000 for a joint UN-HABITAT / UNEP project to promote energy efficiency in the East African building sector. Energy used in buildings accounts for a significant percentage of national energy consumption. It is in fact estimated that over 40 per cent of the total national electricity generated in developing countries is used in urban buildings alone, consuming more energy than the transport and industry sectors.

The project was initiated by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with its sister agency UNEP, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the governments of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. ♦



UN-HABITAT's new Nairobi home.

PHOTO © UNEP

## A field trip to remember for Mozambique architecture students

A group of 40 students from the Eduardo Mondlane University's School of Architecture recently conducted a field trip to see for themselves how UN-HABITAT has helped design a safe building in the heart of the Limpopo valley flood zone.

The idea was to show the next generation of architects how important disaster preparedness is in a place like Maniquenique, a small town in Gaza Province, where the agency has helped build a school raised just over a metre above ground – roughly the depth of flood waters after heavy rains.

The visit came as part of a new two-week course on risk reduction, architecture and urban planning offered in collaboration with the The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and UN-HABITAT. ♦

## African Development Bank boosts Lake Victoria urban water programme

The African Development Bank approved a USD 110 million grant to extend a UN-HABITAT's urban improvement programme to another 15 towns in five countries in central Africa's Lake Victoria region.

The grant was approved at a two-day meeting in Mombasa arranged by UN-HABITAT and the East African Community. Under conditions set by the Bank, UN-HABITAT will provide technical assistance and capacity building for national and town level institutions, with a focus on implementation management, policy reform, environmental monitoring and capacity development for water utilities and municipal councils. ♦

## Helping young people in Zanzibar

UN-HABITAT in partnership with the government of Norway launched a USD 100,000 Urban Youth Fund for Zanzibar at a ceremony addressed by Zainab Omar Mohammed, Tanzania's Minister of Social Welfare, Youth,

Women and Children, and Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development. The event was attended by over 70 young people from youth organizations in Zanzibar. Managed by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, the main aim of the fund is to support urban youth projects focused on employment, skills training, entrepreneurship, and governance. ♦

## World Water Week

Keynote speakers at the United Nations 2011 World Water Day warned at their annual convention in Cape Town that greater efforts had to be made to provide better water and sanitation for cities, and especially for the urban poor.

"Let's make World Water Day here in Cape Town a wake-up call to the world," said His Royal Highness Willem-Alexander, the Prince of Orange (Netherlands).

The meeting in Cape Town, drew 1,000 delegates from around the world, to discuss this year's theme, Water and Urbanization. ♦



Colombo, Sri Lanka.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/SUZI MUTTER

## Japanese generosity

In its tradition of steadfast support for UN-HABITAT, the Government of Japan in February contributed millions of dollars to fund housing and recovery programmes in Afghanistan and Somalia.

It enabled UN-HABITAT to launch the second phase of a peace building programme in Afghanistan, thanks to funding of USD 28.5 million. The UN-HABITAT project funded by the Government of Japan in cooperation with the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and Municipalities is being implemented in nine provinces across Afghanistan to improve infrastructure and increase access to basic services since March 2010.

The estimated total beneficiaries are 380,000 people in urban and rural areas. In addition, approximately 440,000 people will benefit from the economic activities and access to community banking by integrating demobilized combatants, internally displaced persons and returnees into towns, generating job opportunities and promoting peace and stability.

The escalation of security incidents and the consequent military operations in 2010 has resulted in large scale migration of people from these areas to safer areas, both urban

and rural. This influx has placed unbearable strain on the existing communities and basic services which were already in a very poor state.

In the other conflict zone, Somalia, Japan has allocated USD 1.5 million to UN-HABITAT to support the relocation of tens of thousands of internally displaced people, large numbers of whom are climate refugees who have been displaced by drought.

Over the last five years, UN-HABITAT, in collaboration with the Government of Puntland State of Somalia, has helped improve the lives of 18,022 people in Puntland. In Bosasso, Garowe, Xaafuun, and now in Gal-kayo, UN-HABITAT has planned new settlements, constructed permanent shelters, and upgraded existing settlements.

The agency has also provided safe water, sanitation, and solid-waste collection, negotiated secure tenure for IDPs, conducted vocational skills training and created opportunities for livelihoods.

UN-HABITAT views this as an opportunity to “build back better”, by developing permanent shelter, basic infrastructure, and on-the-job and vocational skills training with the above-mentioned partners, to ensure that Somalis whose lives are affected by conflict have a strong foundation on which to rebuild their lives. ♦

## Housing support in Sri Lanka

UN-HABITAT in Sri Lanka in February launched USD 28 million housing programme to support internally displaced war survivors in the north of the country.

Thanks to funding from the European Union, AusAid, and Swiss Development Corporation, the agency will help construct 4,400 new homes in the north of the country where more than 230,000 people were forced to flee and confined to a single camp.

Families are at last resettling in their original places of residence following the conclusion of the 30-year conflict in May 2009. More than 50 villages will be assisted in this programme for the full reconstruction of 2,200 destroyed houses, and the major repair of a further 2,200 damaged homes.

Building on its experience in providing over 10,000 new homes for the survivors of the 2004 tsunami, UN-HABITAT seeks to “empower” the beneficiaries to be in charge of their own recovery process. ♦

## Thanks to BASF, a new major water project for schools

A major new water education project financed mainly by the German chemical giant BASF has been launched in Mangalore to help provide water education and safe drinking water for 25 schools and nearby communities in southwest India under UN-HABITAT’s Water for Asian Cities programme.

BASF’s Social Foundation is contributing the lion’s share of EUR 145,000 of the total USD 343,000 budget for the project to be run jointly with UN-HABITAT and the local implementing partner, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) which are providing the remainder.

Launched at a ceremony in Mangalore City on 10 May 2011, the officials said the project would boost access to safe drinking water for 25 selected schools and surrounding communities. It will also promote water, sanitation and hygiene education in schools, and establish a school-led community-based drinking water quality monitoring programme. ♦



## UN-HABITAT supporting Brazil favela peace programme

Representatives from several of the poorest neighbourhoods in Rio de Janeiro recently praised the authorities for instituting a new peace and anti-crime drive, aimed at making the streets safer, cleaner and ensuring better basic service delivery.

The peace programme, known by its Portuguese acronym, UPP (Unidade de Policia Pacificadora), was started in July 2008 by the State of Rio de Janeiro using highly trained police to break the stranglehold of drug dealers and gangs in 18 of the city's favelas, as the poor districts are called.

As Rio de Janeiro gears up to host the giant United Nations Rio + 20 gathering in 2012, the 2014 football World Cup, and the 2016 summer Olympics, the city authorities are seeking to help bring peace to 30 favelas a year. Once the first 18 are considered safe, the neighbourhoods then get the added value of the UPP Social Programme, which is supported by UN-HABITAT as part of a new USD 3 million dollar project.



Delivering services in Recife, Brazil.

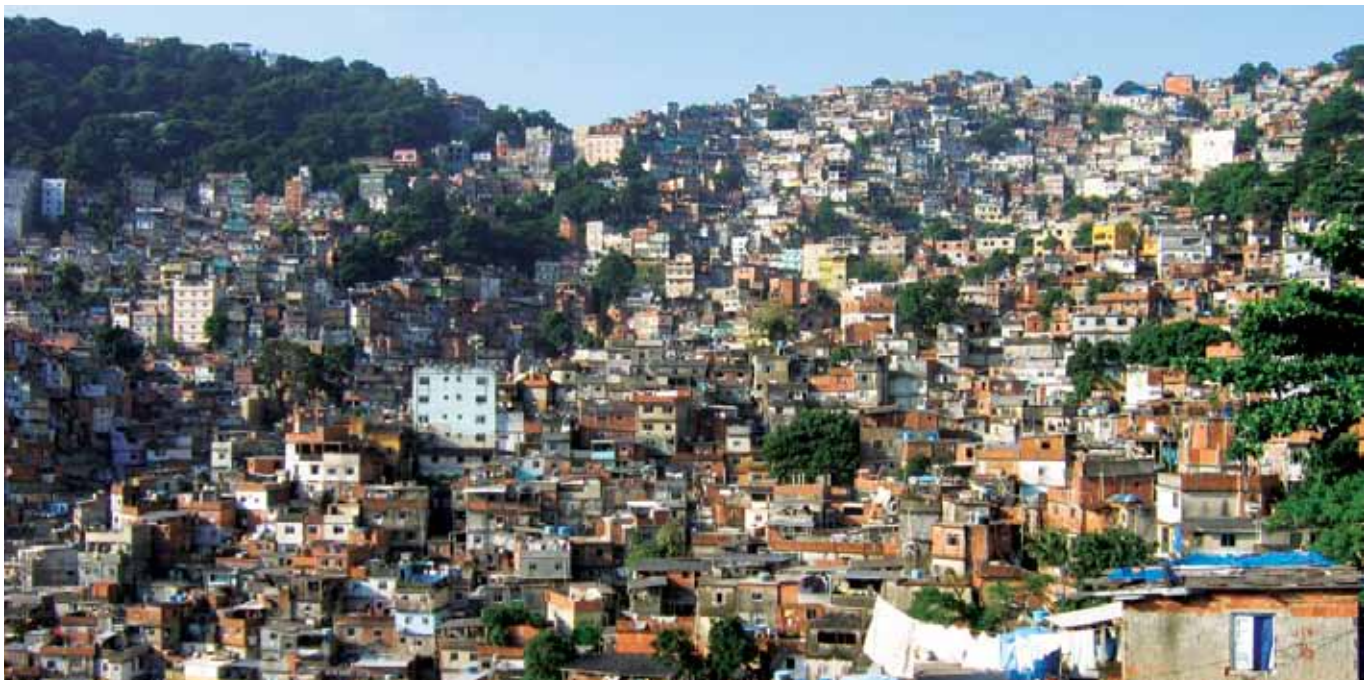
PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

At a meeting with city officials in May, Mr. Alain Grimard, Director of UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, pledged to maintain, and as necessary, step up the agency's support for the UPP Social programme in a city where the agency has had an agreement with Rio de Janeiro City Hall, since 1996.

He hailed the cooperation with the City which has supported UN-HABITAT's Re-

gional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean for the past 15 years.

"This is the most important moment in our 15-year partnership because we have the chance to collaborate with the implementation of the social aspect of the UPP initiative. Providing citizenship, and capacity building for youth and women, is the kind of work that can be realized by other local governments," Mr. Grimard said. ♦



Favela, Brazil.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT





Baghdad, Iraq.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

## A new roadmap for Iraq's local government

Key representatives of the Iraqi government including Mr. Istebraq al-Shauk, Senior Deputy Minister for Construction and Housing, Mr. Kamil Chadirchi, Deputy Minister for Administrative Affairs, and Mr. Ayad al Safy, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, were in Amman recently to attend a high-level conference to determine the future of Iraqi governance.

“This conference represents the extent of cooperation, and of joint and serious action between the Iraqi Government and United Nations Agencies to concentrate the concept of decentralized government in Iraq,” said Deputy Minister Mr. al-Shauk in his opening address.

The conference 8-10 May, organized by the UN-HABITAT Iraq office in Amman,

brought together eminent speakers from the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and United Nations agencies together with experienced practitioners in the field of local governance, to set out a roadmap that will enable Iraq to move towards a system of effective decentralized local government. ♦





PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

## Clos, Donovan meet in Washington

Dr. Clos held talks in March with U.S. Secretary of State for Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan and other senior officials during his official visit to the United States. ♦

“Zena Daysh was a tireless campaigner for the cause of better human settlements around the world,” said Dr. Clos. “She was one of those great visionaries whose vigour and drive half a century ago helped galvanise international consensus which subsequently led to the establishment of the UN Centre for Human Settlements, as UN-HABITAT was first called.”

“Personally known to many here at the

agency, Ms. Daysh will be greatly missed at our global gatherings,” he added.

In 2003, Ms. Daysh won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour award for a lifetime dedicated to improving human settlements around the world. It was personally presented to her by Britain’s then Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, in one of his first formal engagements on taking office.

New Zealand-born Ms. Daysh, was a political in-fighter on the international stage for over five decades doing battle on human settlements issues. Her passionate interest in human ecology led to the establishment of the Malta Human Environment Council, and later the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) which has worked closely with UN-HABITAT for many years.

She played a leading role at the UN General Assembly Session on Human Settlements (Istanbul + 5) in New York in June 2001 where she explained the work of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements to an international audience. ♦

## Zena Daysh – a giant in the cause of better cities and a better environment

Zena Daysh, the founder of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council and a tireless campaigner for a better human habitat who won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award, died last April after a short illness. She was 96.



## Back to the future – a gathering of UN-HABITAT veterans

A group of 25 retired UN-HABITAT veterans from countries around the world returned to the agency’s headquarters in February this year to share their experiences and insights with a view to helping establish a new direction for the agency.

The group, all of whom once held senior positions at UN-HABITAT, signed up for a *Human Library Conference* convened to enable the veterans, who have worked in the field in many countries around the world, to provide on-camera interviews to ensure that UN-HABITAT’s collective body of knowledge is duly recorded for posterity. Each was also asked to prepare a paper looking at the agency’s future direction in a rapidly urbanising world, based on their own experience.

Forged in the tradition of African story telling, it was conceived by Mr. Daniel Biau, who retired recently after serving as Director of

UN-HABITAT’s Regional and Technical Co-operation Division.

“In quantitative terms we have implemented more than 1,000 projects in more than 100 countries. We have mobilized and disbursed more than USD 2 billion over the last 25 years. We, in this room, have created a number of impressive networks. We have built human settlements expertise in many countries and in all regions of the planet. We have worked with Mayors, Ministers, senior officials, and also with NGOs and CSOs and made Habitat known and respected all over the world,” he said.

The meeting, a novel idea in the UN system, was inspired by the Malian intellectual, Hamadou Hampâté Bâ, a former member of the UNESCO Executive Council, who founded the Institute of Human Sciences in Bamako and helped establish a unified system for the transcription of African language.

A famous quotation attributed to him says: “In Africa, an elder dying is a library in flames.” ♦



Daniel Biau

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT



Human Library Coonference participants.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/JULIUS MWELU



## Better performance, better accountability across the UN

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who is continually urging Governments to be accountable to their people, signed a new annual series of compacts last week with his own senior managers aimed at holding them accountable for their performances and at increasing transparency.

UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Joan Clos, and Achim Steiner, his counterpart at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), joined the signing ceremony by video-link from their global headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

"This is a compact, not only that you made, yourself, to your staff, but this is a compact and a demonstration of your commitment to the whole world," the Secretary-General said. ♦



Ban Ki-moon UN Secretary-General visits UN office in Nairobi, Kenya.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/JULIUS MWELU

## A successful Governing Council

The twenty-third biennial meeting of governments in the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT closed in Nairobi on Friday with top officials describing it as a resounding success for the agency.

The governments, which approved the work programme and budget for the coming two years, also gave Dr. Clos, the green light to begin preparations for a Habitat III meeting in the year 2016.

The 2016 meeting is a major summit of world governments on cities that has so far met every twenty years. The first in Vancouver in 1976 led to the creation of the agency, and the second in Istanbul in 1996 produced the *Habitat Agenda*, a global blueprint for better, more sustainable, equitable, greener cities better able to manage the huge growth of urban populations around the world.

Dr. Clos thanked governments for supporting UN-HABITAT, saying in closing speech the city had to be viewed and considered as an asset rather than as a liability.

He said he would encourage a positive view of cities, and push for a new approach to urban planning which was properly applicable. He cited the importance of energy conservation in urban mobility and transport policies,



Mwai Kibaki, the President of Republic of Kenya, addresses the opening ceremony of twenty-third Governing Council of UN-HABITAT

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/JULIUS MWELU

as well as mitigation and adaptation measures to help cities cope better with climate change problems.

Dr. Clos said cities without slums and job creation were "two big issues to be prioritised" because the world could not close its eyes to urban inequalities.

Mr. Vincent Karega, Rwanda's Minister for Infrastructure who chaired the week-long deliberations, said in closing the 23rd session of the Governing Council that it had

been "very fruitful". Representatives of the regional blocs passed a vote of confidence in the agency and Dr. Clos.

All paid tribute to Inga Björk-Klevby, who stepped down as the agency's Deputy Executive Director. Dr. Clos paid special tributes to Daniel Biau, who retired as Director of UN-HABITAT's Regional and Technical Cooperation Division, and the agency's former spokesman, Mr. Sharad Shankardass who also retired this year. ♦

## URBAN GATEWAY - a new urban web portal

Delegates at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) in May congratulated UN-HABITAT on the launch of its new Urban Gateway social media site which enables urban actors worldwide to share knowledge and work together in the quest for sustainable cities.

The Urban Gateway provides a knowledge repository of urban best practices, case studies and research on urban development in multiple languages, provides a collaboration hub for stakeholders and urban experts on all aspects of urban development and is a marketplace for urban jobs, funding opportunities, competitions and awards worldwide.

First launched at the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in April 2011, the Gateway also hosts information and knowledge on the World Urban Forum and World Urban Campaign. ♦



Youth envoy Ramsey Noah promoting the urban gateway, a community online

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/ JULIUS MWELU



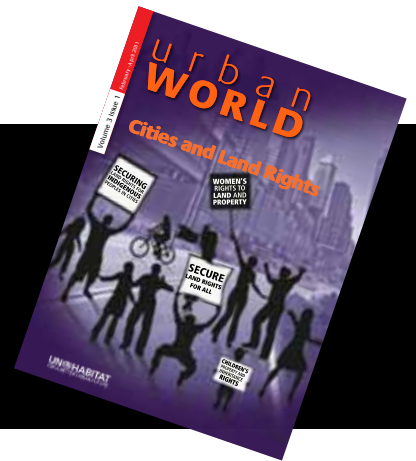
Launch of the Urban Gateway during the UN-HABITAT governing Council.

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT/ JULIUS MWELU





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**The Fifth Asia Pacific Urban Forum**

22-24 June 2011  
Bangkok, Thailand  
[www.unescap.org/apuf-5/](http://www.unescap.org/apuf-5/)

UN ESCAP and partners are convening the Fifth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-5) taking place at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. The theme of APUF-5 is *Cities of Opportunity: partnerships for an inclusive and sustainable future*.

**The Fifth Cities for Mobility World Congress**

3-5 July 2011  
Stuttgart, Germany  
[www.cities-for-mobility.net](http://www.cities-for-mobility.net)

The 5th World Congress of Cities for Mobility under the title *Urban Mobility and the Social Space Challenge* will focus on the linkage between mobility policies in cities and urban planning. Speakers and participants will address the question of how future sustainable urban mobility can contribute to transform urban spaces into appealing social places that attract people to live, work, relax and interact.

**Asia Pacific Cities Summit**

6-8 July 2011  
Brisbane, Australia  
[www.apcsummit.org](http://www.apcsummit.org)

The theme of the 2011 Summit is, *The Business of Cities*. Over three interactive and challenging days, world-renowned speakers will focus on sustainability, connectivity and managing rapid growth in our cities over the coming decade.

**World Water Week**

21-27 August 2011  
Stockholm, Sweden  
[www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)

The theme of the 2011 World Water Week is *Water in an Urbanising World*. Each year the World Water Week addresses a particular theme to enable a deeper examination of a specific water-related topic. The week will comprise of workshops driven by the Scientific Programme Committee and many seminars and side events focusing on various aspects of the theme.

**The ICLEI European Convention**

12-14 September  
Brussels, Belgium  
[www.iclei-europe.org](http://www.iclei-europe.org)

The ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) European Convention 2011 is a challenging and thought-provoking event that addresses both ICLEI members and the many European cities that want to make a difference by creating a sustainable society. This engaging event will take place in Brussels, allowing participants to discuss sustainable actions with peers and representatives from the European institutions, discover the exhibition "Brussels - sustainable city", explore the Hamburg European Green Capital 2011 "Train of Ideas" and follow up the outcomes of the last ESCT Conference in Dunkerque.

**World Habitat Day**

3 October 2011  
City of Aguascalientes, Mexico  
[www.unhabitat.org/whd](http://www.unhabitat.org/whd)

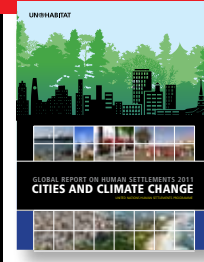
The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. This year, World Habitat Day will be celebrated on 3 October 2011 and the Global Celebration will be hosted by the Government of Mexico. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all, to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. The United Nations chose the theme *Cities and Climate Change* because climate change is fast becoming the preeminent development challenge of the 21st century. Indeed, no-one today can really foresee the predicament in which a town or city will find itself in 10, 20 or 30 years time. In this new urban era with most of humanity now living in towns and cities, we must bear in mind that the greatest impacts of disasters resulting from climate change begin and end in cities. Cities too have a great influence on climate change.

**The "Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020" Conference**

14-16 November 2011  
Rabat, Morocco  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

Jointly organized by the Kingdom of Morocco and UN-HABITAT, the Conference will review the mid-course achievements towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The aim of the Conference is to give countries that have, according to UN-HABITAT's data tackled slum growth and reduced urban poverty, a platform to share their successful practices, principles and policies promoting "Making Slums History" before 2020 with countries facing difficulties meeting the MDGs. The Conference shall enable dialogue between the indispensable partners: governments, local authorities, community representatives, non-governmental organization and the private sector.





## Cities and Climate Change: Global Report on Human Settlements 2011

Cities and Climate Change reviews the linkages between urbanization and climate change, two of the greatest challenges currently facing humanity in the 21st Century, and whose effects are converging in dangerous ways. It illustrates the significant contribution of urban areas to climate change while at the same time highlighting the potentially devastating effects of climate change on urban populations. It reviews policy responses, strategies and practices that are emerging in urban areas to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as their potential achievements and constraints. In conclusion, the report argues that urban areas have a pivotal role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation and identifies strategies and approaches for strengthening this role.



## Annual Report 2010

This report presents UN-HABITAT's main achievements in 2010. They range across the whole continuum of operation and normative projects, from post-conflict and post-disaster recovery to urban planning and climate change adaptation.



## State of China's Cities 2010/2011 Better City Better Life

This title, State of China's Cities, is a joint effort between UN-HABITAT, China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and China Association of Mayors. This report covers five strategic steps to nurture and grow smarter cities. It aims to make easy access of international readers to the information about policies and practices that have engendered smart urbanization of China in the past 60 years. It also provides the experiences, lessons and challenges faced by China in sustaining its urban development in the context of rapid industrialization and urbanization within a globalizing world.



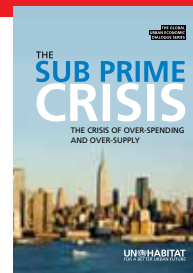
## Country Activities Report 2011

UN-HABITAT's country activities are focused on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels. Technical and managerial expertise is provided for the assessment of human settlements development problems and opportunities.



## Public-Private Partnership in Housing and Urban Development

This report examines how the public-private partnership (PPP) model can be applied to help promote sustainable housing and urban development for countries around the world. The report has two main parts. First, it identifies key opportunities and challenges faced by PPPs in general, and provides PPP best practices and guiding principles adopted by governments at various levels of economic development. Second, it describes global patterns in the most prominent urban PPP sectors followed by case studies that have been adopted and implemented by various governments around the globe. The case studies evaluate the performance of the partnership by analyzing and cross-referencing each against the key ideas and best practices presented in preceding chapters of this report.



## The Sub Prime Crisis: The Crisis of Over-Spending

The subprime crisis refers to the collapse of subprime mortgage markets in the United States due to the sharp rise in foreclosures beginning in 2006, which led to the failure, merger, and government bailout of leading American financial institutions and enterprises. This report examines the causes and impacts of subprime crisis. The report examines the elements causing the crisis, particularly the over-spending behaviors of both governments and individuals and deregulation and lack of monitoring. The over-spending beyond the income/revenue capacity leads to the imbalance between income/revenue and spending and eventually causes the sub-prime crisis and further the global financial and economic crisis. The report then examines the impacts of the crisis.

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



## CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE



### World Habitat Day 3 October 2011

Kindly nominate a candidate or send your submission for the Award by emailing the submission details and nomination form to the World Habitat Day coordinator at [whd@unhabitat.org](mailto:whd@unhabitat.org), or mail to the following address:

The Coordinator, World Habitat Day  
P.O. Box 30030 - 00100  
UN-HABITAT Block 4, 3rd Floor South,  
New Office Facility  
UNON Gigiri Complex  
UN Avenue, off Limuru Road  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: (+254 20) 762 5311  
Fax: (+254 20) 762 3477

## THE HABITAT SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARD

The Habitat Scroll of Honour award was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in 1989. It is currently the most prestigious human settlements award in the world. Its aim is to acknowledge initiatives which have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as shelter provision, highlighting the plight of the homeless, leadership in post conflict reconstruction, and developing and improving the human settlements and the quality of urban life.

The award will be presented to the winners during the Global Observance of World Habitat Day in Mexico on 3 October 2011.

### Eligibility

Individuals, organizations, projects and any Habitat Agenda partner can be nominated for the Habitat Scroll of Honour. These include:

- Government and inter-governmental organizations or agencies, including bilateral aid agencies
- Cities, local authorities or their associations
- Civil society organizations
- The private sector
- National Habitat Committees or focal points
- Research and academic institutions
- Public or private foundations
- Multilateral agencies (United Nations Agencies, World Bank, etc.)
- The media
- Individuals

The Nomination Form and Submission Guidelines are available for download in all the UN languages at the World Habitat Day website, [www.unhabitat.org/whd](http://www.unhabitat.org/whd).

Deadline for submissions  
**31 July 2011**



# CHROME

*The protective element,  
for a brighter future*



Its outstanding corrosion resistance makes it day after day, year after year looking just the same and keeping identical benefits. In that sense, this property combined with chrome's excellent recyclability and extreme durability make it a truly sustainable material.



International Chromium Development Association



# URBAN GATEWAY

For the International Urban Development Community



## UN-HABITAT Urban Gateway

- an online community to help cities and urban practitioners across the world unite to share knowledge and take action.



Join the Urban Gateway at  
[www.urbangateway.org](http://www.urbangateway.org)



developed by Public Zone