

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Recent Committee Items

UN-HABITAT is responsible for the seventh Millennium Development Goal (MDG), which ensures environmental sustainability and more specifically Target 10 and Target 11 under MDG 7.¹ Target 10 calls to reduce the amount of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by half until 2015.² Target 11 calls for the improvement of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.³ This goal is hoped to be achieved through UN-HABITAT's role in monitoring and assisting Member States toward the improvement of city slums.⁴ In recent years UN-HABITAT has conducted projects, organized programmes, and held worldwide conferences to discuss progress and future plans to deal with these issues and accomplish these goals. In November 2012, UN-HABITAT organized an international conference – *Making Slums History: A Global Challenge for 2020* – in Rabat, Morocco.⁵ This event increased UN-HABITAT's role in monitoring and assisting Member States to accomplish MDG 7.

UN-HABITAT recently issued the *State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*.⁶ This report focuses on urban and regional changes in both developed and developing countries; urban prosperity in terms of infrastructure, quality of life, equity in cities, productivity in cities, and environmental sustainability; policy-related factors underlying the prosperity of cities; and innovations to support the transition to a prosperous 21st Century city through planning, design, and empowerment of laws and institutions.⁷ Furthermore, the report provides charts concerning the living conditions in urban populations, definitions of a prosperous city and ten measuring indexes to determine progress and prosperity.⁸ The issue of housing has appeared in several UN-HABITAT conferences, committee meetings, and initiatives over the past year. In December 2012, UN-HABITAT organized the Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in Amman, Jordan.⁹ APMCHUD was developed in 2006 under the umbrella of UN-HABITAT to promote sustainable urban development and housing for the Asia-Pacific Region.¹⁰ The 4th APMCHUD focused heavily on youth involvement in sustainable urban development including: youth in urban planning; livelihood opportunities for youth; Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water and sanitation; creating and financing opportunities for youth to lead sustainable development projects; and women's role in sustainable development.¹¹

UN-HABITAT held the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum in September 2012, in Naples, Italy. The progress made during the Sixth Session of the World Urban Forum is UN-HABITAT's mission. The upcoming Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Medellin, Colombia in 2014. Expanding on the 2012 theme – “The Urban Future” – the forum focused on institutions and regulations for urban planning, wealth and social equity, job creation and opportunities, urban mobility, energy, and the environment.¹² During the sixth forum, a message was read on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, reiterating the pledge to pay greater attention to cities made by world leaders at the Rio + 20 summit held in June.¹³

“At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio + 20, world leaders placed the urban challenge high on the global agenda. They recognized that we must strengthen cooperation, partnerships and agreements to carry out the Habitat Agenda for sustainable development. We can usher in the future we want by heeding the Rio + 20 call for an integrated

¹ UN-HABITAT, *About Us: Mandate*, 2012.

² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, pp. 54-59

³ UN-HABITAT, *Guide to Monitoring Target 11: Improving the Lives of 100 Million Slum Dwellers*, 2003, p.3

⁴ UN-HABITAT, *Guide to Monitoring Target 11: Improving the Lives of 100 Million Slum Dwellers*, 2003, p.3

⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Making Slums History – A Global Challenge for 2020*. Conference Report, 2012.

⁶ UN-HABITAT, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*

⁷ UN-HABITAT, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*

⁸ UN-HABITAT, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*, pp. 14 - 17

⁹ Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, *About Conference*, 2012.

¹⁰ Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, *About Conference*, 2012.

¹¹ Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, *About Conference*, 2012.

¹² UN-HABITAT, *World Forum 6*, 2012.

¹³ UN-HABITAT, *World Forum 6*, 2012.

approach to sustainable cities that better supports local authorities and involves the public, especially the poor, in decision-making.”¹⁴

In addition to addressing the problems of housing conditions in Target 10, Target 11’s topic of water and sanitation improvement will be a key theme for 2013 as the MDG deadline approaches. UN-HABITAT recently announced the launch of a new Global Consultation on Wastewater Management and Water Quality for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.¹⁵ The consultation will take place on January 14th through February 17th and will consist of online resources aimed at generating a public debate through discussion questions, live video streams, and position papers.¹⁶ Overall, 2013 is an important year for UN-HABITAT due to the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) period ending.

The Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference

UN-HABITAT is mandated by the General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable cities and to provide adequate shelter for all.¹⁷ UN-HABITAT comprises of 58 member states, which are elected by region for a 4 year term. These 58 member states comprise the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT. Every two years, UN-HABITAT’s work is evaluated by the Governing Council. The Governing Council reports to the General Assembly through ECOSOC which coordinates the work of the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly. The normative activities of UN-HABITAT focus on helping countries through training programmes, policy, legislation, and management suggestions for urban population.¹⁸ The operational or project-related activities of UN-HABITAT put into practice the suggestions made through the normative activities.¹⁹ A current example of an operational activity under UN-HABITAT is the projects toward reducing the slums by 2020. Overall, UN-HABITAT is concerned with the MDGs, human settlement, and due to the increase in urban populations, enhancing sustainable urban development. UN-HABITAT works to achieve these goals by providing information, training, and suggestions for UN-HABITAT’s agenda, and creating and supporting programmes and projects aimed at MDGs and enhancing sustainable urban development.

Format: The United Nations Human Settlement Programme is a Resolution Writing committee.

Voting: In the UN-HABITAT committee each member has one vote and it does not allow for special privileges of Member States, such as veto power. All decisions are decided on by majority vote of members present for both procedural and substantive matters.

¹⁴ UN Secretary General, *Message to the World Urban Forum*, 2012.

¹⁵ UN-HABITAT, *Global Waterwaste Debate*, 2012.

¹⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Global Waterwaste Debate*, 2012.

¹⁷ UN-HABITAT, *About us: Mandate*, 2011.

¹⁸ United Nations Evaluation Group, *Professional Peer-Review of the Evaluation Function: UN-HABITAT*, 2012. pp. 9

¹⁹ United Nations Evaluation Group, *Professional Peer-Review of the Evaluation Function: UN-HABITAT*, 2012. pp. 9

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2012). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*. New York, NY. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2012/English2012.pdf>

The Millennium Development Goals Report is composed of data for purposes of showing the progress and status of the MDGs. The report is a report of progress, but is also clear to state the challenging road that lies ahead in order to achieve the goals by 2015. The 2012 report highlights the achievement of poverty reduction by half five years before the MDG deadline and improvement for people living in slums thus far. Delegates should find this report useful for tracking the progress of MDGs in addition to the actions still needed in order to achieve the MDGs by the deadline.

United Nations Evaluation Group. (2012). *Professional Peer-Review of the Evaluation Function: UN-HABITAT, 2012*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/11088_1_594415.pdf

The peer-reviewed report provides information concerning: a general background of the UN-HABITAT mandate for the programme by various the United Nations General Assembly and the UN-HABITAT Governing Council; The Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) as discussed in the committee history background guide; governance of UN-HABITAT; organizational structure of UN-HABITAT; main areas UN-HABITAT may intervene – explaining the normative and operational activities of the programme; and funding of the programme. In terms of understanding the actual functions of UN-HABITAT this is helpful for delegates. This report goes more in depth than the UN-HABITAT website, explaining in detail the functions and purpose of UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2003). *Guide to Monitoring Target 11: Improving the Lives of 100 Million Slum Dwellers*. Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals, Nairobi, May 2003. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=1930>

This is an essential resource if a delegate is writing about MGDs. Although this report was written in 2003, it provides an adequate foundation for understanding the goals of Target 11 and procedures necessary to accomplish Target 11. The report provides a list of the Millennium Development Goals and Targets and in addition detailed information and examples of current issues concerning Target 11, including: Global Trends in Slums; People Living in Slums; and Population Living in Slums. The report outlines 5 key dimensions for improving slums as well as improvement information for water and sanitation. Overall, this is beneficial to the delegate as a resource on how to approach issues such as battling poor urban areas.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*. Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3387>

The 2012/2013 report on the prosperity of cities is a user friendly report where delegates can look for information on current situations of the world's cities, trends in developed and developing countries, and city prosperity information overall. This report provides definitions for determining a prosperous city and ten different indexes for referencing prosperity and progress of cities. The graphs in the report are also beneficial for an overall understanding of the process and relationship of factors making up the progress of a city.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *World Urban Forum*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=11432&catid=672&typeid=6>

The World Urban Forum meets biennially and held the 6th biennial meeting in 2012. The information in the link is from a UN-HABITAT news article released at the time of the 2012 World Urban Forum; however, there is an extensive amount of information regarding the World Urban Forum overall. This news update discusses statements made during the meeting, issues that must

be addressed, and a call to the international community for an integrated approach to improve the problems that must be addressed in both developing and developed urban areas.

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<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2012/English2012.pdf>

United Nations Evaluation Group. (2012). *Professional Peer-Review of the Evaluation Function: UN-HABITAT, 2012*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *Global Waterwaste Debate*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2003). *Guide to Monitoring Target 11: Improving the Lives of 100 Million Slum Dwellers*. Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals, Nairobi, May 2003. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=1930>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *Making Slums History – A Global Challenge for 2020*. Conference Report. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/docs/Rabat_Conference/Making%20Slums%20History%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2012). *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*. Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from

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<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=11432&catid=672&typeid=6>

United Nations Secretary General Message to the World Urban Forum. (2012). Retrieved January 14, 2013 from

http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/11430_1_594550.pdf

I. Enhancing Sustainable Urban Mobility

Major Events

In September 2012, UN-HABITAT organized the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy. The World Forum 6 focused on one main theme – *The Urban Future* – supported by four sub-themes, including theme four, “Urban Mobility, Energy and Environment.”²⁰ Sustainable urban mobility was addressed in the fourth dialogue, which discussed the following key topics: Sustainable infrastructure investments in poor cities; Making non-motorized transport popular and work for lower income communities; Incentives (“pulls” and “pushes”) of green mass transit; and Institutional sustainability.²¹

From September 30 through October 4, 2012, the joint XIII International Walking and Livable Communities Conference and the VII International Congress on Sustainable Transport (ICST) were held in Mexico City, Mexico, under the title “Step into the future.”²² The ICST was created in 2005 by the Center for Sustainable Transport (CTS) Mexico, a non-profit organization from the EMBARQ network, created by the World Resources Institute to help cities in developing countries implement sustainable urban mobility solutions and strategies.²³ The ICST, which focuses on urban mobility issues in Latin America, was the biggest walkability conference worldwide in 2012 and focused on several themes: Dense and compact cities; Non-motorized mobility; Demand management; Public transport networks; Public mobility policies; Health and mobility; Road safety; The pedestrian, keystone of mobility; and Transport and climate change.²⁴

From October 22-25, 2012, the Fifteenth Conference of the Cooperation for Urban Mobility in the Developing World (CODATU), was held in Ethiopia.²⁵ CODATU is a non-profit organization whose objective is to promote sustainable urban mobility in developing countries, through exchanges between various actors from the transport and urban mobility fields (governments, private companies, research institutes, professionals). It was created in 1980, as an outcome of the World Conference on Urban Transport in Dakar.²⁶ CODATU is organizing a biennial international conference, in order to contribute to the exchange of scientific and practical knowledge on urban mobility. The CODATU XV was focused on “The Role of urban mobility in (re)shaping cities.”²⁷ On the first day of the conference, UN-HABITAT and CODATU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a strategic partnership between both organizations to strengthen UN-HABITAT’s outreach and advocacy efforts in the field of sustainable urban mobility.²⁸ CODATU also held a special session on urban mobility in African cities during the 2012 Africities Summit, which was organized by the association of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCGLA) and was held in Dakar from December 4-8, 2012.²⁹

The Africities Summit was also an opportunity for UN-HABITAT to launch the new campaign “I am a City Changer in Africa.”³⁰ This campaign is coordinated by the World Urban Campaign, and aims to gather city-level decision makers and politicians, civil society actors, professionals and experts, and citizens, in order to build an international community committed to building sustainable cities in Africa.³¹ Through this global network, countries are also encouraged to launch National Urban Campaigns, and Senegal was the first country to do so in early December 2012.³²

²⁰ UN-HABITAT, *World Urban Forum 6*, 2012.

²¹ UN-HABITAT, *World Urban Forum 6: Concept paper and outline of the dialogues*, HSP/WUF/6/2, 2012.

²² Walk 21, *Step into the Future: The 2012 International Conference on Walking and Sustainable Cities*, 2012.

²³ International Congress on Sustainable Transport, *About the conference*; World Resources Institute, *About EMBARQ*.

²⁴ International Congress on Sustainable Transport, *About the conference*; International Congress on Sustainable Transport, *Program*.

²⁵ CODATU, *CODATU XV*.

²⁶ CODATU, *Missions*.

²⁷ CODATU, *CODATU XV, The role of urban mobility in (re)shaping cities*, 2012, p. 2.

²⁸ UN-HABITAT, *A new strategic partnership on urban mobility*, 2012.

²⁹ Africities Summit 2012, *Presentation of Africities*; Africities Summit 2012, *Architecture of the Summit*.

³⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Guediawaye citizens first to launch I'm a City Changer in Africa*, 2012.

³¹ UN-HABITAT, *I am a city changer in Africa*, 2012, p. 4-5.

³² UN-HABITAT, *Guediawaye citizens first to launch I'm a City Changer in Africa*, 2012.

Finally, from December 5-8, 2012, the Indian Ministry of Urban Development organized the fifth Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference Cum Exhibition, in New Delhi. Focused on “Smart Mobility”, this event brought together international experts, decision makers and officials from cities and States, in order to discuss and exchange on urban transport issues.³³

Key Documents and Reports

In September 2012, UN-HABITAT published its latest *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013*, which focuses on *the Prosperity of Cities*, introducing a new tool, the “City Prosperity Index”, and a new conceptual matrix, the “Wheel of Prosperity.”³⁴ Infrastructure development is presented by this report as the most important dimension promoting urban prosperity.³⁵ Urban mobility issues, in term of sustainability, are thus fully integrated in several chapters of the document, such as “Urban Infrastructure: Bedrock of Prosperity” and “Quality of Life and Urban Prosperity.”³⁶

In October 2012, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) presented to the ECOSOC Plenary Council a *Report of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics on its twenty-fifth session*, a session that was held in early September.³⁷ This report summarizes several agenda items that were reviewed during the session. Of particular interest are the summary of the UNECE workshop on “Urban Transport and Mobility,” and the presentation of the upcoming publication on transport trends and economics. The 2013 edition of this report will focus on urban transport and mobility in the UNECE Member States and provide gathered data and indicators from the region’s main cities.³⁸ As for the workshop, its participants discussed various issues related to “public transport system restructuring; economic feasibility of a public transport authority; legal framework for urban mobility and urban traffic management; smart urban mobility with the use of telematics.”³⁹

In January 2013, the Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP), with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), published an updated edition of the *Reading List on Financing Sustainable Urban Transport*.⁴⁰ This report compiles several informative resources on the topic of financing sustainable urban mobility: it provides policy makers with tools, guidelines and solutions on how to best invest in sustainable urban transportation systems.⁴¹

³³ Urban Mobility India, *Overview*; Partnership on Sustainable Low Transport, *5th Urban Mobility India Conference Cum Exhibition (UMI - 2012)*, 2012.

³⁴ UN-HABITAT, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013*, 2012, pp. 10-24.

³⁵ UN-HABITAT, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013*, 2012, p. 60.

³⁶ UN-HABITAT, *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013*, 2012, pp. 48-67.

³⁷ ECOSOC, *Report of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics on its twenty-fifth session*, 2012.

³⁸ ECOSOC, *Report of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics on its twenty-fifth session*, 2012, p. 10.

³⁹ ECOSOC, *Report of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics on its twenty-fifth session*, 2012, p. 3.

⁴⁰ STUP, *Updated SUTP Reading List on Financing Sustainable Urban Transport is now available*, 2013.

⁴¹ GIZ/STUP, *Reading List on Financing Sustainable Urban Transport*, 2012.

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CODATU. (2012). *CODATU: Cooperation for Urban Mobility in the Developing World*. Retrieved on January 17, 2013, from <http://www.codatu.org/english/>

CODATU is a non-profit organization registered in France, whose head office is in Lyon, France. It is a very interesting platform of exchange between developing countries and industrialized countries. Its objective is to provide developing countries with solutions, knowledge and guidelines to build sustainable urban transportation systems. This organization also coordinates research projects, and provides training activities, in cooperation with its members (public and private actors in the field of urban and suburban transportation).

Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP). (2013). *Updated SUTP Reading List on Financing Sustainable Urban Transport is now available*. Retrieved on January 17, 2013, from <http://www.sutp.org/index.php/news-archive-mainmenu-156/sutp-articles-mainmenu-236/3484-updated-sutp-reading-list-on-financing-sustainable-urban-transport-is-now-available>

The SUTP website is a very helpful tool for delegates when looking for news and recently published materials on the topic of sustainable urban mobility. The reports and documents presented are published by various research institutes, public agencies and international/regional organizations, and not only by SUTP or GIZ. We recommend that delegates visit this website regularly in order to be aware of the recent events and publications on the topic concerned.

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP). (2012). *Reading List on Financing Sustainable Urban Transport*, 22 p. Retrieved on January 17, 2013, from www.sutp.org/index.php/component/phocadownload/category/92-rl-fsut?download=152:rl-fsut-en

This reading list, published as part of the SUTP sourcebook, compiles an important part of the international literature on financing sustainable urban transport. The objective of that publication is to provide policy makers with the available material and resources on the topic at hand. This document is a very useful tool for delegates who need guidelines for innovative financing solutions – as financing issues can be of primary importance when negotiating on sustainable development-related problems.

Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT). (2012). *5th Urban Mobility India Conference Cum Exhibition (UMI - 2012)*. Retrieved on January 17, 2013, from <http://www.slocat.net/event/670>

The Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT) is a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative whose objectives are to strengthen the knowledge on low carbon transport (non-motorized transportation solutions, green public transports), to help develop efficient policies and to contribute to their implementation. It is composed of over 50 members, which include UN agencies and programs, development banks, technical cooperation organizations, NGOs and research institutes.

UN-HABITAT. (2012). *I am a city changer in Africa*, 32 p. Retrieved on January 17, 2013, from www.imacitychanger.org/imacc/docs/A6_Booklet_Final_Draft.pdf

The campaign “I am a City Changer in Africa” is coordinated by the World Urban Campaign, the partners’ platform for the upcoming Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016. It is related to the global campaign “I am a City Changer”, which aims at building an international network of public and private actors committed to sustainable cities in general. It is based on an exchange of good practices and ideas, and could be an interesting tool for delegates in their negotiations.

UN-HABITAT (2012). *State of the World’s Cities 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities*, 152 p. Retrieved January 31, 2013, from www.unhabitat.org/pmss/getElectronicVersion.aspx?nr=3387&alt=1

This report is published every year by UN-HABITAT, to present the latest trends and evolutions in cities worldwide. This year’s edition is focused on the concept of “urban prosperity” and advocates for a new type of city – productive, sustainable, eco-friendly, and people-centered. This report provides the delegates with a useful review of global and regional urban trends and data, with several policy recommendations, and numerous study cases and examples. Along with this general report, UN-HABITAT also publishes regional reviews, such as the State of China Cities 2012/2013 and the State of Latin American and Caribbean Cities 2012, which delegates of the concerned countries may find useful.

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II. Improving Drinking Water Availability and Sanitation Infrastructure in Slums

With resolution A/RES/65/154 ratified in 2011, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared the year 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation.⁴² From January 2013 onwards, international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations is supposed to prioritize water issues in order to strengthen the commitment related to water made by the United Nations Millennium Declaration.⁴³ This commitment to water includes reducing the population without access to clean drinking water and access to basic sanitation by halve until 2015.⁴⁴ Two years before the expiration of the Millennium Declaration, the International Year of Water Cooperation is aimed to raise awareness towards this commitment, evaluating water as an essential resource of livelihood and investment in water as an investment in poverty reduction overall.⁴⁵ With UNESCO as coordinating organization of this International Year of Water Cooperation, a multidisciplinary approach to water is aimed to be taken in order to consider all social, economic, and environmental aspects of this natural resource.⁴⁶ Drinking water availability and sanitation infrastructure in slums are thereby considered a key challenge since the urban population is one of the largest majorities suffering from water issues.⁴⁷

UNHABITAT, as the essential organization to deal with slums and cities, has followed the lead committing itself to the prioritizations of water issues in the years 2013 and therefore participates in the post-2015 thematic consultations on water.⁴⁸ Within these consultations, experts on water and sanitation met in December 2012 in The Hague to start a discussion on new indicators, conceptualizations and measurements of water issues for the post-2015 era.⁴⁹ The meeting in The Hague was only the kick off to these discussions, which are continued on multi-media-platforms and web-page projects like “The World We Want.”⁵⁰ Therewith, the international cooperation on water has attempted to become more inclusive trying to provide cheap and simple access to the discussions.⁵¹

To diversify its efforts in international water cooperation, UNHABITAT has applied in December 2012 for a second term as governor in the World Water Council (WWC) and has been elected for the term of office for 2012-2015.⁵² Therewith, UNHABITAT has committed itself to manifest urban issues on the WWC agenda and to provide a link between the WWC and the UN by strengthening the cooperation between the WWC and UN-Water on the global water consultations.⁵³ Additionally, UNHABITAT has launched a new global consultation on Wastewater Management and Water Quality for the Post-2015 Development Agenda in January 2013.⁵⁴ Wastewater is considered an essential part of the water lifecycle, which if its management is neglected exacerbates the access to clean drinking water.⁵⁵ The topic has long been ignored in the global discourse, even though wastewater is the essential link between clean drinking water and adequate sanitation.⁵⁶ Therefore, UNHABITAT sees it as an important issue to include wastewater management in the global water discourse and the post-2015 development debate.⁵⁷

With the general global dialogue on water which is taking place from November 2012 until March 2013, the overall importance of water for all and in sub-consultations the importance of water for the urban population has become a

⁴² United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 154, 2011*.

⁴³ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 154, 2011*.

⁴⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration 55.2, Principle 19, 2000*.

⁴⁵ United Nations World Water Assessment Programme & United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Briefing Note – Water for Sustainable Urban Settlements, 2010*.

⁴⁶ United Nations Water, *2013 – United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013*.

⁴⁷ United Nations Water, *2013 – United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013*.

⁴⁸ United Nations World Water Assessment Programme & United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Briefing Note – Water for Sustainable Urban Settlements, 2010*.

⁴⁹ Sanitation and Water for All, *The Post-2015 Water Thematic Consultations*.

⁵⁰ The World We Want, *The Global Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.

⁵¹ United Nations Water, *The World We Want – Thematic Consultations on Water: Engage Now!*.

⁵² World Water Council, *Board of Governors, 2012*.

⁵³ United Nations Settlements Programme, *A UN-Habitat Candidacy for World Water Council Governor 2012–2015, 2012*.

⁵⁴ United Nations Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat Launches Global Wastewater Debate, 2013*.

⁵⁵ United Nations Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat Launches Global Wastewater Debate, 2013*.

⁵⁶ United Nations Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat Launches Global Wastewater Debate, 2013*.

⁵⁷ United Nations Settlements Programme, *UN-Habitat Launches Global Wastewater Debate, 2013*.

priority on the development agenda, with organizations like UNHABITAT trying to engage new participants and topics into the discussion.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ United Nations Water, *The World We Want – Thematic Consultations on Water: Engage Now!*.

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Sanitation and Water for All. (N.A.). *The Post-2015 Water Thematic Consultations*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/>

Sanitation and Water for all is one platform that implements the UN International Year of Water Cooperation. This Web Site has recent updates on all cooperation's, consultations and projects on water and sanitation. One aspect it focuses on is sanitation and drinking water in urban areas. Since the Web Site is constantly updated it is a good resource to get an overview of the most recent developments.

The World We Want. (N.A.). *The Global Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/286411>

This Web Site is a platform of the current consultation on water in the post-2015 development agenda. Actors from all over the world with various backgrounds discuss any topic around water and development, including the specific context of urban water management. Since it is an easily accessible platform it is hoped that voices from all backgrounds are raised, providing very insightful knowledge on water issues in various national contexts. Therefore, this Web Site can be used as a source to get more in-depth information on specific positions on water within different parts of society.

United Nations Settlements Programme. (2012). *A UN-Habitat Candidacy for World Water Council Governor 2012–2015*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from http://gwopa.org/images/wwcbog_election_un_habitat_a4_flyer.pdf

This official Statement of UN-HABITAT's candidacy for World Water Council Governor provides the reasoning for UN-HABITAT to participate in the World Water Council. Therewith, UN-HABITAT's strategy for global water cooperation as well as their thematic focus is explained. This statement can therefore help to frame debates in the committee and to choose an appropriate focus for the discussion of water and sanitation in cities.

United Nations Settlements Programme. (January 14, 2013). *UN-Habitat Launches Global Wastewater Debate*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=11831&catid=270&typeid=6>

Wastewater is an important part of the water lifecycle but in debates on drinking water and access to basic sanitation it often is forgotten. Since wastewater management links the two topics it should be considered in the debate. This is the reasoning, why UNHABITAT has launched a global waste water debate in January 2013 hoping to integrate the topic in the global cooperation's of water and to especially raise awareness for the topic in the urban context. The debate is still in progress using various platforms and since the topic is vital for drinking water and sanitation, it can be worth following the debate.

United Nations Water (N.A.). *The World We Want – Thematic Consultations on Water: Engage Now!*. Retrieved January 16, 2013, from <http://www.unwater.org/water2015.html>

United Nations Water facilitates the thematic consultations on water. As this consultation process is currently happening and will be going on until March 2013, this Web Site provides an update on all recent outcomes and debates of these consultations. It can be used as a source to get information on specific topics but it also explains the process itself, who is engaged and what has happened so far.

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III. Implementing Social Inclusion and Environmental Justice on the Agenda of Sustainable City Development

Recent Developments

With the Rio+20 summit and the World Urban Forum in Naples, 2012 saw two major conferences addressing the issue of sustainable city development. The United Nations General Assembly committed to a project of sustainable city development led by UN HABITAT in its annual resolution on the agency.⁵⁹ Most important for this topic was UN HABITAT's publication of the biennial State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013 in September 2012.⁶⁰

The Rio +20 Summit

Cities were one of the seven "critical issues" discussed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) summit, held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.⁶¹ Consequently the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want* also addresses the development of sustainable cities and human settlements in a subsection of its own.⁶² Operative clause 134 recognizes "the need for a holistic approach to urban settlement" and the notion of cities being able to promote socially and environmentally sustainable societies.⁶³ In operative clause 135, Member States commit themselves to "promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities."⁶⁴ The notion of sustainability in this context also includes: "inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, (...); the promotion, protection and restoration of safe and green urban spaces; (...)" as well as the sustainable management of waste.⁶⁵ It can thus be interpreted to contain the issue of social inclusion while environmental justice is at most addressed indirectly through the sustainable development paradigm.

World Urban Forum 2012 in Naples

In September 2012, the 6th World Urban Forum was held in the City of Naples.⁶⁶ The biennial World Urban Forums aim to bring together both national and municipal officials as well as civil society actors from NGOs, engineers, architects and academics.⁶⁷ This year's World Urban Forum had the theme "The Urban Future."⁶⁸ Besides multiple side events the topic was addressed in dialogues on four sub-themes of which dialogue/sub-theme 2 - *Equity and Prosperity: Distribution of Wealth and Opportunities*- exemplifies the relevance topics related with equity and social inclusion have in today's UN HABITAT agenda.⁶⁹ Before the start of the conference, the World Urban Campaign partners released their new *Manifesto for Cities*.⁷⁰ The Manifesto recognizes the unsustainability of current models of urbanization especially in the field of social and environmental questions and further calls for a "Global Urban Agenda to position sustainable cities at the heart of 21st century development."⁷¹

The State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013

During the World Urban Forum 2012, UN HABITAT presented its biennial State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013 titled *Prosperity of Cities* in September 2012.⁷² The report introduces the new *City Prosperity Index* and

⁵⁹ United Nations General Assembly, (2012), *Resolution 67/216*.

⁶⁰ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013*.

⁶¹ United Nations, (2011), 7 critical issues at Rio +20. UNSCD Secretariat, (2012), *RIO 2012 Issues Briefs No. 5. Sustainable Cities*.

⁶² United Nations General Assembly, (2012), *Resolution 66/288: The Future We Want*, operative clauses 134-137.

⁶³ United Nations General Assembly, (2012), *Resolution 66/288: The Future We Want*, operative clause 134.

⁶⁴ United Nations General Assembly, (2012), *Resolution 66/288: The Future We Want*, operative clause 135.

⁶⁵ United Nations General Assembly, (2012), *Resolution 66/288: The Future We Want*, operative clause 135.

⁶⁶ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *World Urban Forum 6*.

⁶⁷ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *World Urban Forum 6. What is the World Urban Forum*.

⁶⁸ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *6th World Urban Forum. First Announcement. The Urban Future*.

⁶⁹ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *6th World Urban Forum. Dialogues & Theme*; United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *6th World Urban Forum. E-Dialogue Analysis*; United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *6th World Urban Forum. Concept Paper and Outline Dialogues*.

⁷⁰ World Urban Campaign, (2012), *About the Manifesto for Cities*.

⁷¹ World Urban Campaign, (2012), *Manifesto for Cities*.

⁷² United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *UN-Habitat launches State of World's Cities 2012/2013*.

the conceptual framework of the *Wheel of Prosperity*.⁷³ With the wheel of prosperity, the report claims to have a fresh and holistic and more robust approach towards measuring (city) prosperity.⁷⁴ UNHABITAT thereby advocates a new type of people-centered city, capable of integrating more aspects of prosperity than GDP.⁷⁵ The report warns about the inherent risks of ill-balanced growth failing to safeguard prosperity for all.⁷⁶ In doing so, it draws on the experience of crises that rose up during the past years: the financial crisis, the democratic crisis (caused through unequal distribution of wealth and power) and the environmental crisis including climate change and its effects.⁷⁷ These crises demand a rethinking of the perception of (city) prosperity and a re-conceptualization of (city) prosperity as such.⁷⁸ A prosperous city according to UN HABITAT's new definition contributes productivity leading to economic growth (further called '*productivity*'); provides adequate infrastructure ('*infrastructure deployment*'); offers '*quality of life*' through public space etc.; ensures the equitable distribution of the benefits of a prosperous city ('*equity and social inclusion*'); and values the protection of the environment ('*environmental sustainability*').⁷⁹ All in all, a balance between these indicators is seen as crucial in achieving (urban) prosperity.⁸⁰ This concept is visualized through the *Wheel of Urban Prosperity*.⁸¹ The new *City Prosperity Index* (CPI) measures prosperity of cities along the five dimensions of the wheel of urban prosperity.⁸² Hence both social inclusion and environmental justice are crucial parts of the new concept of urban prosperity. However the State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013 has been criticized by the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik, and others for also implementing the idea of "competitive cities", entrepreneurialism, and the idea that, since states are not able to provide infrastructure and services for all, the new role of the state is as an 'enabler'" as adopting the language of finance.⁸³ She further criticized UN HABITAT for not prioritizing housing facing a global housing crisis but rather favoring the commoditization of housing, and (...) the takeover of housing and urban sectors by finance, its logic and structure".⁸⁴

UN HABITAT also published *Going Green: A Handbook of Sustainable Housing Practices in Developing Countries* and *Sustainable Housing for Sustainable Cities: A Policy Framework for Developing Countries*.⁸⁵ Both documents aim at promoting 'sustainable housing' projects that address the necessity of green housing on the one hand, and push for socially inclusive housing projects on the other.⁸⁶

Outlook: The 24th Governing Council Session

The 24th Governing Council Session with the theme *Sustainable Urban Development: The Role of Cities In Creating Improved Economic Opportunities For All, With Special Reference to Youth and Gender* is going to be held from 15 to 19 April 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.⁸⁷ The issue of social inclusion will thus be mainly addressed through the prism of questions of gender and youth in urban economic development whereas environmental issues are included in the paradigm of sustainable urban development.

⁷³ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013*, p.15.

⁷⁴ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* Foreword by Joan Clos p. 4, p.5

⁷⁵ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 4.

⁷⁶ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013*. p. 10.

⁷⁷ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 11.

⁷⁸ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 13.

⁷⁹ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 14.

⁸⁰ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 14.

⁸¹ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 15.

⁸² United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *State of World's Cities 2012/2013* p. 18.f

⁸³ Provost, (2012), *UN stresses positives of urban growth with new tool to track city prosperity*.

⁸⁴ Provost, (2012), *UN stresses positives of urban growth with new tool to track city prosperity*.

⁸⁵ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *Sustainable Housing for Sustainable Cities*. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2012), *Going Green: A Handbook of Sustainable Housing Practices in Developing Countries*.

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⁸⁷ United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), (2013), *24th Governing Council*. p. 8f. United Nations Human Settlement Programme Governing Council, (2012). *Notification by the Director*. p. 3f.; 36f.

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United Nations General Assembly. (September 11, 2012). *Resolution 66/288: The Future We Want*. Retrieved January 15, 2013 from: <http://undocs.org/A/Res/66/266>.

This Resolution is the outcome document of the Rio+20 Summit. Although criticized by commentators for its vagueness on core issues of climate change and environmental protection the document constitutes the current state of progress within the UN on the issue of sustainable development. With urban development initially regarded as an important building block of sustainable development the outcome document is relevant for all issues linked to cities. However, delegates should not only read the chapters directly related to human settlements but also check for issues more broadly related with the concept of sustainable development.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2012). *State of the World's Cities 2012/2013: The Prosperity of Cities*. Retrieved January 14, 2013 from <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3016>.

This is the most recent of the UNHABITAT's biennial report on the state of the world's cities. The report introduces new frameworks for measuring a city's prosperity and development: The City Prosperity Index and the Wheel of Prosperity visualizing UN HABITAT's new approach towards prosperity. This report is a must read for all delegates of UN HABITAT concerning all items on the preliminary agenda.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2012). *Sustainable Housing for Sustainable Cities. A Policy Framework for Developing Countries*. Retrieved February 06, 2013 from <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3365>.

Contrary to previous concepts this framework paper has a multidimensional approach towards sustainable housing, which now includes also both environmental and social dimensions of housing projects. This paper is thus one of the first UN HABITAT publications adapting the development concept laid out in the State of the World's Cities 2012/2013 report on a specific issue. The paper can thus be analyzed by delegates on the prospects of an implementation of this new development framework.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2013). *24th Governing Council*. Retrieved February 06, 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=744>.

This is the central website of UN HABITAT's 24th Governing Council that will meet in April at UN HABITAT headquarters in Nairobi. Delegates should especially check the 'Background Documents' and 'Pre-session documents' sections as further documents will be released before the meeting. Currently delegates might focus on the documents ' Notification by the Executive Director of the Twenty-fourth session (Nairobi, 15–19 April 2013) of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)' and ' HSP/GC/24/2/Add.4 Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme'.

World Urban Campaign. (2012). *Manifesto for Cities*. Retrieved January 15, 2013 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=708>.

The Manifesto for Cities was released on the 6th World Urban Forum 2012. It calls for a Global Urban Agenda as a holistic framework for city development in the 21st century. The Global Urban Agenda thereby includes measures for poverty reduction and environmental preservation as well as economic growth and good governance aiming to reduce the ecological footprint. World Urban campaign calls for the Manifesto becoming an integral part of any city development agenda.

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