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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Children share their dream city at the Children's Assembly at WUF7

Children across Colombia and select Latin American countries are gathering at WUF 7 to share their dreams for just and equitable cities they need. Participation and inclusion are essential to children's empowerment, who can be change agents in their families and communities.

The first Children's Assembly at the World Urban Forum 7 (WUF7) provides a unique platform for children to reflect, discuss, and debate their experience of living in a city, and to play a role in shaping cities of the future. This event will be co-led by UN Habitat and World Vision International, and is scheduled to be held on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 8:30am - 12:30pm, second floor in the Green Pavilion**. It aims to change the perception of the role of children in shaping cities, a role that has traditionally been non-existent, and create awareness of the importance of their inclusion and contribution to sustainable cities.

This event is an opportunity to promote the genuine inclusion of children's voices and participation to influence the decision makers in designing safe, resilient, prosperous and healthy cities where children thrive. The overall methodology of the Children's Assembly will promote participation of children through diverse methods. To present their views about the city they need, children will:

1. *Paint*: Design 'My dream city' using Art
2. *Debate*: Draft a Children's Charter about the city the need
3. *Build*: Child friendly space/neighbourhood using blocks

These activities will provide an interactive platform for WUF 7 participants to engage with children from various parts of the world, enhance their understanding about the issues of children's well-being in the city, and explore solutions in an informal way.

World Vision International is a Christian humanitarian aid, development, and advocacy organisation providing short-term and long-term assistance to 100 million people worldwide, including more than 4.1 million children registered for child sponsorship. World Vision has established a Centre of Expertise for Urban Programming that provides technical leadership on urban programs for World Vision globally. The agency is currently designing strategies that will contribute and promote just and inclusive cities where children thrive, especially the most vulnerable.

UN-Habitat and World Vision International have formalised a research, learning and implementation partnership in 2013. Common to the belief of both organisations is the necessary participation of children and young people in the decision-making processes of neighbourhoods and cities. This belief aligns with the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which asserts that children have the right to freely express their thoughts, opinions and ideas, and it is an obligation that these are heard and recognised.

For more information, please contact;

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