

December 2014

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Regional and thematic meetings for the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

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

The General Assembly in resolution 67/216 decided that the objective of the Conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges. And that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document.

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

As part of the preparatory process for Habitat III, several regional and thematic meetings will be organized from May 2015 to February 2016.

Why regional and thematic meetings?

Since 2009, the majority of the world's population lives in cities. Today, urban areas are a living combination of history, civilization, diversity and culture. Urbanization has been a force that has changed almost everything: ways of thinking and acting, ways of using space, lifestyles, social and economic relations, and consumption and production patterns. Cities, as economic and productive innovation spaces, provide opportunities for improving access to resources and services, as well as options in the social, legal, economic, cultural and environmental fields. Urbanization has ushered in economic growth, development and prosperity for many.

However, cities are also spaces where multidimensional poverty, environmental degradation, and vulnerability to disasters and the impact of climate change are present. Today, more than two thirds of the global population lives in cities with greater levels of inequality than 20 years ago.

In this context, the preparatory process should encourage inputs from a variety of perspectives and different regions to ensure an inclusive and focused discussion on sustainable urban development.

Expression of interest

Member States, local organizations or other institutions wishing to express their interest in officially hosting a regional or thematic meeting for the preparatory process towards Habitat III are required to send an official communication to the Habitat III Secretariat, at Habitat3Secretariat@un.org, before 15 February 2015 (for details please refer to bid process and time frame)

Bid process and time frame

1. Call for expression of interest published (December 2014)
2. Deadline for receiving expressions of interest (15 February 2015)
3. Follow up with the potential hosts (expressions of interest received) (before 28 February)
4. Bid evaluation announcement of regional and thematic meetings (March 2015)
5. Starting of preparations and Cooperation agreements with Habitat III Secretariat (March-April 2015)

Financial contribution

To host any regional or thematic meeting of the preparatory process for Habitat III, a cash contribution to Habitat III Trust Fund of between 500,000 USD and 1,000,000 USD is required. The total contribution needs to take into consideration the dimension of the event in terms of participants, scope and other criteria such as travel costs or number of LDCs representatives attending.

The financial contribution mentioned above does not include the direct costs of hosting the event, including the venue (conference facilities), registration and accreditation, interpretation services for the main sessions, operational and logistical needs with respective human resources at the venue, as this will be separately and dealt with in the host country agreement.

The contribution will cover costs including (but not limited to) travel costs of LDCs representatives, as well as NGOs and other relevant stakeholders' participation, members of the bureau, UN staff, Secretariat's support, and promotional activities from Habitat III Secretariat.

To bid for a regional and thematic meeting for the preparatory process of Habitat III interested countries/institutions/organizations must answer the questions provided on the bid questionnaire below.

Required Documents

The bid proposal must contain the completed bid questionnaire and must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Official letter from the National Government, through the respective Ministry, endorsing the bid of the Member State, local organization or other institution for hosting a regional or thematic meeting of the Preparatory Process for Habitat III, indicating its willingness to support the expression of interest.
2. Letter from the National Government, local organization or other institution confirming the financial cash contribution to Habitat III Trust Fund, seen as addition to in-kind contribution to preparing and hosting the meeting, as well as its commitment to sign the Conference Agreement within 1 month after the regional or thematic meeting has been selected and announced.
3. Contact details of the team responsible for the bid proposal that would act as a focal point of the organization/institution.

In case of further questions, please, contact the Habitat III Secretariat
Habitat3Secretariat@un.org / Telephone: +1 (212) 963 8179

For more information on Habitat III: www.unhabitat.org/habitat-iii

Bid Questionnaire

To host a regional and thematic meeting for the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

1. Motivation & Vision

- 1.1 Why do you want to host a regional or thematic meeting?
- 1.2 What is your vision for the regional or thematic meeting? Explain how your vision for regional or thematic meeting fits into the preparations for Habitat III.
- 1.3 Which objectives and outcomes are you aiming for?
- 1.4 Which theme would you propose for the meeting?
- 1.5 Which dates would you propose for the meeting?

2. Host country & Sustainable Urbanization

- 2.1 What is your country's policy approach towards sustainable urbanization? Please list your city's and country's achievements in the last five years.
- 2.2 How can hosting a regional or thematic meeting in your country contribute to sustainable urbanization and Habitat III?
- 2.3 What benefits would hosting a regional or thematic meeting bring to your city and to Habitat III?
- 2.4 Which institutions working and contributing to advance on sustainable urbanization are based in your city and/or country?
- 2.5 What legacy do you expect or would you like the regional/thematic meeting to leave to your country?

3. Participation, Inclusiveness and Innovation

- 3.1. Which types of organizations/institutions are you aiming to invite to participate in the regional/thematic meeting? How many participants do you expect?
- 3.2. How are you planning to ensure there is inclusiveness in terms of regional representation, gender/age balance or stakeholders participation in the event?
- 3.3. Explain at least two innovative proposals that you will implement in the event to ensure the outcome is concise, focus-oriented to contribute as an input to the New Urban Agenda