## **UN HABITAT** FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

## Mayors for Peace to promote World Urban Campaign as City Changers

**Nairobi 25 July 2013**-- The representative of Mayors for Peace to the African Union this week signed an agreement with UN-Habitat inviting African mayors to be Associate Partners of the World Urban Campaign.

The agreement was signed in Nairobi, by Dr. Joan Clos, Under – Secretary -General and Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Ambassador Mussie Hailu, the representative of Mayors for Peace to the African Union.

Dr. Clos highlighted that the role of Mayors for Peace in mobilizing Mayors through the network they have in each city is very important to engage in launching campaigns under the slogan 'I'm a City Changer'. Those campaigns shall enable Mayors to engage citizens, communities and their partners, to promote positive actions towards a green, inclusive, productive, better planned, resilient, safe, and healthy city.

Ambassador Hailu expressed the commitment of Mayors for Peace to join hands with UN-Habitat to promote the World Urban Campaign under the slogan of "I am a City Changer" through its 345 member cities in 44 Africa Countries. He said that Mayors for Peace, through close cooperation among the cities, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realization of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.

Ambassador Hailu strongly agrees with UN-Habitat that the new critical phase of urbanization presents tremendous opportunities for strengthening Africa's foundations for a new stage of development.

Mayors for Peace is composed of cities around the world that have formally expressed support for the programme *Mayor* Takeshi *Araki* of Hiroshima announced in 1982. As of July 1, 2013, membership stood at 5,664 cities in 157 countries and regions. Mayors for Peace is an international non-governmental organisation with Special Consultative Statusregistered with the Economic and Social Council.

The World Urban Campaign is a platform for public, private and civil society actors to elevate policies, share practical tools and raise awareness for sustainable urbanization.

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