

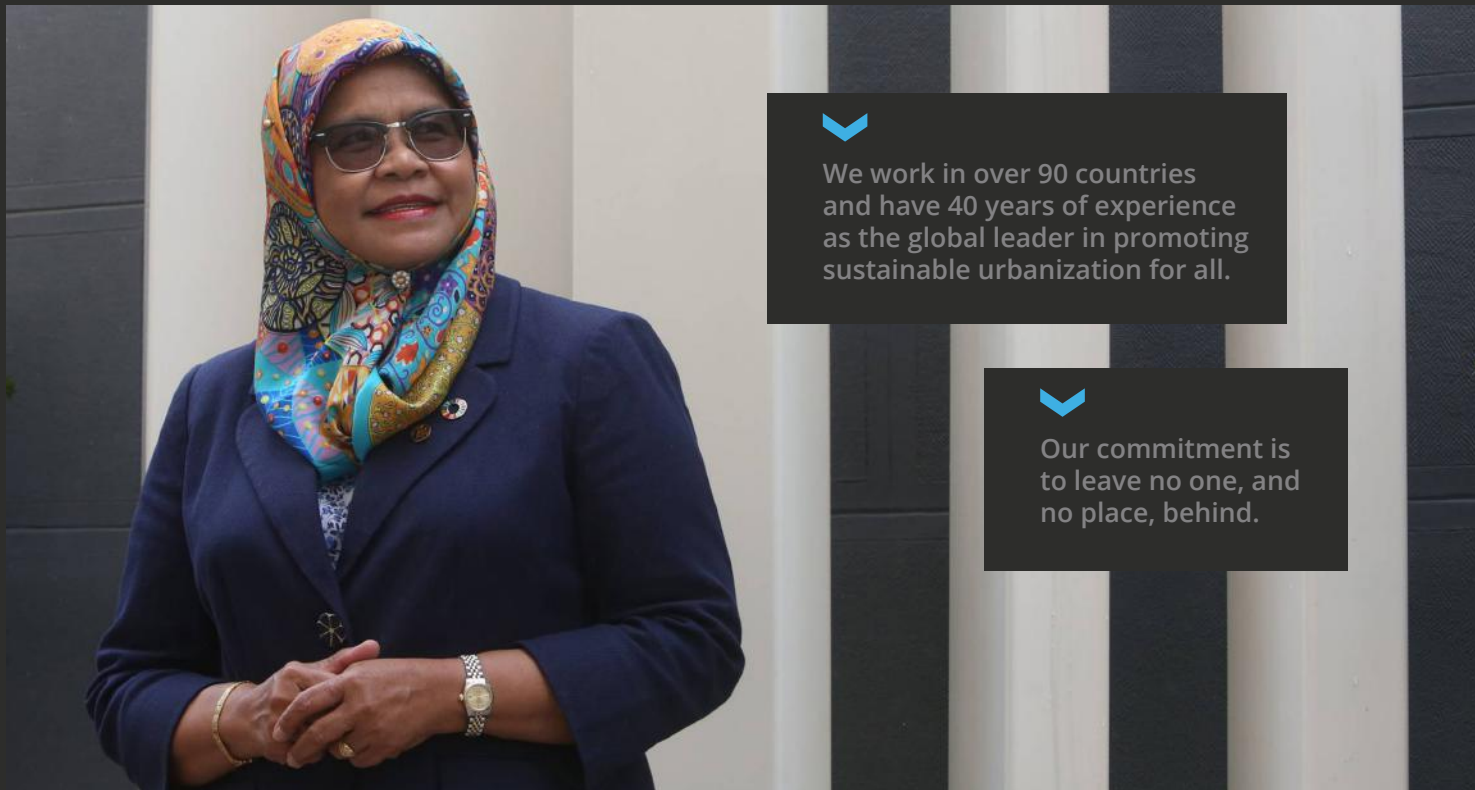
Urban Impact

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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FOREWORD



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We work in over 90 countries and have 40 years of experience as the global leader in promoting sustainable urbanization for all.

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Our commitment is to leave no one, and no place, behind.

➤ **Welcome to this new look edition of *Urban Impact* – UN-Habitat's quarterly newsletter presenting stories about our work and our impact. I hope this newsletter provides you with an in-depth view of the range of projects and places which UN-Habitat covers.**

UN-Habitat improves the lives of countless people living in towns, cities and other settlements through its support to authorities on urban policies and planning as well as its work on the ground, in partnerships with urban stakeholders and communities. Our commitment is to leave no one, and no place, behind.

We work in over 90 countries and have 40 years of experience as the global leader in promoting sustainable urbanization for all. Since 2016, this includes the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the urbanization action blueprint supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Our new Strategic Plan 2020-2025 focuses on our commitment and contribution to the implementation of global development agendas. Through its normative and operational work as well as its coordination and focal point role within the UN system, UN-Habitat's objective is: *"to advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace to improve living conditions for all."*

As the former mayor of Penang, Malaysia, I have directly experienced both the challenges and the opportunities that urbanization can bring to cities and communities. When it is carried out in a sustainable and inclusive way, urbanization creates equitable and resilient societies, reduces poverty and creates prosperity, protects the urban environment and contributes to crisis prevention and response.

Urban Impact, which many of you may remember from previous issues, helps to share our best practice stories. Whether we are working with citizens in Brazil to hold city leaders accountable, or training youth on the installation of solar lighting in their neighbourhoods or supporting the construction of housing for plantation workers in Sri Lanka, our focus must remain the same: maximizing the impact of these initiatives, including by sharing successes and upscaling them.

While these are impressive projects, eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030 requires us to go

further. We must think, do, partner and share. UN-Habitat will continue to grow as a global centre of excellence and innovation in sustainable urbanization that supports and brings together governments at all levels, urban experts, communities, the private sector and other stakeholders with normative and technical best practices.

I am deeply grateful to all my colleagues at UN-Habitat, whose dedication, persistence, creativity, commitment and hard work inspires me every single day. Together with our partners, including governments and communities, we can create a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Citizens in Brazil hold leaders accountable using a mobile phone-based consultation platform

A consultation platform for holding urban leaders accountable placed in the hands of citizens.



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colab

Over 9,000 respondents in 810 cities in Brazil have submitted their views on transparency, accountability and progress being made by city leaders towards implementation of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. Citizens are holding urban leaders to account using a mobile and web application developed jointly by UN-Habitat and Colab, a Brazilian start-up. The data gathered guides local authorities and decision-makers in enacting public policies that respond to the challenges of urbanization in an inclusive and integrated manner.



Citizen collaboration improves public management.

Colab CEO and co-founder Gustavo Maia emphasizes the value of citizen participation in improving public services. "Citizen collaboration and transparency are the best tools to improve public management. The technology ensures that dialogue with the population happens quickly and efficiently. It also allows the results of this conversation to be measured, which facilitates evaluation of public managers' performance."

Results of the consultation released in October 2018 have drawn nation-wide attention. Rede Globo, Brazil's largest television broadcaster showcased the initiative in a news segment on national television while two Brazilian cities, Belo Horizonte and Niterói have adopted

the application as an official means of consultations with citizens. The National Federation of Municipalities in Brazil has endorsed it as a tool for increasing citizen engagement in local governance. Beyond Brazil, the initiative was featured in the quarterly edition of the United Nations Innovation Network's 2018 Report.

Local champions trained to lead the process.

Through social media, Colab recruits local champions and provides them with strategic support, media information kits, and an online platform to communicate with each other, ask questions and share strategies. The ambassadors visit neighbourhoods, schools, churches, municipal offices and public gatherings to raise awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals and encourage people to participate in the consultations. The Ambassador Programme has extended the process to smaller cities and towns, effectively including an audience that is often difficult to reach. Successful ambassadors are rewarded with mugs, t-shirts and free participation in workshops. By February 2019, the programme had engaged with 1500 respondents.

This initiative is part of the wider *Accountability Systems for Measuring, Monitoring and Reporting on Sustainable City Policies in Latin America* project being implemented by UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with funding from the UN Development Account.

Project strengthens accountability.

The project strengthens accountability systems in Latin American cities by establishing mechanisms for dialogue at the local level between local authorities and civil society to monitor and oversee implementation of Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

Brazil has witnessed rapid urbanization since the mid-twentieth century. In 1950, only about 36.5 per cent of the population lived in urban areas, compared to 87.7 per cent in 2015. The trend is projected to continue, and it is estimated that by 2030 90.5 per cent of the population will be urban residents.

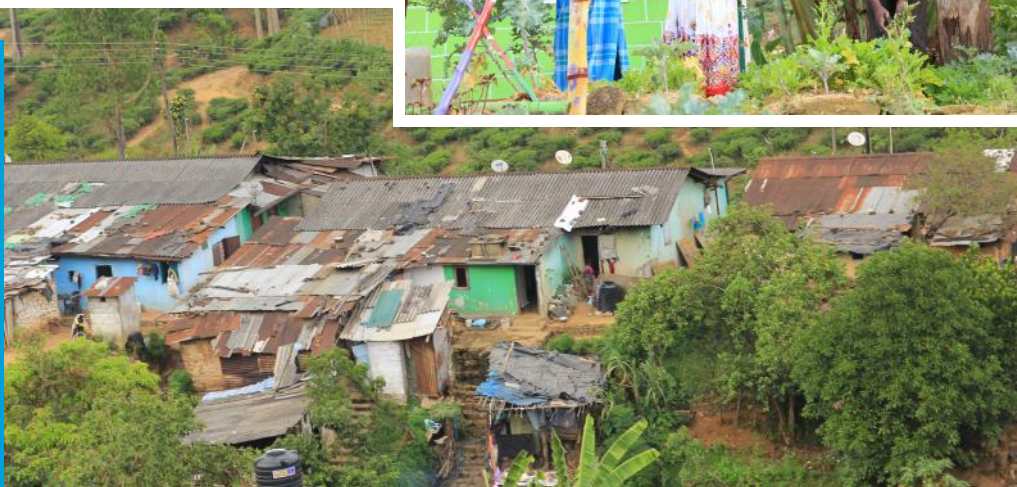
"Collaborating to make my city sustainable is awesome and there is no better source for a city diagnosis than the citizens who live in that city. I believe that if authorities know the real needs of the population, they will be able to make more relevant decisions," says Igor Hemmings, a 25-year-old manager in the city of Caçapava who participated in the innovative consultative process.



With funding from the Government of India, UN-Habitat launched a project to improve living conditions of families in the plantation areas in 2016.

Government of India partners with UN-Habitat to provide sustainable housing for plantation workers in Sri Lanka

Plantation workers in Sri Lanka are among the most disadvantaged communities in the country with the majority living in overcrowded and dilapidated dwellings commonly referred to as *line rooms*. Their poor living conditions are further worsened by lack of basic services such as water and sanitation, and little or no access to healthcare services.



With funding from the Government of India, UN-Habitat launched a project to improve living conditions of families in the plantation areas in 2016. A people-centered community driven approach ensures that *Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies* are the main drivers of project implementation. Regional plantation companies, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), the Plantation Human Development Trust and the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages Infrastructure and Community Development are key stakeholders.

Government of India to provide 50,000 housing units.

This Project will construct 4,000 housing units in the plantation areas of Sri Lanka as part of an overall commitment by the Government of India to provide 50,000 housing units towards sustainable resettlement of plantation worker families in newly created cluster villages or small townships.

Sri Lanka's plantation sector is a significant contributor to the national economy. Some 244,500 families make up a total population of 966,700 workers and their dependents. Adequate shelter, improved basic services,

and access to healthcare do not only influence worker families to remain on the plantations but are also key drivers of increased productivity.

The project has so far provided permanent homes for 420 estate workers in the Nuwara Eliya district. Each house measures approximately 550 square feet and consists of two bedrooms, a living room, verandah, kitchen and toilet. By the end of the project, UN-Habitat will have facilitated construction of 1,600 units.



Initiative improves quality of life for plantation families.

This initiative has brought about a major improvement in the quality of life of many families on the plantations who previously lived in cramped conditions, often sharing toilet facilities with several other families. "Now, our children have space to study and can do their school work in comfort. Earlier the house was cramped and there was not enough space for all the family members. We are so happy to have our very own permanent house," says Ms. K. Kohilambal, a tea plucker on the Diyagama estate where her husband is a driver.

Environmentally friendly building materials and techniques are used in the construction of all houses. These include the use of fair-faced blocks for walls, twin pit latrines, and smoke free chimneys. Families are engaged in kitchen gardening and tree planting activities to mitigate the environmental impact of the project, while providing households with valuable produce. "It is such a joy to have our own permanent house with this little garden. We grow organic vegetables and fruits for family consumption." says Ms. S. Indranthy, a young mother of four employed as a tea plucker at Diyagama estate.

The Indian High Commission disburses USD5,250 (LKR. 950,000) in four instalments for the construction of each house, while UN-Habitat provides technical support for preparation of house type plans and Bills of Quantities, as well as technical supervision of the project. The Ministry of Hill Country New Villages Infrastructure and Community Development is providing an additional USD660 (LKR. 120,000) to each beneficiary family for essential physical infrastructure facilities. The

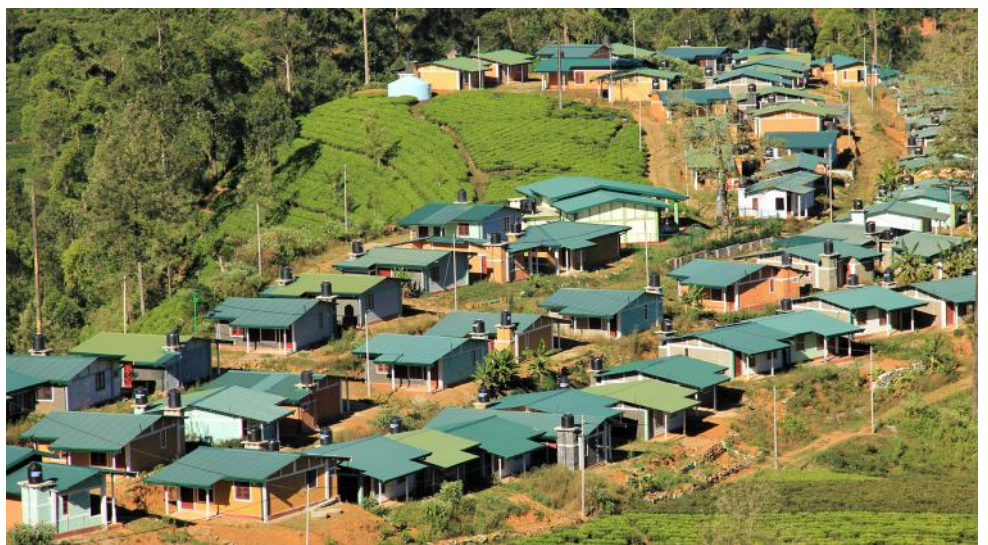
USD5,250

The amount that the Indian High Commission disburses for the construction of each house

project has ensured that housing design and construction is sensitive to the sloping sites, by incorporating disaster risk reduction measures and climate change adaptation measures.

Priority given to female-headed households.

This project addresses the right to adequate housing and prioritizes female headed households for assistance. Beneficiaries are now able to obtain legal land titles for their properties, which was not previously possible for plantation communities. It also enhances capacities of men, women and youth in plantation communities to engage in key decision-making processes affecting housing construction and to ensure compliance with established construction standards.



Now, our children have space to study and can do their school work in comfort. Earlier the house was cramped and there was not enough space for all the family members. We are so happy to have our very own permanent house

Mr. Mohamed Mamaa Camara,
K. Suthakaran.

1,600

The number of units of which UN-Habitat will have facilitated construction by the end of the project



I am very happy to see that after the practical stitching classes many of the trainees have started stitching their own clothes. Some have purchased their own sewing machines and are now stitching commercially at home

Mrs. Niluka Shyamali De Silva,
An instructor in the project's tailoring training course.



One Hundred Youth Receive Training on Solar Street Lighting to Curb Urban Insecurity

The Ministry of City and Territorial Development in Guinea has partnered with UN-Habitat to train one hundred youth on *Prevention of urban insecurity through the manufacture, assembly, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic solar street lights*. The training will empower young people by equipping them with marketable and through photovoltaic skills while strengthening the culture of civic duty by inculcating values of good citizenship and a moral code that will lead to a change in behavior and attitudes for sustainable peace in Guinea.

Partnerships encouraged to ensure sustainable urbanization.

Secretary General of the Ministry of the City and Territorial Development Mr. Mohamed Mamaa Camara welcomed the initiative and encouraged the partners to continue working closely together for the benefit of Guinean youth and to ensure sustainable urbanization

in Guinea. "Reducing urban insecurity by creating job opportunities is a big challenge for our ministry. Together, we must ensure training of young people with the goal of improving their living conditions. This initiative will improve public lighting and help to avoid many crimes and many young people will have access to very important know-how which is a lifetime asset," he said.

Youth receive training for behavior change.

UN-Habitat representative Mr. Claude Mentchehé Ngomsi said the training will equip youth with skills to identify the physical factors and the individual attitudes that lead to youth delinquency. They will be trained as peer educators in crime prevention and equipped to contribute actively to reducing incidences of physical assault and theft by participating in installation and stewardship of the photovoltaic street lighting panels.

"This project was initiated by UNDP, UNIDO and UN-Habitat and submitted to the Peacebuilding Fund which supported the initiative. This is the culmination of numerous consultations and two studies on delinquency and the prevention of insecurity. We also undertook field visits to identify black spots in the living environment to determine where exactly we need to place the solar street lights. We have also consulted community leaders and youth groups to draw up the list of 70 young people from Conakry and 30 from NZérékoré who will be trained," said Mr. Ngomsi.



Reducing urban insecurity by creating job opportunities is a big challenge for our ministry. Together, we must ensure training of young people with the goal of improving their living conditions. This initiative will improve public lighting and help to avoid many crimes and many young people will have access to very important know-how which is a lifetime asset.

Mr. Mohamed Mamaa Camara,
Secretary General of the Ministry of the City
and Territorial Development.



Iraq Strengthens Local Governance through Improved Planning and Implementation

The Local Area Development Programme (LADP) identifies key obstacles to local-level planning and service delivery in Iraq. It is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UN-Habitat, the Ministries of Planning (MOP) of the Federal and Kurdistan Region governments respectively, and the Governorates. LADP-EU supports development of local planning frameworks linking investment expenditures to larger strategic investments at both the local and national level as articulated in the National Development Plan 2018-2022 and reflected in the commitment of the Government of Iraq to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.



Through its *bottom-up* participatory approach the LADP-EU program has improved understanding among key stakeholders of how effective sectoral spatial and land policies, frameworks and implementation tools impact local development and urbanisation. The Governorate Urban Strategies (GUS) reflect the need to create opportunities for sustainable income generation, empower and build human capital, and establish an effective social safety net in line with the three pillars of Iraq's 2030 Vision.

Local authorities engaged in sustainable urban expansion.

UN-Habitat engaged local authorities in selected governorates in a spatial analysis of governorate and district-level indicators and indices and in drafting a National Urban Strategic Framework as well as nine Governorate Urban Strategies. A strategic urban recovery and development plan for Ramadi and a plan for the conservation and development of the historic quarters of Basra have also been developed. The application of a more sustainable urban expansion planning model has been piloted in Maysan and a new post-graduate programme in *Planning Sustainable Cities* designed for Kufa University. In addition, governorate transportation plans and industrial spatial development plans have been developed for different clusters, while state land inventories have been set up in Maysan and Najaf and municipal finance and budget execution piloted in four municipalities.

Diversified economic growth strategies proposed for different clusters of governorates are based on analysis of

specific economic trends that catalyse development, based on the most urgent needs of each cluster and the potential impact of new spatial strategies in cities with development potential. Composite maps based on available statistical data highlighting quality of life, levels of deprivation, and socio-economic development potential indices offer a new set of spatial guidelines for policy makers to apply in allocating capital investments.

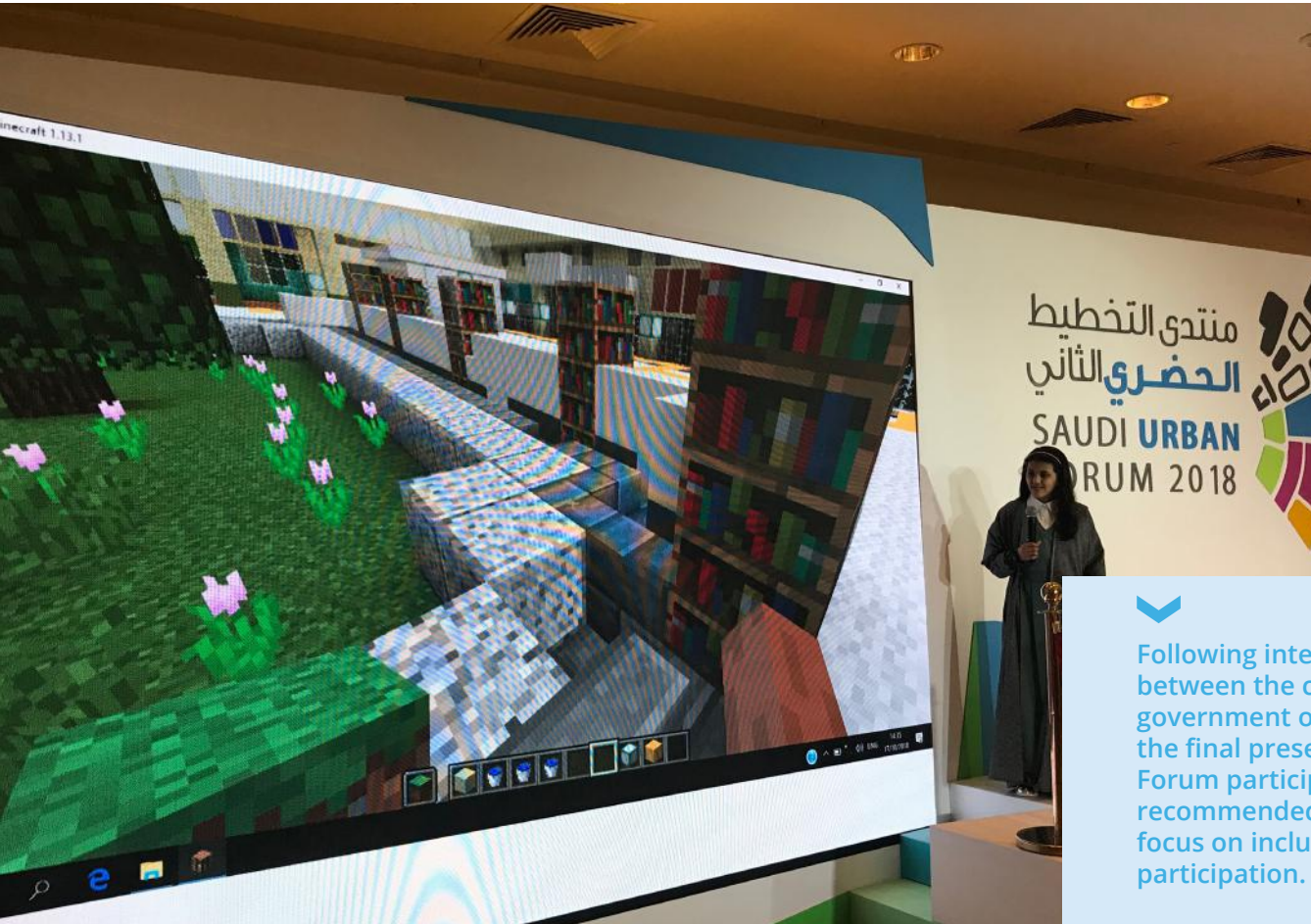
This complex spatial and analytical work was led by Dr Mona Serageldin, vice-president of the Institute for International Urban Development from 2005-2018. It was among the last of many projects in sustainable urbanization she accomplished before her demise on 26 May 2018. During global celebrations to mark World Habitat Day held on 1 October 2018 in Nairobi Dr. Mona A. Serageldin (1938 – 2018) was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour posthumously in recognition of her outstanding contributions to promoting practical research-based approaches to a broad spectrum of development challenges in a wide range of settings.

The strategies developed at the cluster level demonstrate the need for close coordination between governorate and national plans and are related economic and environmental overlays with common characteristics, challenges and inter-connectedness. The report, finalised this year, was included as an Annex to the *Iraqi National Development Plan 2018-2022* launched in May 2018.



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Saudi children develop innovative ideas to improve public spaces Using Minecraft



Following interactions between the children and government officials during the final presentations, Forum participants recommended a strong focus on inclusivity and participation.

Minecraft is an online block by block building game in which players create their own unique world using 1x1m blocks. UN-Habitat facilitators have been helping local school children in Saudi Arabia to set priorities for their communities using Minecraft.

The *Future Urban Planners* workshop engaged boys and girls aged 10 to 13 years in urban design as part of the Block by Block initiative, a collaboration between game-developer Mojang, Microsoft and UN-Habitat. The workshop was part of the Saudi Urban Forum which brought together local and international engineers, urban planners and designers to outline the vision for Saudi cities in 2030.

Creativity of children harnessed to redesign public space.

The children were given a model of Taibah Market Car Park in Riyadh and asked to redesign it to their liking. For three days the children worked tirelessly on their models. Selected groups then presented their ideas to leading professionals and government representatives at the closing session of the Forum.

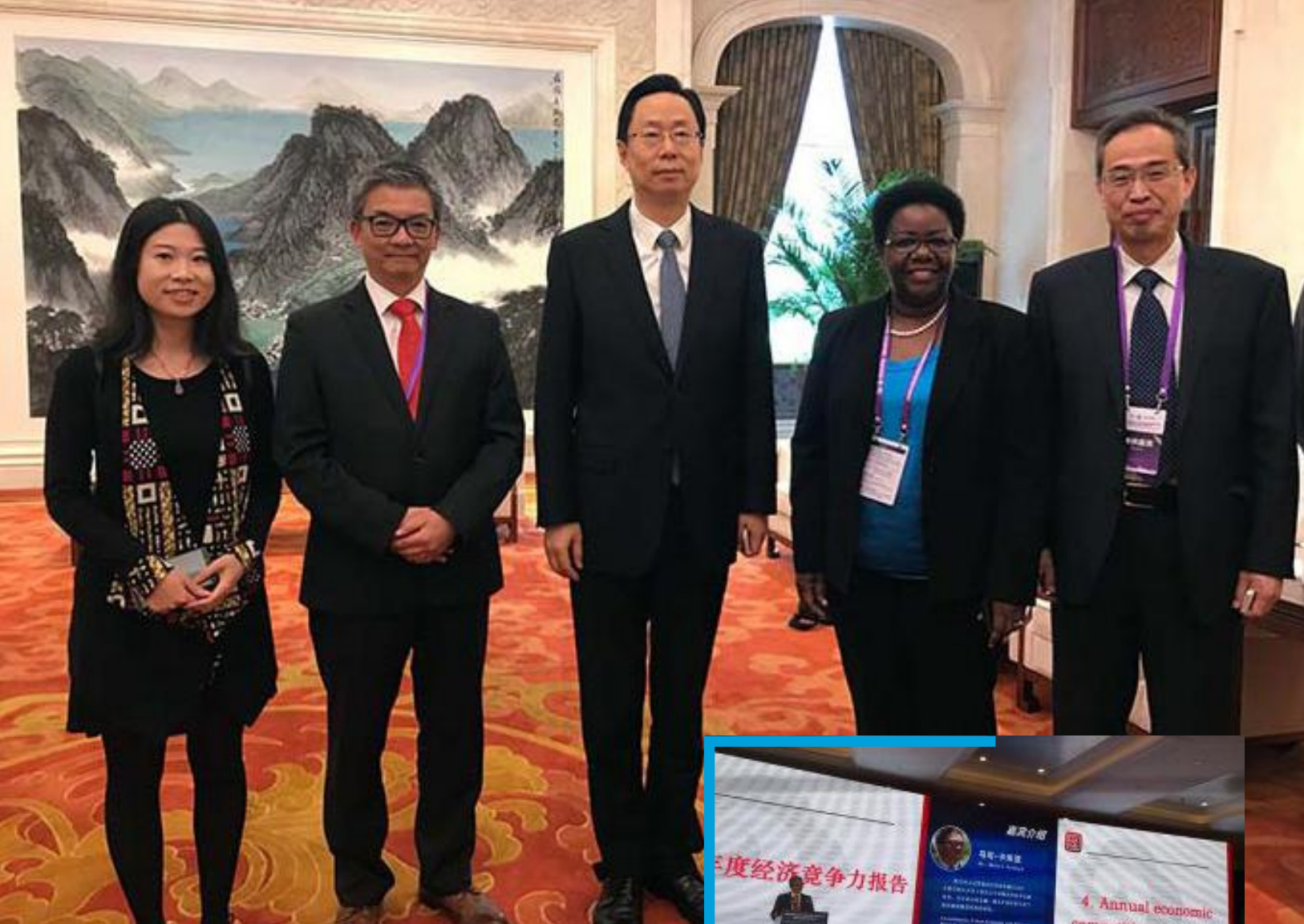
All the children wanted greenery, openness and inclusivity in their models. "We have put wheelchairs for people with disabilities, and lines on the floor for blind people to follow," said 11-year old Jude. Other children chose to include an archery range, a greenhouse, an aquarium, food trucks, a roller coaster, a trampoline city and an urban farm in their models.

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the final presentations, Forum participants recommended a strong focus on inclusivity and participation. The children's priorities will be presented to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) for inclusion in the planning for Saudi cities.

10 → 13

The age of boys and girls that were engaged by the **Future Urban Planners** in urban design as part of the **Block by Block** initiative, a collaboration between game-developer Mojang, Microsoft and UN-Habitat.



Chinese Cities Improving in Global Competitiveness

According to *The Global Urban Competitiveness Report 2019: Global Value Chains* a new report produced by UN-Habitat and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese cities entered the top ten ranking of global city competitiveness for the first time this year. Shenzhen in Guangdong province was ranked among the top five most economically competitive cities worldwide, with Hong Kong, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing ranking among the top 20.

Urban competitiveness is a city's ability to attract resources, expand markets, create wealth and provide adequate welfare for its citizens. A global sample of 1,038 cities was examined during the study which lists cities in high-income countries as most competitive. The report records strong progress by Chinese cities which are entering the global list of the 20 most competitive cities.

The report was presented by Professor Ni Penfei of the Chinese Academy of Social Science and Marco Kamiya, Coordinator of the Urban Economy Branch of UN-Habitat who noted that urban development should initially be driven by economic growth. He expressed optimism about the potential of Chinese cities to improve their sustainable competitiveness. "Cities at the top of the list

in sustainable development are all mature cities which have been in existence for more than 100 years. We expect Chinese cities to get to that point soon," he said.

- > **Global Urban Competitiveness Report 2019, Synthesis report**
<http://www.urbancompetitiveness.org/>
- > **UN-Habitat, Urban Economy and Finance Branch**
<https://unhabitat.org/our-secretariat/branches/urban-economy-branch/>

A parking lot is transformed into an inclusive and accessible green public space for Cairo residents and visitors

Cairo is one of the fastest growing cities in the world with a population exceeding 20 million inhabitants in 2016. With more than 3 million cars on its roads, Cairo is rapidly turning into one of the world's most polluted cities.

Skewed distribution of green public space in Cairo has led to a growing gap in access to green space between residents of high-income residential areas and those in low income marginalized neighbourhoods. The most affluent areas have up to 70 times more green spaces than the poorest areas. There is a growing need for green, open and accessible public spaces especially in the most densely populated areas of Cairo.

Abdeen Square in the heart of Cairo is surrounded by the historic Abdeen palace built in 1863 and was the royal palace until 1952. Although the square is relatively spacious, covering approximately 36,600 square metres, and is centrally located in downtown Cairo, it has been used for many years as a car parking lot by occupants of surrounding buildings.

Joint renovation plan transforms Abdeen square.

In 2015 UN-Habitat, the General Organization of Physical Planning, and the Cairo Governorate developed a renovation plan for Abdeen Square aimed at transforming it from a parking lot to an inclusive and accessible green public space for Cairo residents and visitors of all ages and social classes, particularly families from surrounding neighborhoods and other areas of Cairo. The renovation plan focused on retaining the historical value of the space and its surroundings and creating a safe green space that encourages users to socialize by offering different recreational and cultural activities.

The renovation of Abdeen Square responds to the vision of Khedivial Cairo redevelopment plan to transform major squares in downtown Cairo into vibrant green spaces connected by green pedestrian friendly networks accessible to everyone.

Abdeen Square is now a safe and accessible inner-city recreational spot providing relief for many residents of crowded downtown Cairo. At a time when the rising cost of living is placing mounting economic pressure on Egyptians, there is an even greater need for affordable and accessible recreational facilities.

Improved security for women.

The square is designed to encourage users to walk, cycle, and exercise as they enjoy the city, and is now used and visited by hundreds of visitors daily. The number of visitors increases significantly on weekends and national holidays. "I like how the space has been better utilized, I think that it is safe for women. My favorite part is the water fountains," says Amira, a resident of Abdeen. A visitor to the square notes that "You can visit the square any time of day and you will find young people cycling, families enjoying a meal, and people walking around, it's a really enjoyable space."

3 Million
The minimum number of cars on Cairo roads.



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Amira,
A resident of Abdeen.

20 Million
The minimum number of Cairo inhabitants in 2016.



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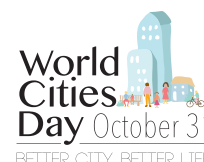
A visitor to Abdeen Square in the heart of Cairo.

Unprecedented number of cities celebrate Urban October 2018

Every October UN-Habitat and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions on urban sustainability. In 2018 Urban October began with World Habitat Day on 1 October on the theme of Municipal Solid Waste Management, with the global observance co-hosted by the Government of Kenya in Nairobi. It ended with the World Cities Day global observance being celebrated in Liverpool, United Kingdom on 31 October with the theme Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities. Local, regional and national authorities and partners were encouraged to organize activities during Urban October and register them on the UN-Habitat website.



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE



President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and UN-Habitat Executive Director with the Scroll of Honour winner Isaac Muasa

and solid waste planning including adequate landfill sites, can help cities to improve the current state of solid waste management and save money to become **'Waste-Wise Cities'**.

World Habitat Day was marked by events in nearly 80 cities around the world.

Global Observance of World Habitat Day

The global observance of World Habitat Day was held at the United Nations complex at Nairobi, where UN-Habitat's headquarters is located.

In his keynote address at the global observance, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya stated: "Solid waste management poses one of the greatest challenges of our time in a rapidly urbanizing world," and he commended the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for her commitment and passion.

President Kenyatta presented five winners of the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour with plaques to recognize their work in improving urban communities. The winners were: Mr. Isaac Muasa of Kenya, chair of the Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group, for inspiring community-wide involvement; Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province, China, for innovative waste management; the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba 2017-2036 by the Institute of Physical Planning; the late Dr. Mona A. Serageldin of the Institute for International Urban Development, U.S.A., for her



A participant in a fashion show of clothes made from rubbish at World Habitat Day in Nairobi.

This year was the most successful Urban October on record with over 320 events highlighting various aspects of urbanization taking place in 82 cities in 51 countries during the month.

World Habitat Day, 1 October 2018

World Habitat Day is celebrated on the first Monday of October. This year's theme – **Municipal Solid Waste Management** – was chosen as the amount of waste produced by individuals is growing daily leading to health problems and pollution and costing local authorities dearly.

A change in public attitudes to minimize waste and stop littering, the regularization of informal waste pickers, increased recycling, upcycling and reusing, sufficient funding



President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and UN-Habitat's Executive Director look at art made from rubbish.

research (award presented to her son); and the Mayor of Surabaya city, Indonesia, Tri Rismaharini for implementing inclusive city regeneration.

The Executive Director announced the launch of the "Waste-Wise Cities" initiative. "This calls for cities, towns and communities around the world to rethink, reduce, recycle, refuse and reuse waste," she said.

Other speakers during the morning session included Mr. James Wainaina Macharia, Cabinet Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works; Mr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Kisumu County Governor and Mr. Mike Mbuvi Sonko, Nairobi County Governor.

During the afternoon the audience heard from Japan's Ministry of Environment and the World Bank. A technical discussion on the Waste-Wise Cities followed with representatives from civil society, Nairobi County Government, NGOs and UN agencies.

The event also included a story by performer Ngartia about the fate of a milk packet, exhibitions by Kenyan artists using trash in innovative ways including sculpture, collage and mixed-media and a fashion show of pieces all made from rubbish.

There was excellent media coverage with the Executive Director taking part in a live breakfast show on Kenya's NTV channel, two pull out spreads in Kenyan The Nation

and The Standard newspapers, a press conference, a large group of Chinese media who interviewed the Executive Director, a spot on Kenya's Citizen television and a feature on solid waste in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Al Jazeera television featuring UN-Habitat.

Urban October events

During Urban October some 60 events took place both in Brazil and the USA (over 30 in New York), China hosted 40, India over 20 and 10 in Kenya. UN-Habitat appeared in 48.8 million article views with 168 editorial mentions. India dominated the media global coverage of Urban October flagship days at 41% followed by United States (13%) and the United Kingdom (8.7%).



Delegates at the Third National Mayors Conference in Afghanistan.



Residents of informal settlements in Thailand call for action.



UN-Habitat's Executive Director, the Mayor of Liverpool and representative from China launch the latest Shanghai Manual.

In New York events included a conversation between restaurant chefs and policy makers on rethinking food and waste. On World Cities Day there was a "Rethink Food/ Waste Lunch" created from food sourced to local farmers at the UNHQ Delegates Dining Room, and a photo exhibition "Here Comes the Sun – Resilient Liverpool" anticipated the city's global observation of World Cities Day.

In Asia more than 40 events were held in 15 countries. In Afghanistan, the Third National Mayors' Conference discussed the country's rapid urbanization process while in India, UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and partners organized activities, including an Urban Café on 'River and Habitat', about urban rivers and water bodies in urban areas.

The first Integrated Resource Recovery Centre for innovative solid waste management was launched in Islamabad and in the Philippines, UN-Habitat organized urban peace and dialogue events in Minadano and Manila on post-conflict and development-themed urban issues.

In Thailand, Four Regions Slum Network (FRSN) led a gathering of several hundred inhabitants of slums and informal settlements to call for action on homelessness

World Cities Day originated as a legacy of the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and China's

2018 World Cities Day was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the People's Government of Jiangsu Province and UN-Habitat in Xuzhou City to discuss "Ecological City and Green Development". Guests included Mr. Ni Hong, Deputy Minister, Mr. Fei Gaoyun, Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province, and Ms. Christine Musisi, representing the UN-Habitat Executive Director.

The Palestine UN-Habitat Country Programme Document was launched on World Habitat Day and the Saudi Urban Forum also took place which included sessions with children planning public spaces in their community, using Minecraft, which has been adapted as a participatory planning and design tool.

In Libya a clean up of the market and surroundings in Souk El Albisah, Tripoli was carried out by UN-Habitat, the Municipality of Tripoli, NGOs and civil society partners who were involved distributing bins and reusable shopping bags, raising community awareness and installing boxes to collect plastic bags. UN-Habitat Lebanon organized a urban breakfast on Solid Waste Management.

UN-Habitat organized a football tournament in Nairobi involving youth from Nairobi slums and UN agencies including UN-Habitat as well as a children's tournament with the Executive Director awarding the trophies.

In Brazil, the UN-Habitat office launched a national initiative called the "Urban Circuit" (Circuito Urbano in Portuguese) to call for urban events. Over half of the proposals submitted were selected by UN-Habitat to receive support and events took place in 29 cities.

World Cities Day, 31 October 2018

World Cities Day aims to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, enhance cooperation among countries and cities and contribute to sustainable urban development. The overall World Cities Day theme is **Better City, Better Life and the 2018 theme was Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities.**

Over the last decade, natural disasters have affected more than 220 million people and caused economic damage of USD \$100billion per year. By 2030, without significant investment to make cities more resilient, natural disasters may cost cities worldwide three times that amount a year and climate change may push up millions of urban residents into poverty.

Global Observance of World Cities Day

The global observance of World Cities Day in Liverpool, UK was attended by more than two hundred people including ministers, mayors, national and local government representatives, academics, civil society, journalists and business people.

At the opening, the Mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson joined the Executive Director and the leader of the China delegation, Ms. Tian Sainan, Deputy Secretary General, Party Committee of Urban-Rural Construction and Communication Work of Shanghai Municipality, to launch the latest edition of the Shanghai Manual represented by a large plastic model which lit up. The Executive Director read a message from the UN Secretary-General who called for everyone to work together to build sustainable and resilient cities that provide safety and opportunities for all.

The Executive Director told the meeting in the impressive St George's Hall that investing in resilience was not only a human right and necessity, but also a wise investment. The day included live video link ups with celebrations in Glasgow and at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Distinguished speakers included H.E. Shaik Hussam bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, President of the Court of H.R.H. the Prime Minister of Bahrain and the Minister of Housing, Urban Planning and Cities from Algeria, Mr. Abdelwahid Temmar.

There were four breakout sessions on aspects of resilience – Economic (panelists from Liverpool, Accra, and Birmingham, Alabama, UK Department for International Development and University of Cardiff) Social (Brazil, Maputo, Cities Alliance, Huairou Commission), Environmental Resilience (Manchester, Bahrain, Shanghai, ActionAid) and Disaster Mitigation (Sendai, Byblos, Nepal).

Liverpool also saw the celebration of China Week, Xuzhou Day and Shanghai Day. Several Chinese journalists attended World Cities Day event in Liverpool,

local media including Radio Merseyside attended and a group of nine Russian journalists were brought in by Thomson Reuters Foundation.

World Cities Day was also celebrated in Xuzhou in China and a total of 66 cities around the world.

By 2030, without significant investment to make cities more resilient, natural disasters may cost cities worldwide three times that amount a year and climate change may push up millions of urban residents into poverty.



Participants at World Cities Day in Liverpool, UK.



Children who took part in a football tournament for Urban October are presented with a trophy by the UN-Habitat Executive Director.



UN-Habitat's Christine Musisi at World Cities Day in Xuzhou city, China.



*Happy models at the World habitat Day event held at the United Nations Gigiri, in celebration of the Global Solid Management of waste. Smarter Cities.
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IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA



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