



Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 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 Conference welcomes the participation 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.

Habitat III will be the first UN global summit after the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and, hopefully, a new climate change agreement.

www.habitat3.org



1976

HABITAT I

WORLD URBAN POPULATION **37.9%**

The United Nations General Assembly convened the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver in 1976, as governments began to recognize the need for sustainable human settlements and the consequences of rapid urbanization, especially in the developing world.

At that time, urbanization and its impacts were barely considered by the international community, but the world was starting to witness the greatest and fastest migration of people into cities and towns in history as well as rising urban population through natural growth resulting from advances in medicine.

MAIN OUTCOMES

// Recognition that shelter and urbanization are global issues to be addressed collectively

// Creation of the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)

1996

HABITAT II

WORLD URBAN POPULATION **45.1%**

The Vancouver commitments were reconfirmed twenty years later, at the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul.

World leaders adopted the Habitat Agenda as a global plan of action for adequate shelter for all, with the notion of sustainable human settlements driving development in an urbanizing world.

MAIN OUTCOMES

// Cities are the engines of global growth

// Urbanization is an opportunity

// Call for a stronger role of local authorities

// Recognition of the power of participation

2016
HABITAT III

FORTY YEARS LATER...

It is becoming more and more clear that achievements on sustainable development will depend on how we will manage and guide global urbanization:

// Urbanization as an endogenous source of **Development**

// New urban models are required to effectively address the challenge of **Climate Change**

// Urbanization as a tool for **Social Integration and Equity**. In 2010, UN-Habitat reported that more than 827 million people were living in slum-like conditions

WORLD URBAN POPULATION **54.5%**

HABITAT III
THE CONTEXT: GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS

CITIES TODAY OCCUPY APPROXIMATELY ONLY 0.5% OF THE TOTAL LAND, HOWEVER:

Economy (GDP) **70%**

Global energy consumption over **60%**

Green gas emissions **70%**

Global waste **70%**

"CITIES ARE WHERE THE BATTLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE WON OR LOST"
HLP 2013



A CONFERENCE FOR
RETHINKING THE
URBAN AGENDA

Member States of the UN General Assembly, in resolution 67/216, decided that the objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges.

The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document: the **New Urban Agenda**.

Rethinking the Urban Agenda is embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements. More appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks. And also it is integrating equity as an issue of social justice, ensuring access to the public sphere, extending opportunities and increasing the commons.



KEY ELEMENTS FOR A
NEW URBAN AGENDA

To create a pattern of sustainable urban development fostering a new model of city

// **Urban Rules and Regulations.** The outcome in terms of quality of an urban settlement is dependent on the set of rules and regulations and its implementability. Proper urbanization requires the rule of law.

// **Urban Planning and Design.** Establishing the adequate provision of common goods, including streets and open spaces, together with an efficient pattern of buildable plots.

// **Municipal Finance.** For a good management and maintenance of the city. Municipal finance systems should redistribute parts of the urban value generated.

Feed the conversations:
#Habitat3 #NewUrbanAgenda

OPPORTUNITIES OF A
UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE

Habitat III offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence shape the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

// Only a United Nations Conference has the convening power to bring together the needed actors to achieve global goals. Solutions for the complex challenge of urbanization can only be found by bringing together member states, multilateral organizations, local governments, private sector and civil society.

// Habitat III will guarantee outcomes take place within a global development agenda (SDGs framework). It stands to be the first implementing conference of the Post-2015 Agenda.

// An inter-governmental process links results with national legislation.

// A successful United Nations Conference can provide a tremendous boost for achieving more prosperous societies.





TOWARDS A NEW URBAN AGENDA

