



15 December 2009

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 22-26 March 2010. The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil has graciously consented to be the host of the Forum.

The Forum is being held pursuant to Resolution 18/5 of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and General Assembly Resolution 56/206 by which the Assembly decided that the World Urban Forum will be a “non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme does not meet”. The Fourth session of the Forum was held in Nanjing, China in November 2008 and attracted 8,000 participants from 146 countries.

The Fifth World Urban Forum, with the theme: “*The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide*”, aims to exchange experiences among national governments, cities and their respective development partners through dialogues, roundtables and networking events. For the first time, the World Urban Campaign will serve as an inter-sessional mechanism to help capture the knowledge, expertise and experience generated by the Forum to further inform and improve policy development on critical contemporary urbanization challenges. The discussions at the Forum will focus on the following issues:

- Taking Forward the Right to the City;
- Bridging the Urban divide;
- Adequate Access to Shelter and Social Services;
- Cultural Diversity in Cities;
- Governance and Participation;
- Inclusive sustainable Urbanization.

Participation at the World Urban Forum is open to Governments and Habitat Partners, such as local authorities, parliamentarians, research institutions, women and youth groups, community-based organizations, human settlements professionals, research institutions and academies of science, the private sector, foundations, United Nations entities and other relevant multi-lateral development institutions.

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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Detailed information regarding the Fifth session of the World Urban Forum, including the organizational structure for all the events, as well as background information can be found in the attached brochure and on our website: <http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf>. Also find attached herewith the provisional agenda.

A roundtable meeting of parliamentarians is being organized on the topic of Climate Change and Human Settlements on 23 March 2009 in the afternoon. The key note speakers have been identified from all major regions of the world with due consideration of geographical and gender balance.

We would be most grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation and send your name, contact, address, email and telephone numbers to Mr. Markandey Rai, Chief, Global Parliamentarians, UN-HABITAT, P.O. Box 30030, NAIROBI-00100, Kenya, telephone number +(254-20) 7623166, Fax no. +(254-20) 7624588, e-mail: [markandey.rai@unhabitat.org](mailto:markandey.rai@unhabitat.org) or his Assistant, Ms. Florence Bunei (e-mail: [florence.bunei@unhabitat.org](mailto:florence.bunei@unhabitat.org), telephone number +(254-20) 7623119 at your earliest convenience. You are also invited to register for the Forum online at the above website address. Hotel accommodation may be booked directly through the same website beginning from November 2009. Kindly, take note that the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, the only international organization of Parliamentarians dedicated exclusively to Habitat, will be holding their 6<sup>th</sup> Global Forum several days prior to the World Urban Forum V, also in Rio de Janeiro. The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the GPH is scheduled to take place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 in the Camara Municipal do Rio de Janeiro. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact the Secretary General of the GPH using the following email address: ([birte.leinius@bundestag.de](mailto:birte.leinius@bundestag.de)).

We look forward to your active participation in the discussions and in the Round Table of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat during the World Urban Forum V.



Peter Götzt, MP  
President  
Global Parliamentarians on Habitat



Anna Tibajuka  
Under-Secretary General and  
Executive Director