

Urban  October
31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

World
Cities
Day  October 31
BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

Designed to Live Together

WORLD CITIES DAY REPORT 2015



Introduction

World Cities Day was established on 27 December 2013 by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/68/239, in which the General Assembly **“decides to designate 31 October, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, invites States, the United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders to observe and raise awareness of the Day.”**

The aim of this day is to attract the international community’s attention to urbanization as a central issue for development and to encourage cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges towards sustainable urban development.

The Global Observance of World Cities Day on every 31 of October, hosted by a different city each year, while regional, national and city level events will be held by various cities and towns globally to commemorate the day.

The general theme of World Cities Day is ***Better City, Better Life***, while a special theme is chosen each year to celebrate different topics covering urban issues.

World Cities Day 2015 was celebrated under the theme Designed to live together. Cities designed to live together create opportunities, enable connection and interaction, and facilitate sustainable use of shared resources.

World Cities Day 2015 and its theme ***Designed to live together*** focused on promoting togetherness and harmony, making our cities and neighbourhoods inclusive and livable.

The Theme For 2015: Designed To Live Together

Good Urban Design

Good urban form is the foundation for sustainable cities, and urban design is the tool that provides the opportunity to transform the way that we live, to facilitate the development of socially integrated, prosperous cities where people live together.

Urban form is the combination of streets, building typologies and networks of public spaces. They form the underlying structure of the city, a skeleton around which people's lives are built and activities carried out. Urban form affects how we live, how we move around, how our neighbourhoods look like and how safe we feel on the streets.

The fame and familiarity of many cities is owed to their urban form. Venice's narrow passageways and canals allow a slower pace of life and an intimate familiarity amongst its residents. New York's quick-paced life and character is linked to its big, busy orthogonal avenues, tall buildings and high density of inhabitants. The vibrant and lively community life in Marrakesh is fostered in the narrow, dense streets filled with commercial activities. But it is not only the examples of good design capture that the imagination. In many contexts, the sprawled structure of cities has created a culture dependent on cars. And the contemporary cities with enclosed residential-only neighbourhoods with small street frontage have created streets that are inactive, dark and unsafe at night. Design that supports density, street life and connectivity, facilitates mixed use, enables a mix of social groups and is adapted to local and cultural contexts is a great tool to support sustainable cities and livability.

Good design contributes to social integration, equality and diversity.

Planning residential areas with different possibilities in terms of typology and price enables residents from different backgrounds and income levels to live together, prevents the creation of isolated ghettos or gated communities and

fights segregation and discrimination. Good design gives space for different cultures, ethnicities, lifestyles to mix and come together.

Good design fosters sustainable use of shared resources. Planning compact, denser cities reduces the overexploitation of natural resources, and facilitates common living by enabling equal access to land, food and water for all.

Good design inspires lively neighborhoods. Designed public spaces, parks, playgrounds, streets and squares filled with activities help create a vibrant public life for all residents.

Good design can make cities safer. Neighbourhoods that remain active and lively at night, with commercial activities on the ground floors, pedestrian friendly well-lit streets and public spaces mean increased personal safety and security.

Good design fosters proximity to jobs and services. With good infrastructure and public transport, higher building density and mixed use neighbourhoods, jobs, markets, schools and recreation are closer to people's homes and are easily accessible by foot, bike or public transport.

Good design helps to create clean, healthy cities. Denser cities and proximity to jobs and services mean reduced need for car use, less congestion and less pollution, as well as more sustainable usage of land and preservation of the natural and green areas.

Good design anticipates climate change and reduces the impacts of disasters. Planning with sensitivity to the surrounding nature, avoiding development in risky zones, planning natural buffers and prevention systems in flood or earthquake prone areas builds resilient settlements and safe communities.

Design as a participatory process

Good design means building an integrated all-encompassing urban system that considers not only what the urban form of the city should be, but also what should be the process of envisioning it.

In many cities, planning mechanisms are rigid and linear. Design is here thought of as final stage of planning, as giving form to a long process of complicated research. Outsourced to specialized consultants, it is the endeavour of a technocratic club -- members only.

Yet the true power of design lies in bringing people together in a process that is inclusive, transparent and iterative in character. In a city, demands and desires of many different stakeholders need to be combined and balanced, as negotiation is the cornerstone of many planning decisions. A traffic engineer advises wide roads, the private sector presses for space for business, politicians dream of great civic squares and inhabitants demand quality affordable residences. Design is thus the combined process of distilling the needs of different stakeholders in a concrete proposal.

When planning cities, public authorities should facilitate a collaborative design process with a broad range of concerned stakeholders that develops a debate around concrete interventions, step by step. Design is the point of departure from which through debate and reflection, testing and improving, a common vision is reached. If design is integrated throughout the whole process -- from research phase to detailed phase -- it can propose tangible negotiable directions, define problems and provide momentum to every phase of planning. Clear design also makes planning accessible for non-planners, who can be put-off by technical jargon, and encourages them to actively contribute to the process. As clear design facilitates understanding by politicians and civic society, it can also accelerate governments' decision-making processes and save endless deliberations.

Design is thus a strong participatory tool for making a city for all. It helps people come together around shared goals and visions, promotes everyone's equal access to services, jobs and opportunities, to the city's social, cultural and political life.

Global Observance of World Cities Day 2015 in Milan, Italy

The Global Observance of World Cities Day 2015 was on 31 October, in Milan, Italy. The event was hosted by UN-Habitat, the City of Milan and the Shanghai Municipal Government. The opening ceremony was graced by the Mayor of Milan Mr. Giuliano Pisapia, Vice Mayor of Shanghai Mr. Jiang Zhuoqing, Secretary-General of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) Mr. Vicente Loscertales, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director UN-Habitat Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira.

Following the Opening Ceremony, three key note speakers Vice President of Tongji University Mr. Wu Zhiqiang, Presidente della Biennale di Venezia Mr. Paolo Baratta and the Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements

(IIHS) Mr. Aromar Revi discussed the theme Designed to live together in a special session dubbed Urban Talk.

World Cities Day in Milan marked the last day of the 2015 World Expo, also hosted by the City of Milan, and was the last of the three UN Days selected by the United Nations to be celebrated within the framework of the Expo. World Cities Day also marked the end of Urban October, a month dedicated to celebrating and promoting a better urban future, through synthesizing activities to increase awareness, promote participation, generate knowledge and engage the international community towards sustainable urban development.

World Cities Day and Urban October celebrations around the World

More than 90 World Cities Day and World Habitat Day activities were organized by partners in 39 countries around the world during Urban October 2015. Here is a summary;

1. AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

Angola

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning organized a two day World Habitat Day national celebration on human settlements, key feature of which was the official opening of UN-Habitat's office in the capital, Luanda. The event was presided over by the Minister of Housing and Urbanism, José António da Conceição e Silva. Others who spoke at the ceremony included the representative of Angola's Ministry of External Relations, the representative of UNAIDS, Sihaka Tsemo, on behalf of the UN Country Coordinator, Paolo Balladelli, and from UN-Habitat, Human Settlements Officer, Thomaz Ramalho. Also present were seven Secretaries of State, UNICEF representative for Angola, Francisco Songane, UN staff members, government officials and members of Angolan civil society. On 31 October World Cities Day celebrations the ministry organized a presentation of the new General Metropolitan Master Plan for Luanda. The presentation was made by Neusa Inglés, from Urbinvest, which was responsible for the coordination of the Master Plan, with contributions from other four international consulting firms. The presentation took place at the facilities of the Geodesic and Cartographic Institute of Angola (IGCA).

Argentina

The **Red Habitat** held a celebration of World Habitat Day on 5 October in San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca in Buenos Aires. The event involved representatives of national government and local municipality in the province of Catamarca, Non-Governmental Organizations, social movements, representatives of both legislative chambers, and international organizations. The purpose of the event was to communicate to the community the current situation of habitats in Argentina, to make proposals, action programs and analyze the territorial

situation, to strengthen these initiatives as well as relationships between settlements and organizations and social movements. The aim was also to raise awareness to the public and the media about the difficulties in achieving human development.

Bangladesh

On the occasion of World Habitat Day, Local Government Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain stated that the **Government of Bangladesh** contemplates launching a rural housing policy suggesting construction of multi-storied buildings in villages to save dwindling agricultural land alongside formulating a 20-year structure plan for the capital city. The Minister spoke during a discussion organised by Housing and Public Works Ministry to mark the World Habitat Day at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka. Reported by the Financial Express, the minister said the draft of a 20-year policy level "structure plan" for the capital was already been formulated while it was currently being revised incorporating stakeholders opinions. The Minister also urged the private housing developers to keep open space during construction of residential buildings. The event was presided over by Housing and Public Works Secretary M Moinuddin Abdullah, and was also addressed by UNDP Country Director Pauline Tamesis, RAJUK Chairman G M Jaynal Abedin Bhuiyan and Dhaka University Professor AQM Mahmud.

Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust, Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA), Dhabnmondi Kachikantha School and Dhaka Ideal Cadet School jointly organized a World Habitat Day program with various game events (Ludo, Chess, Breaking Clay Pots, Thread-needle, Drawing, Biscuit Run, Marble Run, Eating Bananas, and Musical Chair) and cultural program. The event took place on 5 October at Rayerbazar Boishakhi Playground.

Belgium

Youth for Public Transport (Y4PT) celebrated World Habitat Day through its campaign #BreathableCities. The main objective of the #BreathableCities World Campaign is to measure people's exposure to air pollutants and inhalation through different modes of transport in

order to estimate impact on human health, by taking into account that at present air pollution is now the world's largest single environmental health risk, mobile source emissions are major contributors in human settlements and effects on people's health are translated into high socio-economic costs.

Botswana

The Ministry of Lands and Housing held National World Habitat Day celebrations on 5 October in Palapye. The event was held to mark the theme Public Spaces for All and to sensitize the public on utilisation of public spaces and the purpose they served. Planned activities included an exhibition and school competitions. The guest speaker was Minister Prince Maele.

Brazil

Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis hosted an Open Studio at their School of Architecture in celebration of World Habitat Day. Architecture students held an exhibition addressing the question of Housing and Urban Sustainability for vulnerable population in the city of Florianópolis. The event engaged 50 students.

United Nations Brazil promoted World Habitat Day by featuring its theme Public Spaces for All as well as the "Cidades Seguras e Amigas para Tod@s" campaign, which was launched by UN-Habitat, UN Women and 50 global and local partners. The aim of the campaign is to prevent and reduce violence against women, youth and children, especially girls, in order to increase the safety and well-being.

Canada

Habitat for Humanity Western University celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October at the University Community Centre. The University called on the community to get involved in Habitat, the aim was to reflect on the state of human settlements and people's right to sufficient shelter and to remind people that they are responsible for the habitat of future next generations.

Habitat for Humanity Ontario, North Bay Blue Sky Region Chapter promoted World Habitat Day by hosting a built-site open house. The event took place on 3 October.

The City of Toronto's Mayor John Tory on behalf of Toronto City Council proclaimed 5 October as World Habitat Day. The proclamation stated that the theme, "Public Spaces for All," sheds light on the importance of

providing public spaces that enhance community cohesion and promote health, happiness, and the well-being of all citizens. It also stated that the City of Toronto's affordable housing and homelessness initiatives are guided by Toronto's Affordable Housing Action Plan, 2010–2020. It is a plan that helps to affirm the City's commitment to continue working with its partners to address housing needs. It further stated that in 2015, with the assistance of the federal and provincial governments and private and non-profit groups, the City of Toronto would open 217 affordable rental and ownership homes, while assisting more than 2,500 residents with home repairs. <http://optionsofcompanies.blogspot.co.ke/2015/10/world-habitat-day-2015-was-huge-success.html>

The Montreal Metropolitan Community organized an interactive exhibition on the occasion of World Habitat Day. The theme of the Exhibition was Public Spaces for All, and Habitat III. To view the Exhibition please visit <http://cmm.qc.ca/evenements/montreal-thematic-meeting-on-metropolitan-areas/photos-and-videos/>

Cape Verde

The City of Praia and UN-Habitat organized a workshop on Urban Rehabilitation, Innovation and Sustainability to celebrate World Habitat Day. The opening ceremony was presided over by the the Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning, Dr. Antero Veiga.

Chile

The HABITAR group celebrated World Habitat Day in Valparaíso where partners met and discussed different experiences related to the theme of World Habitat Day. The aim was for stakeholders to present different experiences and projects in the region. The presentations included the Programme 'I want my neighborhood', a Ministry of Housing initiative; the Committee 'Estero de Limache Limpio'; the 'Cerro Plan' collective and My Park Foundation. Participation was also by architects, professionals and the local community.

China

The Shanghai Coordination Center of World Cities Day organized a series of events to celebrate World Cities Day.

On October 15, the World Cities Day subway train with the theme Designed to Live Together was officially put into operation on Shanghai Metro Line 2. The initiative was organized in collaboration with Shanghai Shentong Metro Group. The train was scheduled to operate until end of 2015.

On October 21, the Information Office of the Shanghai Municipality held a press conference on World Cities Day. The Press Conference was addressed by Vice Mayor of Shanghai Mr. Jiang Zhuoqing.

On October 25, the Innovation and Practice of City Diplomacy Seminar was held at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies. More than 50 Chinese and foreign experts and scholars attended this conference and engaged in discussions on the United Nations' Post-2015 development agenda and city diplomacy, internationalization of cities and practice of city diplomacy and other topics. The conference jointly organized by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, the Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Shanghai Association for International Studies and the Shanghai Oriental Youth Society and adopted the draft of the Consensus on Strategic Development of Chinese Cities' Internationalization in the Next Five Years, which points out that Chinese cities' role and effect with respect to global cooperation, international system design and international organization building will be more and more prominent in the next five years and that Chinese cities will make more achievements in exploring internationalization in the area of public management and forming international public management ability.

On October 31, the World Cities Day Forum 2015 under the theme Designed to Live Together was jointly organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Shanghai Municipal Government and UN-Habitat. The Forum had in attendance the Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Chen Zhenggao, Mayor of Shanghai Yang Xiong, Mr. Alioune Badiane of UN-Habitat, Senior Director of the Eco-City Project Office of Singapore's Ministry of National Development Tang Tuck Weng and Counsellor of Regional City Engagement of the British Embassy in China Nick Low. More than 300 guests including city administrators, planners, designers and scholars.

On the morning of October 31, 'Going through Shanghai' activity was held in the China Art Museum. This activity had three competition routes with the themes of urban civilization, science and technology innovation, and habitability and life. 40 participating teams formed by 200 citizens of Shanghai completed tasks and challenges of point and mark positioning on foot, by bicycle, bus, subway or through other means of public transport.

On the same day the Shanghai Housing and Urban-Rural Development Commission and the Administrator Commission of Shanghai International Tourism and Resorts Zone jointly organized a 'Shanghai BIM International Symposium' involving more than 20 government officials and well-known scholars from the United States, the United Kingdom,

Singapore and Nordic countries. The guests discussed global experience in BIM development and Shanghai's wisdom, cases of application of BIM technology in large Chinese and foreign comprehensive projects and the innovative thought of combining BIM and the building of smart cities in the future.

On the afternoon of October 31, the Shanghai Healthy Industry Development Promotion Association, the China Association of Mayors and the Coordination Center for the World Cities Day organized the Healthy City Forum in Jinshan District.

From October 31 to November 2, the Shanghai International City and Architecture Expo 2015 jointly organized by UN-Habitat, the Shanghai Coordination Center of World Cities Day and the Architectural Society of China was held at the Shanghai Exhibition Center. This 'City and Architecture Expo' had six exhibition areas including a World Cities Day theme pavilion. More than 200 enterprises took part in the Exhibition.

On November 1, 2015 Global City Forum themed Global City: Innovation & Design was held at Shanghai University. The forum was organized by the Development Research Center of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and the World Bank and sponsored by the Shanghai Academy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and Shanghai University. The Forum had more 300 participants in attendance.

On November 1, a second Forum, the Sino-Italian Forum for Future Cities themed 'ACHI-CITY from Shanghai Expo to Milan Expo: Future Design and Planning of Chinese and Italian Cities' was held in Shanghai.

On November 1, the Urban Regeneration and the Transformation of Planning Academic Seminar was held at the Shanghai Design Centre to share experiences of the three cities New York, London and Tokyo in urban regeneration and the transformation of planning and jointly push forward cities' transformation and development.

Ecuador

The Fundacion Somos Ecuador celebrated World Habitat Day on 11 October in Santo Domingo square in the Old Town of Quito. A series of activities were planned to raise awareness on the interaction between citizens and public space. Each activity was aimed at creating a peaceful coexistence among citizens, promoting art, culture, history, healthy life and recycling waste management, among others. The event was organized with the support of different institutions and grassroots organizations.

Germany

The sector programs 'Policy Advice in Urban and Municipal Development' and 'Sustainable Development of Metropolitan Regions' organized info points in Eschborn and Bonn to mark World Habitat Day. Participants were able to learn more about integrated, sustainable urban development and the ongoing Habitat III process. Additionally, a short quiz on urban topics such as public spaces provided a good opportunity for a lively exchange with participants from different disciplines.

Greece

The City of Athens participated in World Cities Day on 31 October with a series of events: The Greek Tourism Confederation (SETE), devoted to the effective promotion of the City of Athens, embraced the occasion of the World Cities Day transforming the city into a single stage of parties and celebrations. The events' aim was to showcase every single aspect of the endless choices of Athens, by unveiling to the world the real nature and authenticity of the city: the Athens World. Culture, gastronomy, nightlife and the Athenian Riviera represent the fundamental elements and dimensions of this special day for the Greek capital that SETE shared with international participants in all-day street events.

Guatemala

Empowering Business Latin America, an organization in Guatemala that advocates for accessible housing for the poor commemorated World Habitat Day on 5 October with a public exhibition. Among the invited guests for the opening of the exhibition were representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala.

India

Karpagam Innovation Centre of the Karpagam College of Engineering celebrated World Habitat Day through an event aimed at engaging engineers at the college to commit to a code of ethics to developing their habitat, Coimbatore. The ceremony involved a candle lighting ceremony and session where participants stated the individual power and responsibility to shape the future of Coimbatore City.

Manipur University celebrated World Habitat Day in Campus on 5 October. This was the fourth time that the celebration took place at the University. The function was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the University. The event brought together 100 faculty members, Post Graduate and Research scholars. The event took place in the Seminar

hall of the Department of Geography. The discussions comprised of topics on city life, problems, environment and space available for urban amenities and sustainable environment. Download full report here.

Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (Odisha) hosted a sensitization workshop on Habitat conservation during World Habitat Day. The event was held at Chendipada of Angul district. About 80 participants including village level organization members and office bearers like Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Vanasurakshya Samiti, Panipanchayat participated in the Event.

South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and EarthWatch Institute organized a School Children Awareness Program to spread awareness about East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW), its rich history and how it is important to millions of inhabitants of Kolkata. The event took place in Kolkata, West Bengal. Two city schools participated.

The Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an inter-Ministerial organisation under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, India promoted World Habitat Day by publishing a Special Issue of Newsletter titled 'Nirman Sarika, on the occasion of World Habitat Day. The publication focused on the theme of World Habitat Day 2015, Public Spaces for All.

The Department of Architecture of the Integral University, Lucknow organized a seminar titled 'SMART CITIES- myths and realities'. The aim was raising awareness among the student community, as well as the faculty members of different disciplines, about challenges regarding 'human habitat' being faced world over. The program was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University. The Chief Guests was Prof. Jagbir Singh, the Dean Faculty of Architecture and APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow. The seminar mainly focused on issues related to energy conservation and environmental safety though advent of Smart Cities- a movement.

The Department of Housing and Kerala State Housing Board held World Habitat Day celebrations in Kerala. The event was inaugurated by Finance Minister K. M. Mani at Ashir Bhavan, Kacherippady. Some of the activities included an award presentation to children who participated in a painting competition on the theme 'housing for all'. A tri-monthly publication from the Housing Board was also released on the occasion.

The Institution of Engineers in Coimbatore held a lecture on the theme Public Spaces for All with emphasis on statutory requirements. The event was attended by 100 engineers within the network.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) held World Habitat Day celebrations on 5 October in New Delhi. UN-

Habitat's Deputy Executive Director Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira attended the celebration, together with Dr. N Chatterjee (Secretary Ministry of HUPA), Mr Rajiv Ranjan Mishra (Joint Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Cooperation), Mr. Sanjeev Kumar (Joint Secretary Housing and Finance Association), Mr. VK Dadhwal (Director, National Remote Sensing Centre) and Mr. Srinivasa Popuri (Senior Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office Asia Pacific). Mr Popuri delivered the message of the Secretary General on World Habitat Day, followed by a speech of UN-Habitat's Deputy Executive Director Dr Kaycira. She highlighted that UN-Habitat recognizes the rapid urban transformation in India, as well as the passion and commitment of the Indian Government and its people, and reflected on the purpose of World Habitat Day. During the ceremony, she also awarded the winners of a children & youth drawing competition on the theme of Public Space.

The Mumbai Environmental Social Network celebrated World Habitat Day through Wall Painting Competition. The event took place in Govandi, Mumbai in efforts to improve and sustain the use of public open space for enhanced community cohesion, civic identity and better quality of life. 120 participants took part in the event.

The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) organized the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC)- India on World Habitat Day 2015. The four day intensive Campus was organized under the theme The City We Need Fosters Inclusive Prosperity. Among the panelists were UN-Habitat's Deputy Executive Director Dr. Kacyira, United Nations Resident Coordinator for India Mr. Yuri Afanasiev and the United Nations Global Compact representative Mr. Uddesh Kohli.

Indonesia

Sanggar Rakyat, a civil community in coastal area in the city of Cirebon, West Java celebrated World Habitat Day in Kampung Cangkol. The event was organized and funded independently by the people from coastal area in the city of Cirebon, the aim was to educate was teenagers and children on the importance of caring for the environment.

The Government of Indonesia and President Joko Widodo, invited mayors across Indonesia, sensitizing them to plan public spaces in their respective cities ahead of World Habitat Day celebrations. On the Occasion of World Habitat Day, the President attended the celebration organized at the State Palace. The Minister for Public Works and Public Housing, Basuki Hadimuljono, environmentalist Erna Witoelar, Djarot Syaiful Hidayat, Theo Sambuaga, and West Java Governor Ahmad Heriawan were also in attendance.

I.R. Iran

Tehran City celebrated the second edition of the Golden Adobe, Tehran Glocal Award for Urban Management on the occasion of World Cities Day on 31 October. The Golden Globe is a comprehensive, academic and non-profit initiative that specializes in international Urban Management research and exchange. The event was promoted by Metropolis, the World Association of the Major Metropolises.

UN-Habitat Tehran Office and National Land and Housing Organization jointly celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October, the event took place at the National Land and Housing Organization hall.

Italy

The Italian National Institute of Planning (INU) partnered with the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to celebrate the World Habitat Day. The event format was an internet-based conversation 'Puente Espacio Publico' between Italian public-space actors and representative cities from Latin America, a region that has distinguished itself for its focus on public space, citizen participation and local action and networking. The main goal of 'Puente Espacio Publico' was to create new bridges between Latin American and Italian cities and institutions by exchanging information on on-going public-space initiatives, thus opening the way to new partnerships in view of the Habitat III Conference.

UN-Habitat, the City of Milan and the Shanghai Municipal Government hosted the Global Observance of World Cities Day on 31 October, in Milan, Italy. World Cities Day 2015 was celebrated under the general theme Better City, Better Life and sub-theme Designed to live together. The opening ceremony was graced by Mayor of Milan Mr. Giuliano Pisapia, Vice Mayor of Shanghai Mr. Jiang Zhuoqing, Secretary-General of BIE Mr. Vicente Loscertales, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director UN-Habitat Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira. Following the Opening Ceremony, three key note speakers Vice President of Tongji University Mr. Wu Zhiqiang, Presidente della Biennale di Venezia Mr. Paolo Baratta and the Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) Mr. Aromar Revi discussed the theme Designed to live together in a special session dubbed Urban Talk. The event was the last of the three UN Days selected by the United Nations to be celebrated within the framework of the 2015 World Expo.

Japan

UN-Habitat Fukuoka Office organized a children's drawing contest on the theme 'designed to live together'. Entries were submitted by children from the Asia Pacific region and have been featured on the UN-Habitat Fukuoka website.

Kenya

Sinini Tree and Coffee Nursery Women Group in Bungoma celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October in Chwele. The aim was to advocate for poverty eradication in urban centers, encourage participation in slum upgrading initiatives and sponsoring projects that create public spaces in the urban center of Chwele.

The County Youth Development Foundation celebrated World Habitat Day on 24 October 2015 at Kihara Primary School in Kiambu County. Activities included tree planting; a rally event dubbed 'the town we want'; a dialogue and discussions with the Kenya Power Lightening Company (KPLC) for installation of street lights; a call to the county government to ensure the Gachie market is always clean and maintained; training and activities to sensitize schools on the need for access to public spaces to all.

Liberia

UN-Habitat Liberia and Slum Dwellers Association of Liberia (SLUMDAL) organized a radio talk show with academia of various universities in Monrovia. A soccer game between two slum communities was also organized, followed by a formal event where the UN Secretary-General and the UN-Habitat Executive Director's speeches were read.

Morocco

Smart Cities Initiative for North Africa convened the International Summit for Smart Cities in North Africa (ISSC) on 6 October in Rabat. The ISSC is an annual gathering that aims to contribute to the social and economic development of North African cities by helping them integrate "smart" initiatives. The aim of the event was to delve into key issues such as innovation and economic growth, urban planning and mobility, resource management and infrastructure, education, digital inclusion, and governance. City leaders, government officials, academics, urban planners, utility providers, and city experts came together to discuss and present best practices for developing the smart cities of tomorrow. They also introduced innovative strategies for strengthening the institutional efficiency of cities and measuring public engagement to competitiveness and sustainability.

Nepal

The Government of Nepal and UN-Habitat organized a half-day workshop in Kathmandu to mark World Habitat Day's theme Public Spaces for All. Mr. Narayan Khadka the Minister for Urban Development was present at the inaugural session, where four presentations on different aspects of public space management and conservation were made by experts. Padma Sunder Joshi, Habitat Program Manager at UN-Habitat Nepal made his presentation highlighting the importance of community engagement in creating public spaces not just the design. Highlighting the values and importance of public open spaces, Professor Sudarshan Raj Tiwari stressed on the need of pedestrianization of streets and open spaces to create vibrant cities. Yek Raj Adhikari, Architect from Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) made a presentation on the government plans to build 10 new towns (e.g. Phidim, Dumre-Bhansar, Sanphe Bagar) at the junction of Middle Hills and the provisioning of public open spaces. Other presenters at the workshop were Pushkar Shrestha from Centre for integrated Urban Development and Om Thapaliya of HomeNet Nepal. On the same occasion, Kathmandu Metropolitan City and UN-Habitat along with local organizations organized a day long campaign 'KTM Walks' along Kilagal Nardevi stretch and in Itumbahal to promote walkability and different uses of public spaces. Hundreds of people participated in the campaign and observed traditional arts and artifacts including traditional Newari music and dances.

Nigeria

Asabe Shehu Yar'adua Foundation (ASYARF) celebrated World Habitat Day through a workshop on 'Urban lives and its challenges on Youths Development.' Experts were engaged to share their experiences with the participants. There were counseling sessions, side events, dancing and photography activities. There was a special focus on women through urban business networking sessions where the women were taught how to identify business opportunities and apply appropriate skills to achieve their goals. In overall, the purpose of the event was to reflect on the state of our cities and towns and the basic human right to adequate shelter.

Peoples Encouragers Initiative (PEIN) celebrated World Habitat Day in a week long set of activities. The events involved the Youth in Orashi, and took place in Rivers State.

The Center for Human Settlements and Urban Development (CHSUD) of the Federal University of Technology Minna celebrated World Habitat Day through a radio talk show event held in Niger state. The Director, Center for Human Settlements and Urban Development (CHSUD), Professor Mustapha Zubairu highlighted the public of the

importance and significance of World Habitat Day and Urban October. The show, "The Morning Ride with Odafe Imogu" on Search Fm 92.3 Campus Radio also hosted Dr. Abdul Husseini, the Coordinator Regional Center of Expertise, Minna and the General Manager of Niger State Geographical Information System.

UN-Habitat and the Federal Ministry of Power, Works & Housing celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October. The formal event was held in Abuja Nigeria.

Panama

Avina promoted the topic Public Spaces in Latin America region by producing a series of short video interviews with partners.

Philippines

UN-Habitat Philippines Office organized Urban Nights screenings in seven cities and towns throughout the month of October. The screenings featured films provided through the Nairobi Urban Nights partners.

Rwanda

UN-Habitat Rwanda Office celebrated World Habitat Day through site visits to Mount Rubavu and Karukogo in Rubavu District, followed by an event in Rugerero Sector Office. Mount Rubavu area was prone to landslides and flooding which led to a project by the Government in partnership with UN-Habitat to relocate residents of the area. The World Habitat Day celebration was graced by the Minister of State in Charge of Energy, Water and Sanitation Ms. Kamayirese Germaine, the Western Province Governor Mrs. Mukandasira Caritas and the Mayor of Rubavu, Mr. Jeremie Sinamenye. The event took place on 7 October. Saudi Arabia

UN-Habitat in cooperation with Umran Society held a World Cities Day on workshop 31 October. The overall objective of the event was to celebrate World Cities Day, and launch a nation-wide competition for Urban Planning and Architecture students, as well as shed light on urban issues, such as public spaces and street connectivity. The workshop took place in the city of Riyadh, at King AbdulAziz Historical Palace.

Senegal

Coopérative habitat de la cellule Inter ONG held Low-income Housing Day in Kaffrine ahead of the World Habitat Day celebrations. In this event an International Scientific Committee conducted thematic discussions submitted by key stakeholders. The Agenda of the event included a major exhibition on success stories of Housing co-operatives.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Housing Corporation (SALHOC) celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October at Goderich. Spokespersons representing UN-Habitat, Office of the President Sierra Leone and other faculties of the Government spoke on the theme Public Spaces for All, and urged the public to take care of our habitat, as individuals are partners in development.

Spain

Basque Government organized a World Habitat Day event on 3 October in Vitoria Gasteiz. About 300 people took part in the marathon Ecological Eko Sketch drawing. Among the guests and participants were Minister Ana Oregi, Deputy Mayor Borja Belandía and Director for Environment Amaia Barredo. The themes of the event were environment, sustainability, streets to society, sustainable transport.

The UN-Habitat Liaison Office in Spain, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Development and the National Habitat Committee** organized a **World Habitat Day** conference on 5 October in Madrid. The goal of the event was to discuss and share knowledge and experience on public spaces from various points of view. Topics covered included planning, accessibility, prevention and safety, social cohesion and gender equality. On the same occasion the inauguration of the exhibition 'The 10th Spanish Catalogue for Best Practices' took place.

UN-Habitat Spain and the Ministry of Development and the Spanish Federation for Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) celebrated **World Cities Day** in Madrid on 30 October through a forum to inform about and discuss the Habitat III Conference and how this opens up the possibility to move forward with and improve the New Urban Agenda for the European Union. Key speakers included Ms. Rosa Suriñach from the Habitat III Secretariat; Mr. Pedro Campos Ponce, European Advisor of Urban Politics from the Dutch Government, speaking on behalf of the New Urban Agenda of the European Union and Mr. Alfonso Vergara, President of the Metrópoli Foundation, introducing the idea of a possible New Urban Agenda for Spain. More than a hundred participants from national and local governments, academia, urban institutions and organizations attended the meeting.

Sri Lanka

The Ministry of Housing and Construction of Sri Lanka celebrated World Habitat Day 2015 on 5 October at a national event held at the Maligawaththa Housing Scheme in Colombo. The event, which drew the participation of over 2,000 community members, was organized under

the patronage of the Sajith Premadasa, the Minister of Housing and Construction. The Minister of Megapolis and Western Development, the Patali Champika Ranawaka, Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction, the Indika Bandaranayake and the Chief Technical Advisor of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Mr. Tim McNair, also participated at the event. Representatives from key housing and urban sector agencies in Sri Lanka and private sector organizations were also present. This important national event marked the beginning of a week-long celebration which focuses on this year's World Habitat Day theme, Public Spaces for All. The Chief Guest at the event, the Mr. Premadasa, highlighted the Government of Sri Lanka's commitment to upgrading low income settlements within the city of Colombo as well as a nationwide effort to provide permanent housing solutions to thousands of residents who do not have permanent homes.

Addressing the gathering, the Mr. Ranawaka highlighted the importance of accounting for the needs of all communities and planning for sustainability in developing cities and the megapolis in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. Mr. McNair shared the UN-Habitat Executive Director's message with the gathering. Emphasizing the importance of public spaces in urban areas, he stated "Public space is a vital component of a prosperous city. Well designed and managed public space is a key asset for a city's functioning and has a positive impact on its economy, environment, safety, health, integration and connectivity. The quality of life for people in cities is directly related to the state of its public spaces." The event featured several cultural presentations by local school children emphasizing the importance of community spirit and national unity. The event concluded with the handing over of prizes to school children for art and essay competitions and house ownership deeds to 1,000 residents.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Land Property Network's (LPN) edition of the Urban October series ran from Monday 12 October to Saturday 31 October 2015, culminating on World Cities Day. LPN's Urban October highlighted several key challenges, opportunities and best practices from cities all across Latin America and the Caribbean, through a series of intriguing articles and features on challenges related to urban financing, urban design, overcrowding, informal human settlements, traffic congestion, low levels of efficiency, increased flooding and other hydro-climatic events which have become major concerns for governments and other stakeholders within the urban environment. LPN would over the course of the months (leading up to Habitat III), launch a series of Caribbean-based activities promoting Habitat III, and the historic standalone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Switzerland

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

and the Cittadellarte Foundation (Biella, Italy) held an exhibition dubbed Art for Smart Sustainable Cities to celebrate World Habitat Day. The aim of the exhibition was to draw attention to the challenges of the urbanized world using a creative, artistic approach. The opening took place on 5 October at the Palais des Nations.

World Vision International organized 'Healthy and Just Cities for Children and Youth' Urban Thinkers Campus for children and youth. The event was held to celebrate Urban October and focused on principles, policies and action planning aimed at improving access to water, waste and sanitation within informal settlements. It also explored possible business models to engage young people in safe and dignified employment within these sectors. Speakers from UN-Habitat, WHO, ILO, Eawag, WasteAID, SKAT and Plastic Bank were invited to the event. The event took place on 28 October in Geneva.

Uganda

Habitat for Humanity Uganda Shelter and Settlements Alternatives organized the World Habitat Week commemoration which ran from 22-30 October. The Shelter and Settlements Alternatives invited Environmental Alert as a partner organization to participate in this commemoration. Activities included: Community clean up at Bujjuko; Commemoration of World Habitat Day at Bujjuko in Wakiso District; Press Conference; Radio talk show on CBS (88.8); Housing exhibition at UMA Show ground Nice Exhibition Hall; and a Radio talk show on Capital FM (91.3).

Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network celebrated World Habitat Day by launching the 'Decent living low-cost housing' project in Bujjuko Wakiso district. The event which took place on 27 October was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, We Effect, Svenska PostkodLotteriet, WaterAid Uganda, Ndere Cultural Centre. The beneficiaries of the project will be members of the Kwefaako Housing Cooperative Society.

The EastAfrican, a weekly publication by the Nation Media group published a special report on World Habitat Day. The aim of the feature was to; call attention to the need for better shelter around the world; let it be known that affordable, adequate housing should be a priority everywhere; change the systems, policies and attitudes that lead to poverty housing, and involve partners in solutions; promote leadership in post conflict reconstruction; promote development and improvement of human settlements and the quality of urban life; promote the need to plan our cities better.

The New Vision under the Vision Group Limited, run a special publication on World Habitat Day 2015. With the human population of the world growing at ever increasing rates and space at a premium, the publication intended to promote awareness of the importance of ensuring that everybody has access to adequate shelter and accommodation.

United Arab Emirates

Ecocity Builders held an Urban Thinkers Campus titled Urbinsight: Knowledge and Information for Sustainable Cities in Abi Dhabi. The event took place from 11-13 October during Urban October.

United Republic of Tanzania

The Ministry of Housing and Lands celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October at the Karimjee Hall, in Dar es Salaam. Among the invited guests were Dr. Natalia Kanem, Representative, United Nations Population Fund, the Permanent Secretary, and the Director for Urban Planning in the Ministry. Several presentations by Ardhi University were made on World Habitat Day's topic Public Spaces for All.

United States of America

Habitat for Humanity Charlotte joined with Habitat for Humanity International and partners around the world to rededicated themselves to a world where everyone has a decent place to live. On World Habitat Day, banners showing impactful statistics on poverty housing and homelessness, both worldwide and in Charlotte were placed in front of several partner churches.

Habitat for Humanity Halifax worked with volunteers from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Sigma Chi Fraternity to prepare the store and surrounding grounds for the huge tent sale and customer appreciation event to mark World Habitat Day. They used the occasion to welcome new home applicants.

Habitat for Humanity Kansas City recognized World Habitat Day as a special opportunity to call on individuals and organizations to help them address poverty housing. Habitat for Humanity reminded its partners that it participates in this international event because they know that adequate shelter is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty. They called on their partners to make a donation; shop at a local Habitat for Humanity ReStore; volunteer; or share their commitment on social media networks, inviting friends and followers to find out more about Habitat and World Habitat Day.

Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta presented new homes to fourteen families in Calgary, Canada who moved into the homes on World Habitat Day. The 14-home project broke ground in March of 2014, and more than 1,700 volunteers had spent 29,000 hours digging foundations and painting walls.

Habitat for Humanity Wake ReStores supported World Habitat Day and their Annual Fund during Urban October. Each store register had special pinups promoting World Habitat Day and customers were asked to 'round up at the register' and give a small donation in addition to making a purchase at the ReStore. Participating customers received a pinup to write their names on. The initiative was conducted over two weeks, the aim was to promote collective effort to addressing the issue of affordable housing.

Habitat for Humanity West Virginia Capitol Build invited the community, businesses, organizations and Habitat affiliates across the state to an event marking World Habitat Day by partnering to draw attention to the continuing need for energy efficient affordable housing.

Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania hosted a 'Paint a Nail' event to celebrate World Habitat Day. For \$2, students passing by the flagpole could paint a metal nail and hammer it onto a wooden map of the world. Students chose where they wanted to place the nail based on where they hoped to see change in the world or wherever they thought Habitat should visit next. The proceeds from the event went to Habitat for Humanity International.

The Aga Khan Documentation Center at MIT produced on Sunday 4 October, their weekly Archnet update with a focus on World Habitat Day and the theme Public Spaces for All. The aim was to highlight the innovative development of housing and associated public spaces.

The General Assembly of Partners with the support of Ford Foundation held meetings during the occasions of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day to discuss the New Urban Agenda. Partner Constituent Groups meetings and reports, as well as plenary sessions, were scheduled within this meeting. The event took place at the New School

Zambia

The Youth Care and Community Prevention Program (YCCPP) carried out community sensitization activities, drama performances, and speeches from invited guests to mark World Habitat Day.

2. At the global level

The United Nations Department of Economic Affairs commemorated the UN International Day of Older Persons (AUNIDOP) during Urban October. The event took place on 15 October, under the theme Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment. The 2015 celebration of the 25th anniversary of International Day of Older Persons (IDOP), in anticipation of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in October 2016, focused not only on the impact of the new urban environment on older persons, but also the impact of older persons on the new urban environment.

Arcadis organized the 'Urban Solutions' challenge on October 28 to celebrate Urban October 2015. Over a 24-hour period, workshops were held in Arcadis office in 13 cities around the world - New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Rotterdam, Berlin, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Sydney, Dubai and Sao Paulo. Hundreds of people from all areas of the business shared ideas, expertise and urban solutions for future cities - our future cities. The sessions focused on three themes that make every city livable, competitive, and sustainable: resilience, mobility and regeneration.

3. At UN Headquarters in New York

The Global Observance of World Habitat Day took place in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, where a high-level discussion covering key developments in the area of public space design was held. The event was organized by UN-Habitat, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, the American Institute of Architects New York, UN Women, the Institute of Global Homelessness, the United Cities and Local Governments and the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations. Among the invited guests, panelists and moderators were the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Joan Clos, the Deputy Executive Director of UN Women Ms. Lakshmi Puri, the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Mr. Antonio Patriota, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Mr. Orhan Pamuk among others. This event was an outcome of a partnership with UN Women's global initiative, the HeForShe campaign.

4. At UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi

UN-Habitat hosted the premier of Urban Nights, a World Habitat Day celebration on 5 October 2015 at Pawa 254 in Nairobi. Urban Nights is an idea for an outdoor film screening in the style format of screen on the green. This concept was selected to highlight the theme of World Habitat Day - Public Spaces for All, and as an example of how citizens can utilize existing public spaces, increasing social cohesion. Urban Nights consisted of six film screening sessions running in different locations in Nairobi throughout the month of October. The premier event also featured a Panel Discussion, with representatives from UN-Habitat, UN Women, Nairobi City County Government, media and the private sector. The main partners in this initiative included: Nairobi City County, FilmAid, Slum Film Festival, Udada Festival, UN Women Kenya and Urban Bites.

UN-Habitat organized the Urban October Design Competition, activity running for 31 days in the month of October. The competition was aimed at highlighting and recognizing designs and designers that will best depict the state of our towns and cities today. The artworks focused on the theme of World Habitat Day, Public Spaces for All and of World Cities Day, Designed to live together. Entries were featured in the UN-Habitat Flickr page. The outcome of the competition was as follows:

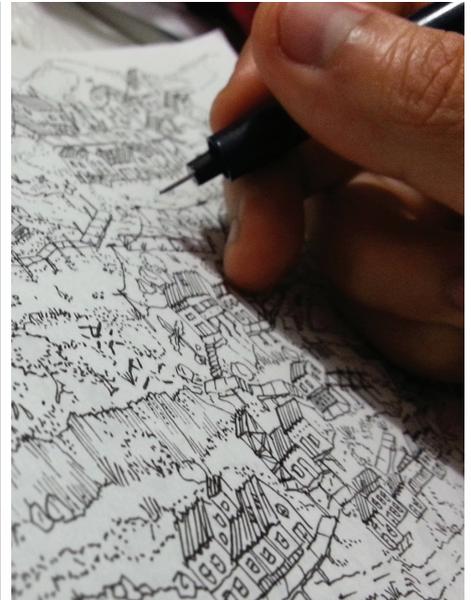
Winner: 'Justicia Urbana' by Fabian Todorovic from Chile, an illustration of inequality of the urban space. The image illustrated the inequality of the urban space through the representation of the street and the distribution of the transport space.

1st Runner-up: 'Production and Planification of Public Spaces in Lima's Suburbs', an entry by Lucia Navarro de Corcuera from Spain

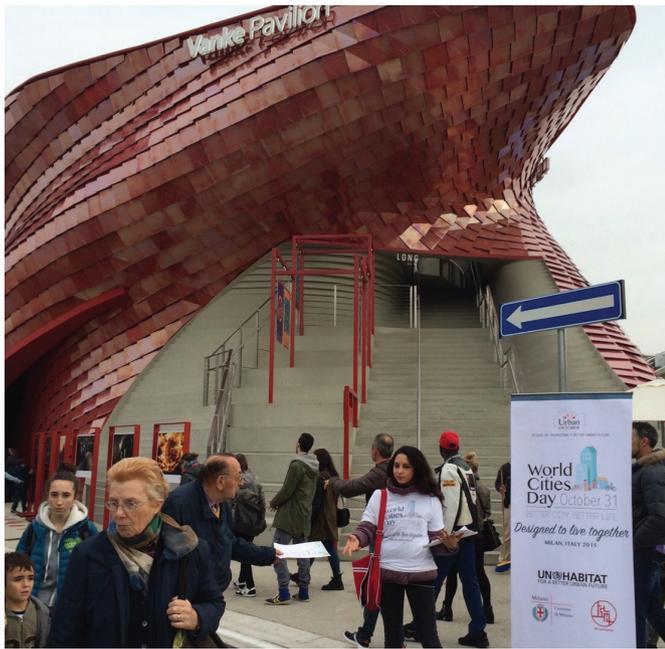
2nd runner-up: 'Common Ground' by Veerle Arts from the United States of America.

UN-Habitat and various United Nations agencies in Nairobi celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October through an Inter-Agency Soccer Tournament. The event was held at the United Nations Recreation Centre in Nairobi. The event format included the main football tournament, and a series of street football skits running concurrently. The event was organised in partnership with Urban Bites.

World Cities Day and Urban October 2015 in pictures









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