

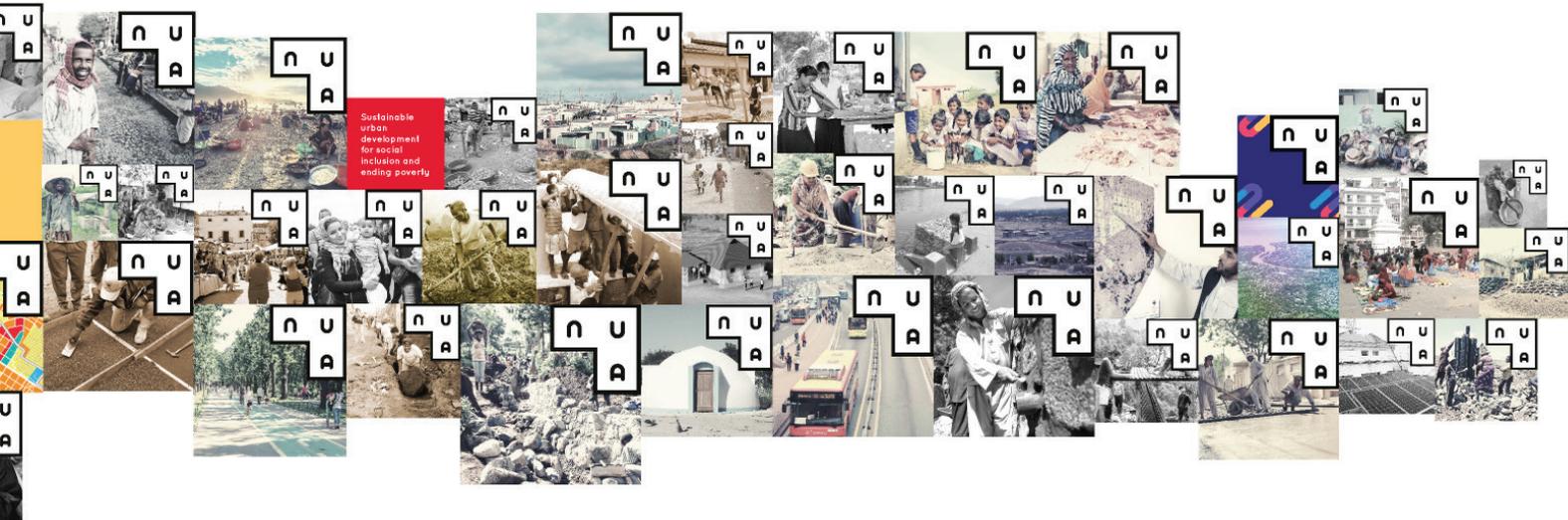
World Cities Day October 31



BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

GUANGZHOU, CHINA 2017





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, is hosted by a different city each year, while regional, national and city level events are 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 2017 was of great significance to UN-Habitat, marking one year after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

World Cities Day 2017 was celebrated under the theme **Innovative Governance, Open Cities**.



Urban Brains project launched during Urban October 2017 as a UN-Habitat agency-wide initiative is implemented in Kuala Lumpur as part of the activities of the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum © UN-Habitat

THE THEME FOR 2017: INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE, OPEN CITIES

Urban governance has been considered a key aspect in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the New Urban Agenda.

The sustainable development of cities is often suffering from several setbacks like rapid population growth, increased urban sprawl, housing shortage, air pollution and traffic congestion, as well as exclusion and unequal access to opportunities, which are continuously challenging each city's existing governance model and their capacity to respond.

The traditional urban governance models have proved out of mode in the urban sustainability efforts. Many countries are working to improve their capacity of local governance, strengthening integrated territorial and urban development, metropolitan and inter-city cooperation, develop innovative citizen participation models and involve multiple parties in their joint pursuit of sustainable development.

The concept of "open city" is also proposed in the New Urban Agenda. A city is supposed to be an open and porous system, with mixed functions and a heterogeneous crowd of people sharing the same space and supporting its co-production. Its quality of life and its maintenance completely depends on the labor force, information and supplies that endlessly flow into it and is processed while shaping the space and enabling continuous transformations. As a

hybrid combining diverse cultures, communities and industries, the city inspires ensuing urban innovation and human development. Open, diversified and cooperative cities are the dominant trend that leads the way for modern urban governance.

It is innovation that drives urban development and modernizes urban governance. Innovative urban governance should adapt and explore multi-stakeholders partnerships approaches, including more flexible and accountable public private partnerships, drawing social capitals to improve the economic efficiency of government funds ensuring equitable impacts of investments.

The management of urban governance should also be improved by introducing new information technologies and data solutions to assist local authorities with more transparent, accountable, participatory and responsive governance systems. Further development of 'smarter cities' should also be pursued in order to improve the public service using new means of technology and to improve efficiency of information sharing mechanisms between the government and the citizens for inclusive urban governance.

This World Cities Day will focus on galvanizing discussions at all levels of government and relevant stakeholders on how to implement concrete initiatives to improve urban governance in the context of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

MESSAGE OF THE UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN-HABITAT ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD CITIES DAY

With more than half of the world's population living in urban areas, we need to rethink the way we want to govern our cities and towns in more innovative ways. We have committed to work together for a better world in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and

the adoption of the New Urban Agenda is giving us a vision on how to build, plan and manage our cities in a more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable way.

The use of technology presents enormous opportunities for more inclusive governance mechanisms, increasing and improving citizen involvement for more efficient and accountable cities. The scope and speed at which people access information and interact among themselves is unprecedented in history, and institutions need to react to these new ways to exercise citizenship.

We should not fear innovation. On the contrary, transparency and open government are strong tools to make cities more efficient and bring more and more people on board.

Citizens and stakeholders can contribute to making cities more inclusive, especially for their most vulnerable residents.

But to make this a success, governments need to open themselves up to the idea of governing together with citizens, civil society and the private sector – as the challenges facing us are too great to be achieved by one actor alone. Examples like crowd-sourcing can help to generate ideas and create fresh approaches to governance and policy-making.

Urban governance requires strong local institutions to take advantage of these opportunities and recognize the possibilities offered and leaders brave enough to embrace the changes.

This World Cities Day celebrates Innovative Governance, Open Cities, promoting the chance to say how we do – and do not – envisage how the cities of our future should be governed. If we open our minds to the possibilities and opportunities open government present, it will contribute significantly to generating a better world for people, planet and prosperity.

GLOBAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD CITIES DAY 2017 IN GUANGZHOU, CHINA

The Global Observance of World Cities Day 2017 was held in Guangzhou, China, on October 31 under the theme 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities'. The event was organized by UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China (MoHURD) and the People's Government of Guangdong Province, and hosted by the Guangzhou Municipal Government.

The opening ceremony of the World Cities Day Forum was attended by H.E. Mr. Wang Menghui, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, Mr. Ma Xingrui, Governor of Guangdong Province and Dr. Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director, as well as dignitaries and participants from more than 40 countries around the World.

The Global Observance of the World Cities Day also featured an Innovative City Governance Practice Exhibition, Mayors' and Experts' Dialogues, a sub-forum on Mainstreaming of the SDGs into China's urbanization processes, a Guangzhou Urban Development Tour and several cultural exchange activities.

During the World Cities Day Forum, the Shanghai Manual 2017 was also launched. The Shanghai Manual – a Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century – provides a review of 'best practices' connected to the theme of World Cities Day.

WORLD CITIES DAY IN PROMOTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

New Urban Agenda Language, Braille and Audio Versions

In commemoration of the first year since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the occasion of World Cities Day was instrumental in promoting the different language versions of the New Urban Agenda as well as its Braille and Audio versions available in the six UN languages. During the Urban October month fresh calls to Governments and other institutions to translate the New Urban Agenda into local languages were made.

Urban October Collage Project

The Urban October Collage Project is a virtual collage based on the Visual Identity of the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The project used social media for a daily publication of project showcasing how the New Urban Agenda is being put into action on the ground. A World Cities Day themed piece promoted the Day and its theme's relation to the New Urban Agenda.

WORLD CITIES DAY ROLE IN PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES THROUGH THE SHANGHAI MANUAL

The Shanghai Manual is an initiative of the United Nations, the International Exhibitions Bureau, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

The first edition of the Shanghai Manual was presented in 2011, following the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, China. The initial purpose of the Manual was for it to serve as a tool to support mayors and urban managers in achieving sustainable urban development in their communities. The second edition was compiled within the context of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the formulation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Shanghai Manual 2016 - A guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century is a collection of case studies, experiences and expertise drawn from around the world on how a sustainable urban future can be created together.

The Shanghai Manual 2017 is fully aligned with the World Cities Day theme on "Innovative Governance: Open Cities" and will be launched during the World Cities Day celebration on 31 October 2017 in Guangzhou.

The World Cities Day is expected to be the platform to annually update and promote relevant work and findings concerning the Shanghai Manual as part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

WORLD CITIES DAY A SIGNIFICANT PART OF URBAN OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

Since 2014, UN-Habitat has promoted the concept of the Urban October. Starting on the first Monday of October with World Habitat Day and finishing on the 31 October with World Cities Day, Urban October is the period when UN-Habitat and its partners in governments, institutions, stakeholders and citizens organize activities and events to raise awareness about sustainable urbanization.

Urban October 2017 celebrations coincided with the first year since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the Habitat III Conference. UN-Habitat and its partners held a large number of events all over the world throughout the month, celebrating World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and Urban October, as well as highlighting achievements in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

WORLD CITIES DAY AND URBAN OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

More than 100 World Cities Day and World Habitat Day activities were organized by partners in 44 countries around the world during Urban October 2017. Here is a summary of the events and activities;

Angola

UN-Habitat organized a series of activities throughout the month of October to sensitize the participants on 2017 theme of World Habitat Day, 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes'. Some of the activities carried out include an Urban Breakfast, a Round Table, Urban Walk, Urban Night among others.

The Urban Breakfast event was held in Luanda on 2 October the occasion of World Habitat Day. The event was organized in collaboration with the Cultural Center Brasil-Angola. In attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Housing and Territorial Development. The event aimed at raising awareness on Sustainable Urban Development marking one year after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. The selected theme was 'Transforming our cities: Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs' and featured a number of short presentations from the UN-Habitat National Office and the World Urban Forum Secretariat, as well as from representatives of civil society organizations, Academia as well as from the Ministry. The Ministry presented progress on a programme currently implemented with UN-Habitat and soon evolving into a UN joint collaboration at country level including several UN agencies based in Angola.

The Universidade Lusada de Angola (ULA) held the 12th Architecture Forum on 3 October 2017, under the theme 'The New Urban Agenda'. Mr. Roi Chiti, a representative from the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum secretariat, participated as a keynote speaker on the topics of the New Urban Agenda, and the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) which was held from 7-13 February, 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) celebrated Urban October on 4 October 2017 whereby UN-Habitat presented the United Nations Joint Programme for Sustainable Urban Development. The Joint Programme for Sustainable Urban Development was developed alongside the Host Country Programme Document for Angola prepared by UN-Habitat, which was approved by former vice President Manuel Vicente in May 2017. The United Nations Joint Programme for Sustainable Urban Development includes the participation of UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, and UNFPA.

The "Implementing the New Urban Agenda" contest is an initiative to promote and publicize the New Urban Agenda. For this purpose, UN-Habitat Angola incentivized candidates to get to know the New Urban Agenda (NUA) paragraphs better and to suggest diverse ways to implement its principles, instruments, and methodologies

that can be drawn from the New Urban Agenda. The winner of the contest won a copy of the New Urban Agenda in Portuguese as well as a personalized notebook from UN-Habitat Angola.

UN-Habitat held an Urban Walk on Urban Dynamics of the 'Baixa de Luanda'. The Urban Walk was organized on 18 October 2017 at the Baixa de Luanda. The walk provided a platform for discussion about the dynamics and tendencies determining the urban transformation, stagnation or conservation in an area that is considered a historic, economic, political and symbolic center of Luanda and of Angola. The guides for this walk were Professor Angela Mingas, coordinator of the Center for Education and Scientific Investigation in Architecture (CEICA-ULA), and Mr. Thomaz Ramalho of UN-Habitat.

UN-Habitat together with **Urban Cinema** organized a screening of the film *Citizen Jane: Battle for the City*, a documentary about the life of the legendary writer and urban activist Jane Jacobs, who fought to safeguard historic neighborhoods of New York in opposition to the remodeling plans of the relentless Robert Moses during the 1960s. The film was aired on 25 October 2017.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MINUHA) and **UN-Habitat** commemorated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017. The main focus of the Seminar was the Identification and Prioritization of the Principles, Methodologies and Instruments of the New Urban Agenda in the Angolan context. The seminar sought to construct a local New Urban Agenda that translates the principles and instruments of the document into effective mechanisms for urban policies in Angola.

Australia

RMIT University organized the Designing Healthy Liveable Cities Conference from 19-20 October in Melbourne, Australia. The conference showcased the latest research on the key elements of liveable cities. It went a step further, by considering how evidence can be used to improve policy and practice.

Brazil

UN-Habitat with the support of the City of Rio de Janeiro and the City Hall of Niteroi celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017. The event dubbed 'Urban Afternoon' took place in the Auditorium of the Pereira Passos Institute, at Rua Gago Coutinho, 52, Largo do Machado. The theme of the day was 'Innovative Governance and

Open Cities'. The event provided a platform for debates related to innovation, transparency and citizen participation in cities, as well as on the local implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Among those present were representatives from UN-Habitat, and Marilia Ortiz, the Secretary of Planning and Budget of Niteroi.

Cabo Verde

UN-Habitat launched the initiative Local Urban Ambassadors to celebrate World Habitat Day 2017. In this occasion 42 local ambassadors were selected among pop stars, musicians, artists, sports man, slum dwellers, researchers, urban specialists and entrepreneurs. These partners will be UN-Habitat's focal points in their respective communities in Cabo Verde, to advocate for the New Urban Agenda. The event was organized in partnership with the City Council of Praia and was presided over by United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cabo Verde. The event included a city tour and a get together at the informal settlement of Castelo.

Cambodia

The People In Need (PIN), a non-governmental organization in Cambodia celebrated World Cities Day on 19 October 2017, in the city of Phnom Penh. The event was marked through the 'City for All!' Conference, an annual event organized by People In Need (PIN) Cambodia. The conference provided a platform for discussion on sustainable urban development in Cambodia. More than 30 speakers from across Asia were present.

Canada

MGCI Me to We, SDGs Club a School in Toronto organized a World Habitat Day activity for students to express what home meant to them. Approximately 150 students participated in the initiative which involved commenting on a 'What does home mean to you?' banner. The aim of the activity was to help student reflect on housing, and to integrate into the school community new students, particularly those who had emigrated from Syria.

Habitat for Humanity-Vancouver Island North marked World Habitat Day on 2 October 2017 at the Comox Valley and Campbell River ReStore. The event aimed at celebrating home ownership at the local level.

China

UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China (MoHURD) and the People's Government of Guangdong Province organized the Global Observance of World Cities Day 2017. The event was hosted by **Guangzhou Municipal Government** on 31 October 2017 in Guangzhou, China, under the theme 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities'.

Colombia

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017 in Bogota through a seminar named Smart Sustainable Cities and Territories. The Seminar was held under the theme of World Cities Day 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities'. The event aimed at offering a space for inter-institutional, intersectoral and territorial dialogue to analyze the current context, challenges and action potential in the topic of 'Smart Sustainable Cities and Territories'. The expected outcomes included a common vision and understanding of concepts, recommendations for Colombian cities and generation of proposals from a sustainable perspective.

Costa Rica

Centro Para la Sostenibilidad Urbana and Serge Group organized a series of Urban October events in San Jose. More than 25 events, including a stand-up comedy session, were held in a bid to discuss issues surrounding urbanization.

Ethiopia

An Urban Breakfast was held on 30 October in Addis Ababa as part of the world celebration of the Urban October. The event was jointly hosted by the **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa** and **UN-Habitat** in collaboration with the **African Union**. The event had the participation of the **Ethiopian Ministry of Urban Development and Housing**. The event provided the context to present and discuss urban development priority issues for the region and was also an opportunity to connect the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the follow up process with the upcoming Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) to be

held from 7 to 13 February 2018. Participants were drawn from the national government of Ethiopia, the private sector, as well as representatives from countries Permanent Missions based in Addis Ababa. Guest speakers included the Minister for Urban Development and Housing of Ethiopia Dr. Ambachew Mekonen, the Director of Regional Office for Africa of UN-Habitat Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, and the Director of Social Development Policy Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo, the Senior Political Officer at the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission Mr. Issaka Garba. The opening session was followed by a technical session with a panel consisting of the Coordinator of Substantive Programme of the World Urban Forum in UN-Habitat Mr. Roi Chiti, the Chief of Urbanization Section at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Ms. Edlam Yemeru, and Mr. Mohamed Halfani, an International Expert currently supporting the preparation of the New Urban Agenda Implementation Framework for Africa. The event took place at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Abeba.

France

Public Services International (PSI) celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017 by raising awareness among city dwellers on the importance of the work of municipal public service professionals. PSI is an organization that promotes human rights and social justice in conjunction with other partners including the United Nations. The main speaker for the event, PSI Secretary General Rosa Pavanelli, noted the importance of municipal workers; in ensuring urban areas is clean and safe. The Secretary General highlighted the importance of adequate resources, staffing levels and appropriate equipment for delivery of quality services. Some of the issues affecting service delivery by the Municipal workers include low wages, violation of trade union rights, and lack of training and safe equipment.

Ghana

The Network for Promotion of Agriculture and Environmental Studies celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017 in Accra. The event aimed at sharing information and to educate communities on sustainable development.

India

The World Bank (Global Platform for Sustainable Cities)

organized the 2nd GPSC Annual Meeting on World Cities Day, 31 October 2017 in New Delhi. Currently comprised of 27 cities across 11 pilot countries, the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC), supports cities in their efforts to adopt an integrated approach to urban planning and financing. Led by the World Bank and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in collaboration with development partners, the GPSC promotes sustainable development amidst rapid urbanization and works with practitioners and thought leaders from around the world in developing solutions for sustainable urban growth. At the annual forum, mayors and city leaders convene with experts from financial institutions, international organizations, UN agencies and the private sector, to share best practices in sustainable development planning and discuss policy options towards a common vision of urban sustainability. The official opening of the GPSC Annual Meeting took place in the morning of October 31. The theme of the 2017 forum was 'Innovation & Smart Solutions for Urban Sustainability' which was illustrated through the many scheduled events, including a Mayors' RoundTable, high-level panel discussions and a series of in-depth learning events.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh India celebrated World Habitat Day by an inauguration of One Lakh EWS houses in the state of Andhra Pradesh. In this initiative, the Government of Andhra Pradesh committed to provide Permanent houses to all eligible families by 2022.

Social Good Summit marked World Cities Day on the 31 October 2017 under the theme 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities'. The aim was to highlight the important role of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion.

Integral University based in Lucknow India, commemorated World Habitat Day on 5 October 2017 by organizing a seminar on 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes' with a focus on 'Housing for Masses; issues and challenges'. Among the guests were the Founding Vice Chancellor of Integral University, Prof. S. W. Akhtar and Prof. Jamal Mohammad Arif, Pro Vice Chancellor, Integral University. The main speakers included Former Chief Architect Planner U.P. Housing Board Ar. Arun K. Pachauri, Veteran Architect & Academician Prof. D.C. Thapar, the Deputy General Manager of HUDCO Regional Office in

Lucknow Dr. Arun K. Rana, Practicing Architect and Urban Designer in Lucknow Ar. Rajat Kant. One of the topics highlighted was the need for solutions to combat housing issues arising due to unaffordable housing developments. Among the solutions proposed were the implementation of policies, framing-in of areas and use of specific development control by-laws for maintaining the architectural ethos and character of the social fabric. The Department of Architecture took the opportunity to exhibit the Integral University students' work which were viewed and commended by senior architects and town planners of Lucknow.

Indonesia

Research Institute of Policy Studies organized a seminar in Jakarta to propose policy recommendations that can be adopted by policy makers, from national and sub national government. It was also meant to encourage city planners to learn from Surabaya City's experiences on how to vision a livable city and execute concrete actions to accomplish it.

I.R Iran

The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) led the Seventeenth Conference on Housing Policies and the Commemoration of World Habitat Day on 10 October in Tehran. The opening ceremony, held in the Roads, Housing and Urban Development Research Center (known as BHRC) was attended by the Minister of Roads and Urban Development Dr. Abbas Akhundi, Senior Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) officials, Members of Parliament, university professors and experts in the fields of housing and urban planning, and the Chief of UN-Habitat office in Iran Mr. Siamak Moghadam. The event focused on the theme of World Habitat Day 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes'. The Minister of Roads and Urban Development extensively addressed the issue of housing in the country. MoRUD is an annual Conference on Housing Policies focuses on integrated housing issues such as financing, affordable housing, informal settlements, land policies, urban economy, housing market and human settlements. UN-Habitat presented a paper on the concept of low income housing and their coverage in the Vancouver Declaration, Habitat Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

Italy

The Government of Italy commemorated Urban October during the 34th Annual National Assembly of the Italian Association of Municipalities. The event took place in the city of Vicenza from 11-13 October 2017 under the theme 'Cities point one: Imagine tomorrow, Govern today'. The event's program was structured across three main areas; a) Cities and the Nature, b) Cities and the Economy, and c) Cities and the People. It was opened by the President of the Republic of Italy with participation of hundreds of Mayors coming from big and medium size cities as well as from small towns. The event featured the participation of UN-Habitat in the session related to the economy of cities, with an intervention from Roi Chiti, Coordinator of the Substantive Programme of the World Urban Forum, who elaborated on the New Urban Agenda's paradigm shift that sees the cities as engines of economic growth and prosperity. In particular the discussion focused on value generation and job creation as a result of well guided urban development processes, including a new approach to productivity that factor in the spatial variable. The session including, among others, interventions from the city mayors of Brescia, Chiavenna, Pisa and Lecce as well as the President of Philip Morris Italia and the Director of the State Property Agency, was closed by a key note speech from the Italian Minister of Labour and Social Policies.

Kenya

UN-Habitat organized an Urban Breakfast to celebrate World Habitat Day in Nairobi. Opening remarks were made by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Joan Clos, and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya H.E. Mr. Anthony Andanje. The session was followed by a substantive discussion on the theme of World Habitat Day 'Housing Policies: Affordable Housing'. The Panel included the Advisor, Policy and Delivery at the County Government of Kisumu Mr. George Okong'o, the Chief Executive Officer of Safaricom Sacco Dr. George Ochiri, and the Director of GROOTS Kenya Ms. Fridah Githuku.

UN-Habitat organized a workshop to address the need for coordination between the local and national government in the development and implementation of the financial strategies, for sustainable city-wide slum upgrading. The UN-Habitat through its

Slum Upgrading Unit took this chance to present a new Financing tool for citywide improvements. The main message of the workshop was, 'The importance of developing a proper financial system by taking into account the process as a whole and the context of the country'.

Lebanon

UN-Habitat celebrated Urban October by organizing an Urban Breakfast at their offices in Beirut. The event, which was centered on the theme 'Housing and Affordability', was held on 31 October 2017. The guest speaker was Ms. Nadine Bekdache, a practicing designer, urbanist, and a co-founder of Studio for Public Works. Ms. Bekdache made a presentation of a research conducted by Public Works' titled 'Rent controlled housing stock: an opportunity for diverse housing programs'. The presentation was followed by a discussion with attendees over breakfast.

Madagascar

The Government of Madagascar celebrated World Cities Day on 24 November 2017 in three major cities; Antananarivo, Tulear and Toamasina. The main theme highlighted in these events was 'Urbanization and structural transformation'. Among those present were the Special Advisers for the President of the Republic of Madagascar and the Prime Minister. During the event, the Director of Regional Planning (DGATE), revealed the findings in a report commissioned by DGATE. The notable findings include the rapid development of cities and that two thirds of the country's GDP are generated by the tertiary sector operating at the city level. The Director further suggested viewing urbanization from a different perspective in order to counter the various challenges such as high population growth, social inequalities, exposure to climate change.

The children and youth representatives raised a concern on the the congestion in public spaces and streets attributed to hawking and poor planning which resulted in insecurity, lack of housing and spaces for entertainment. The Minister in charge of Presidential Projects acknowledged the intrusion on public spaces and cited that the government was taking into consideration means by which cities can sufficiently host 2/3rds of the population in the next 20-30 years.

Malaysia

Think City, a community-based organization from Kuala Lumpur marked Urban October on the 25 October 2017 by engaging in a laneway improvement program. The lane ways, which are usually used for illegal parking among other activities, can now be used by the neighboring cafes for more productive reasons. The demonstrative project also provided feedback from the community as it progresses into the pilot stage.

On the 28 October 2017, Think City also held two talks on connectivity in the city of Kuala Lumpur. Six speakers, from diverse age groups and backgrounds, delivered speeches for the two sessions.

Mauritius

The Port Louis Development Initiative (PLDI), a community based organization in Australia, celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017 in Port Louis. PLDI recognizes cities as the underlying foundation for catalyzing societal and economic regeneration. The organization took this opportunity to open a branch of its offices in Port Louis Mauritius and to launch numerous projects which aim at improving the residents' quality of life. Featured projects include Chake Mobile Application, a cultural calendar of events in the city and Suspended Green platform which aims at planting 10,000 trees in the city.

Mozambique

UN-Habitat celebrated World Habitat Day in Maputo by organizing panel presentations and discussion with the public over the subject Adequate and Affordable Housing in Mozambique.

Morocco

Dokup, a global digital platform for eHealth, medical services and advice, commemorated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017. Dokup took the opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of cities and the involvement of youth in sustainable urban development. The event was held in Casablanca.

Niger

The Government of Niger commemorated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017. The Minister of the City and Urban Sanity, Mr. Habi Mahamadou Salissou delivered a message focusing on advancing urbanization and meeting the challenges that arise from it. He noted that a well-designed city promotes social inclusion, equality and diversity. It was for that reason that the Directorate for the Improvement of the Living Environment was intergrated with the Directorate of Social Welfare. He stated that it sets a new framework for sustainable urban development and suggests ways of improvement for the organization, management and lives in the urban setting. Minister Salissou paid tribute to the Territorial Communities Support Project (PACT) which has continually supported the Government of Niger in developing Planning Tools for the 26 municipalities in the Dosso and Maradi Regions.

Nigeria

United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth Nigeria celebrated World Habitat Day on 5 October 2017 through an event focusing on role of young people in housing policies and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at all levels in achieving the SDG Goals in Nigeria. The aim was to celebrate the theme of World Habitat Day 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes' and to identify present-day housing policy in Nigeria and identify interventions towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Group also ought to identify, deliberate and list out an outcome document which can be used as recommendations for all stake holders towards the implementation of better housing policies that can be affordable for all.

Lagos State Government commemorated World Habitat Day 2017 on 9 October 2017 the under the theme 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes'. On this occasion, the State Government pledged commitment to provision of affordable housing. The event was graced by officials from the Lagos State Government, including the Governor Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode, and representatives from UN-Habitat.

Kpakpando Foundation, a community based organization that advocates for equal rights for persons with disabilities, celebrated World Cities Day in Abuja Nigeria on the 30 October 2017. This day also marked the organization's 12th Anniversary. The key note speaker was Mrs. Patricia Ovuoke Oseh, the Director General of Kpakpando Foundation and Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities International Inc. who took the opportunity to highlight the achievements realized by the organization. The speaker especially noted the role of UN DSPD/DESA in recognition of the rights of people living with disabilities in Nigeria, and presented the UN DSPD/DESA Toolkit on Disability for Africa.

Awka Capital Territory Development Authority celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017. Among those present were the Governor of Anambra State, Willie Obiano, his deputy-Prof. Nkem Okeke and Arch. Michael Okonkwo. A panel discussion was held with a focus on World Habitat day theme, Housing Policies: Affordable Homes, and specific theme 'Enabling future cities to be smart; Strategies to prevent urban poverty and promote social inclusion and wellbeing.' These conversations highlighted the application of good strategies to combat the effects of urbanization in Anambra state and other major cities in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) commemorated the World Habitat Day on 5 October 2017 at the SGF Hall in Abuja. The main speaker was the National President of the NITP, Mr Luka. B. Achi, who emphasized on the need for good and affordable housing. He also noted the importance of Town Planning professionals working in collaboration with the identified stakeholders for the achievement of NITP's mandate.

Norway

Habitat Norway organized a series of events to celebrate World Habitat Day and Urban October. One of the events was a conference organized on 2 October 2017, in conjunction with the Norwegian, Oslo Housing & City Planning Association. The conference sought to address urbanization and affordable housing. Other activities, such as Urban October in Christian Sand and Stafanger: local follow-up of global business challenges took place from 2-31 October 2017 in Oslo.

Philippines

UN-Habitat held the First Urban Breakfast in Asia-Pacific on 17 October 2017 in Quezon City, Manila. The event kicked off the first training workshop for national government partners of Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Designs, a German government funded project with UN-Habitat Philippines as the lead implementer in partnership with national government and five partner cities. Locally dubbed Kapihan at Usapang Urban (Coffee and Urban Conversation), the Urban Breakfast focused on the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) as a key platform to review progress cities have made in implementing the New Urban Agenda since its adoption in 2016 and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Slovenia

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects and Town and Spatial Planning Association of Slovenia celebrated World Habitat Day on 2 October 2017 in the city of Ljubljana. The main activities included the launch of the Slovenian translation of the New Urban Agenda and discussion about the role and future of Slovenian cities and towns. The discussion included professionals, national and local officials. The event was also the opening of Ministry's annual project. The project aims at connecting different events that take place throughout October and which address spatial and urban development themes. The main theme for 2017 was 'Green Space Connects Us'.

South Africa

The Government of South Africa through the national Department of Human Settlement and Department of Cooperative governance and Traditional Affairs working together with eThekweni Municipality and other strategic partners. The partners include the following; South African Local Government Association and South African Cities Network which hosted the national observation of World Cities Day on 31 October 2017 in Durban. The Government and all partners aim to use this day to facilitate discussion on the national implementation for the New Urban Agenda. The day had

three sessions. There was a high-level session where political leadership had a roundtable discussion on the New Urban Agenda followed by a moderated session on the implementation plan and lastly the community session where political leadership with all participants visited the identified community to celebrate and hand over a revitalized public open space. The World Cities Day celebration was part of eThekweni Urban Week, which comprised the South Africa Cities Urban Conference on 30 October and the 2nd Africa Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) Learning Exchange held from 1-3 November 2017. The main message from the speakers was to promote better planning by anticipating urban growth for future change and ensure that urbanisation remains a positive force for sustainable development. Changing the outlook of our cities will require us to use the spaces creatively and also contribute to deep development, said Deputy Minister Nel, while highlighting the need to design and manage the urban spaces in a way that makes the citizens feel safe.

Spain

Junta Municipal Tetun organized the 10th Series of Architecture in Tetuan District of Madrid. Scheduled activities included: A lecture from Margarita de Luxan about climate change, housing and city held on 2 October 2017; the presentation of the facilities in the district by Metro de Madrid held on 6 October 2017, A guided walks around the Canal Bajo of water supply among the Tetuan District which took place on 14 October 2017, and a guided tour held by the Tiflogologic ONCE museum Workshops about public spaces for children have also been organized on 21 October 2017.

UN-Habitat celebrated World Cities Day by organizing an event on the topic 'Innovative Governance, Open cities: the case of opened Andalusian Cities'. The event focused on discussing how cities from Andalucía are deploying innovative projects of governance in the different regions. Hosted by Sevilla City Council and with the participation of multiple mayors of Andalusian Cities, the event showed and debated new ways of approaching to the concept of Innovative cities.

LaVola and UN-Habitat celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October through the 'My Dream City' activity. The activity provided a platform for children to reflect on their experiences living in a city

and discuss the city they need. It aims to change the perception of the role of children in shaping cities, a role that has traditionally been non-existent, while creating awareness of the importance of their inclusion and contributing to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. Recycled blocks will be used to build a child friendly space, followed by a debate that will encourage children to share their ideas and concerns.

UN-Habitat organized a Session of Urban Cinema at the Madrid Official Architects College. The session broadcast two UN-Habitat videos The Quito Papers and Urban Labs, and the movie Citizen Jane, the battle for the City, whose broadcasting rights have been acquired for the occasion. The event focused on messages promoting World Habitat Day 2017 theme and the Urban October month.

The first Sunday of November was dedicated to the World Cities Day at a publicly open fair. The World Cities Day Fair is designed for families to celebrate this international day maintaining that creating a livable city is not only about dreaming, it is also about taking responsibilities from all sides and citizens play an important role. With this activity, families played and participated in workshops with reused everyday elements and experimental materials. The purpose was to raise awareness about how children and families can improve life in cities with small but important actions.

Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona celebrated World Cities Day on 3 November 2017 through an event for the restoration of the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site. The restoration is an exemplary process in terms of quality, sustainability and energy efficiency. The enhancement of the heritage, the application of new technologies and the latest advances in energy saving are the main distinguishing features. A good example of this commitment to sustainability is the geothermal system designed for the air conditioning of all of the buildings in the complex. The geothermal facility at Sant Pau, one of the most important in Europe, makes use of the constant temperatures of the lower layers of the subsoil to heat or cool a closed water circuit, resulting in savings of up to 40% on the usual consumption of a conventional gas installation. In addition, the buildings are equipped with systems to regulate consumption on the basis of user demand, such as sensors and centralised management and control systems.

Barcelona Global hosted an Urban Talk on 2 November 2017 in Barcelona. The Urban Talk contained presentations and discussions by renowned urbanists, economists, sociologists, artists and thinkers around topics on urbanization as presented from a wide array of professional perspectives. The event aimed at building reflections on this year's World Cities Day theme: 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities.'

On the occasion of World Cities Day on 31 October 2017, **UN-Habitat** opened its doors to members of the public visiting the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site in Barcelona where the office is situated. Visitors were welcomed by the team and given an introduction to their work and the importance of urbanization. During the day, the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site projected videos at various points across the site related to urbanization and urban development.

UN-Habitat and **Barcelona partners** celebrated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017 through a week-long programme named The World Cities Day Fair running to 5 November 2017. The World Cities Day Fair invited all site visitors, particularly families, to celebrate the international day by playing and participating in workshops with reused everyday elements and experimental materials. The purpose was to raise awareness on how children and adults can improve life in cities with small but important actions.

Sri-Lanka

The Government of Sri-Lanka through the Ministry of Housing and Construction celebrated World Habitat Day on 2 October, 2017 at Sanath Jayasuriya Stadium in Matara. In attendance was Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Minister of Housing and Construction, Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media, Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardhana, Sate Minister of Public Enterprise Development, Hon. Buddhika Pathirana, Member of Parliament for Matara District among others. The event provided an opportune moment for handing out housing loans to 1000 low income households in Matara.

Sudan

Khalafalla Omer, a member of Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) organized a session to discuss the challenges of developing better housing policy in Khartoum city with policy makers and urban actors in Sudan. The session held on 17 September 2017 at the headquarter of National Fund for Housing & Reconstruction

at Khartoum city focused on the topic 'Towards Inclusive Housing Policy: Khartoum Case Study'. Stakeholders from different sectors such as the National Fund for Housing & Reconstruction along with the heads of State Fund for Housing & Reconstruction, Engineering Council, Housing Research Center and UN-Habitat were present. The main presentation was by Khalafalla Omer, a member of RTPI.

The Ministry of Urban Development organized an event on 13 September 2017 in Khartoum, leading up to Urban October 2017. Responding to a meeting invitation received from Mr. Hassan Hilal, the Minister of Urban Development, a group of stakeholders from different urban field aspects met to participate in reviewing the proposed road map to develop Sudan National Urban Policy (SNUP 2018-2031). Among the presenters were Mr. Salah Mahmoud the National Expert, Mr. Hassan Hillal, the Minister of Urban Development, Mr. Wael Al-Ashhab, the Head of Country Program at UN-Habitat among others.

The meeting participants listed the following recommendations required to develop SNUP:

- Establish urban observatory centers in the cities of Sudan
- Organize a workshop to identify urban indicators necessary to monitor the urbanism features
- Set up appropriate methodology for data collection process
- Create participatory platforms during the process of developing SNUP
- Develop a clear definition of Sudan urbanism
- Determine the current urban statuses of Sudan.

In conclusion, the meeting outcomes send promising urban future for Sudan. However, there is still a lot to do with regard the federal governance, transparency and fair distribution of wealth and power to ensure appropriate implementation of SNUP.

Sweden

The Swedish Institute Network for Future Global Leaders (SINFGL) Local Network at Blekinge Institute of Technology collaborated with PlanKan, the Planning Students' Body, to organize World Cities Day Celebrations in Karlskrona City. The event, which happened on 31 October 2017, brought together different stakeholders of urban

development from students, academia, civil society, private sector and the general public to celebrate the theme of World Cities Day 2017 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities.

Switzerland

The UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

commemorated World Habitat Day on 2 October, 2017 in Geneva. Some of the activities planned included an Urban Breakfast meeting and an exhibition. The Urban Breakfast focused on the theme 'Making our cities work: Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals in the UNECE region'. Thereafter, the exhibition was conducted with a focus on 'The Habitats Within' which highlights the importance of a 'habitat' as a crucial element to one's identity. The key speakers were Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva, Ms. Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary, and Ms. Sharmishta Sivaramakrishnan, Photographer and author of the exhibition 'Geneva: The Habitats Within'.

Togo

The Republic of Togo celebrated World Cities Day in the Greater Lomé on October 31, 2017. The event was jointly organized by Gulf Prefecture and the Lomé City Council and focused on the theme, 'Sustainable Urban Development of Greater Lomé by 2035: Challenges and Prospects'. The event was organized to raise awareness on the issues and challenges of Urbanization. It also seeks to introduce concepts presented in the New Urban Agenda and incorporation into Agenda 2063 of the African Union on Sustainable Urban Development. The Mayor of the City of Lomé, Rear-Admiral Fogan K. Adegnon, lauded the initiative in light of the effects urbanization has had on the City of Lomé. The Representative of the Minister of Territorial Administration, Mr. Touh, encouraged the continuous annual commemoration of the World Cities Day as it provides a basis for introduction of initiatives and new participative approaches of common development in Togo.

United Kingdom

The University of Warwick held a half-day event to showcase cities research at Warwick. Besides offering the opportunity to hear more about the wide variety of research being undertaken in the cities

space, this event also offered the opportunity to advance university wide relationships and to learn more about research opportunities linked to cities.

Sound Diplomacy hosted an open doors event at their office in Shoreditch to launch their guide to becoming a music city. The event commemorated World Cities Day on 31 October 2017.

International Growth Centre hosted a Twitter chat on the central role of innovative governance for urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion. As governments in many developing countries struggle to keep pace with the demands of rapidly urbanizing cities, questions about the governance of cities have magnified in significance. Local and municipal governments are expected to deliver an ever-expanding range of infrastructure and services to enhance both the livability and productivity of cities. In this context, innovation in managing the urbanization process and in policies to support inclusive growth in cities is crucial. The event addressed these questions:

- Can different municipal structures prove more or less effective in managing rapid urban growth? What can national governments do to help facilitate effective urban governance?
- How can cities improve their accountability to citizens in delivering services and making large scale investments?
- And how can big data help policymakers address the needs of rapidly growing cities?

The event was held to celebrate World Cities Day on 31 October 2017.

United States of America

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia hosted the Philadelphia's World Heritage on 5 October 2017 to address the question what it mean for tourism in their neighborhood or community. Philadelphia is the United States' first World Heritage City. The event was an opportunity to hear from speakers familiar with neighborhood and community development, historic preservation, and tourism and hospitality. This event is part of GlobalPhilly 2017 in partnership with the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia Habitat III Program and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Global Forum on Human Settlements hosted the 12th Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony (GFHS - XII) on 30-31 October at the UN headquarters in New York City. The event, which was organized to celebrate World Cities Day, was centered on 'Effectively Planning and Managing Urban Spatial Development to Implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and New Urban Agenda'. GFHS - XII was jointly organized by the Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS), the Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the UN, the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the UN (AU), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the World Association of Non-governmental Organizations (WANGO), the Better City Institute (BCI) and many more. The GFHS - XII consisted of closed consultation, opening ceremony, high-level dialogue, sub-forums, recommendations and summaries, exhibition, awards ceremony, field visits and studies. GFHS - XII addressed and tackled the following issues:

- Integrated, polycentric, and balanced territorial development policies, strategies and practices;
- Safe, accessible, green and quality public spaces
- Improve city environment and resilience through resource efficiency
- International Green Model City Initiative
- Low-carbon city and new energy development
- Inclusive urban renewal
- Sustainable tourism
- Smart city
- Characteristic town
- Women and Children in the Rapidly Urbanizing World, and many more

UN-Habitat, the Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations and **A24** screened The Florida Project, a new incisive film from the studio of Academy Award-winning Moonlight, and host a panel discussion to illustrate the challenge of 'leaving no one behind' and the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals for cities aiming to be sustainable and inclusive. The Florida Project film, directed by Sean Baker and starring Willem Defoe and a group of charismatic

children, provides a gripping glimpse of the everyday lives of the poor in sprawling, exurban Orlando. The dystopian landscape of inequality that it portrays offers a searing critique of policies and planning that have deepened segregation and homelessness and, ultimately, child welfare and sex work. The free screening of this film took place on 20 October 2017 at 6 p.m., followed by a conversation between Director Sean Baker, the Ambassador of Slovakia to the United Nations Mr. Michal Mlynar, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat Dr. Aisa Kacyira, and leading urban thinkers Ms. Saskia Sassen and Mr. Richard Plunz on how socioeconomic policies related to affordable housing, decent jobs and transit access go hand-in-hand with urban form.

The National Democratic Institute launched its' global Women Mayors' Network (WoMN) on the occasion of World Cities Day on 31 October 2017. The Women Mayors' Network (WoMN) is an international, nonpartisan peer network to support women who are running governments at the urban level and who are #LeadingDifferently. WoMN open to current or former women mayors of nationally significant urban centers. It offers members a space for networking, and a platform for policy forums, innovation, cross-regional collaboration, and lesson learning. WoMN members had access to technical expertise that is aimed at enhancing and deepening their effectiveness as executive officers. The WoMN will host a biennial summit where members can meet, connect and innovate. By harnessing the reach of its worldwide membership leading a rapidly urbanizing global population, the Network will be a global political force working to build democratic resilience through inclusive and accountable urban government.

Habitat for Humanity-Lehigh Valley commemorated World Habitat Day at ReStore, 1053 Grape Street, Whitehall on 2 October 2017. The event sought to capture attention on the need of adequate housing at Lehigh Valley and around the world.

Zambia

Habitat for Humanity Zambia organized a Banker's Build event, where financial institutions in Zambia come together; to discuss ways to contribute staff manpower, time and financial resources. The purpose is to provide simple yet decent housing units for beneficiary families identified as being vulnerable, caring for orphans. The construction takes place in urban informal settlements, often termed as slums in Zambia. This year two families will be supported, and later in the month, we expect financial contributions for water points, to provide access to safe and clean drinking water.

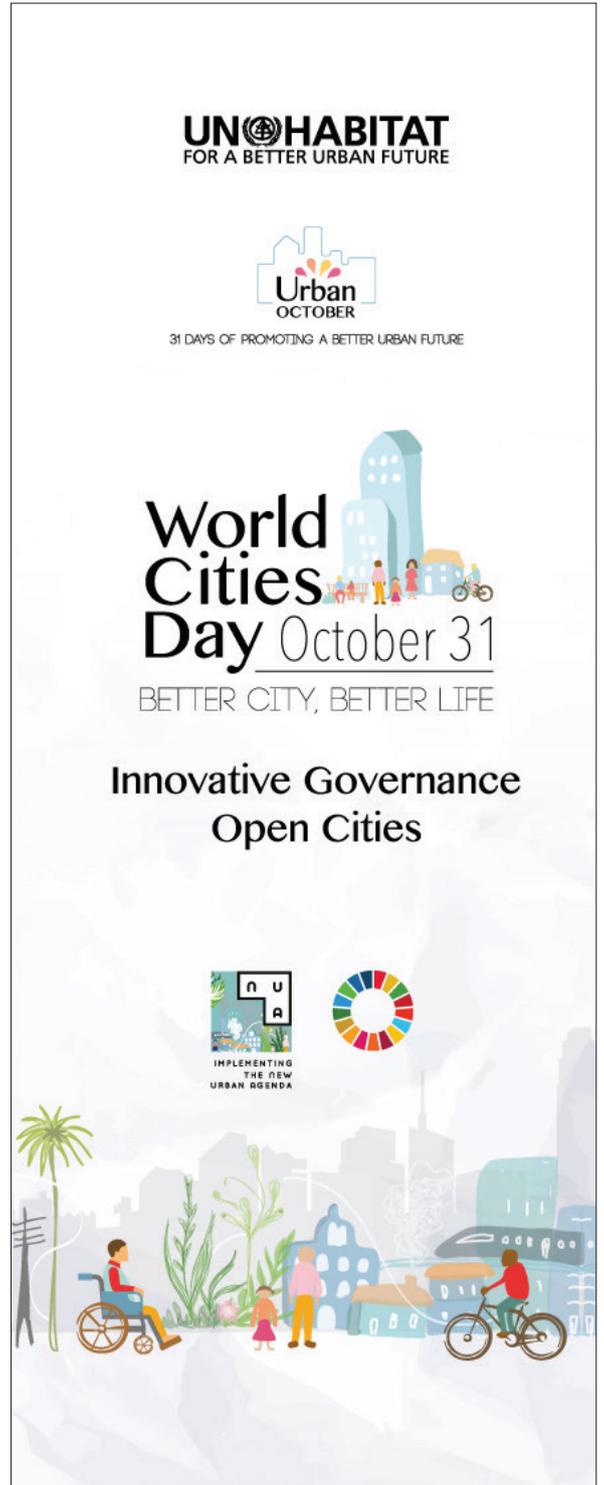
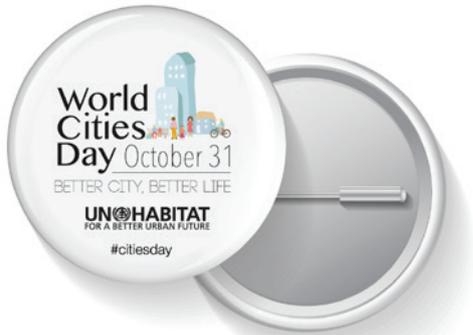
WORLD CITIES DAY AND URBAN OCTOBER 2017 IN PICTURES







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