

AT THE HEART OF THE CITY

Mayors on the urban future





A **REPORT** FROM THE MAYORS ROUNDTABLE AT WORLD URBAN FORUM 6 IN NAPLES, ITALY 3 SEPTEMBER 2012

INDEX

- p 4 Intro UN-Habitat
- p 6 At the epicentre of urbanisation
- p 8 Naples – A city of contradictions
- p 13 Luigi de Magistris: Believing in the power of urban humanity
- p 15 Is there a common vision? A summary of the Mayors Roundtable
- p 22 Muchadeyi Masunda: Emphasising the importance of planning
- p 24 Huguu: Waste management in paradise
- p 26 Challenges & Recommendations
- p 28 Karen Leibovici: Urging Mayors to compromise
- p 30 Come as one: Experts urge Mayors to unify
- p 32 Mpho Parks Tau: Reversing a history of segregation
- P 34 The way toward Habitat III
- P 37 Partners of the Mayors Roundtable



Sao Paulo, Brazil

A PLATFORM FOR SHARING IDEAS

The United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) represents the United Nations on issues relating to Sustainable Urban Development. It is mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

UN-Habitat uses the city as a stage to tackle imperative issues such as inadequate shelter, poverty and lack of basic services. It is this same stage where UN-Habitat strives to harness economic potential and promote the planning of inclusive cities that are better equipped to handle the growing populations flocking to urban centres in hopes of finding meaningful employment.

UN-Habitat works alongside partners such as central and local governments, academia, civil society and public and private sector organisations to promote sustainable urban development. The 'I'm a City Changer' campaign encourages urban citizens to also take responsibility for improving the cities that they live in

and sharing these best practices on a global platform. In its mission to achieve sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat strives to bring these actors from around the world together to share ideas and best practices. No setting exemplifies this better than the World Urban Forum which is held every two years and used as a platform for all actors to shape the global urban agenda and bring forth the most pertinent issues in the urbanisation game.

World Urban Forum 6

World Urban Forum (WUF) 6, held in Naples, Italy was attended by more than 8,000 participants from 151 countries worldwide. As the world is currently facing an urban revolution where for the first time in history more than 50% of the world's population lives in urban centres, we are faced with mounting challenges. The World Urban Forum 6 was UN-Habitat's chance to demonstrate that these challenges can be transformed into opportunities with the right policies, planning, dissemination of experiences and tactful application of

these ideas. Gathered in a multitude of rooms, exhibition spaces, outdoor areas and even in hallways around the venue, academics, policy makers, NGOs, private sector representatives and high profile politicians came together to challenge the current urban agenda and to achieve more meaningful development. Decisions were taken on participatory approaches to urban development, National Urban Policy was promoted as a tool for improving the conditions of urbanisation, discussions were held between NGOs and Local Governments to improve the living conditions for the urban poor and the official launch of the City Prosperity Index marked the occasion with a new tool for measuring the well-being of cities.

Nevertheless, no session was more powerful and dynamic than the Mayors Roundtable which brought together more than 400 Mayors and Local Authority Associations in one room to discuss the needs of municipalities and how they can best be supported in the future. Topics such as the financial architecture in countries,

job creation strategies, women and youth empowerment and the need for an improved partnership between Ministers and Mayors was passionately debated amongst the Roundtable members.

On September 7th, 2012, after the closing of this momentous juncture, the World Urban Forum released newly inspired and eagerly motivated professionals back into the world to spread the idea of a new urban agenda - one that has a pro-poor focus, reinforcing the importance of every individual's right to the city. Mayors now have the opportunity to influence the new urban agenda in their countries and cities before they meet again two years from now at World Urban Forum 7, in Medellín, Colombia. It is expected that these ideas will spread through the community of urban professionals around the world, truly achieving measureable progress that will provide a strong platform for the upcoming United Nations conference Habitat III in 2016 which is mandated to set the stage for urbanisation in the coming 20 years.

AT THE EPICENTRE OF URBANISATION

Just over two centuries back, only a tiny fraction of humanity was urbanised. In 1950, less than a lifetime ago, New York City was the world's only megacity. Today, we have over 20 megacities around the world. It is, however, middle-sized cities that will experience the most drastic urbanisation in years to come. While many city dwellers do indeed live in very large cities, nearly half the world's urbanised population live in towns with less than 500,000 inhabitants. This current surge of people to cities is unprecedented in the history of humanity.

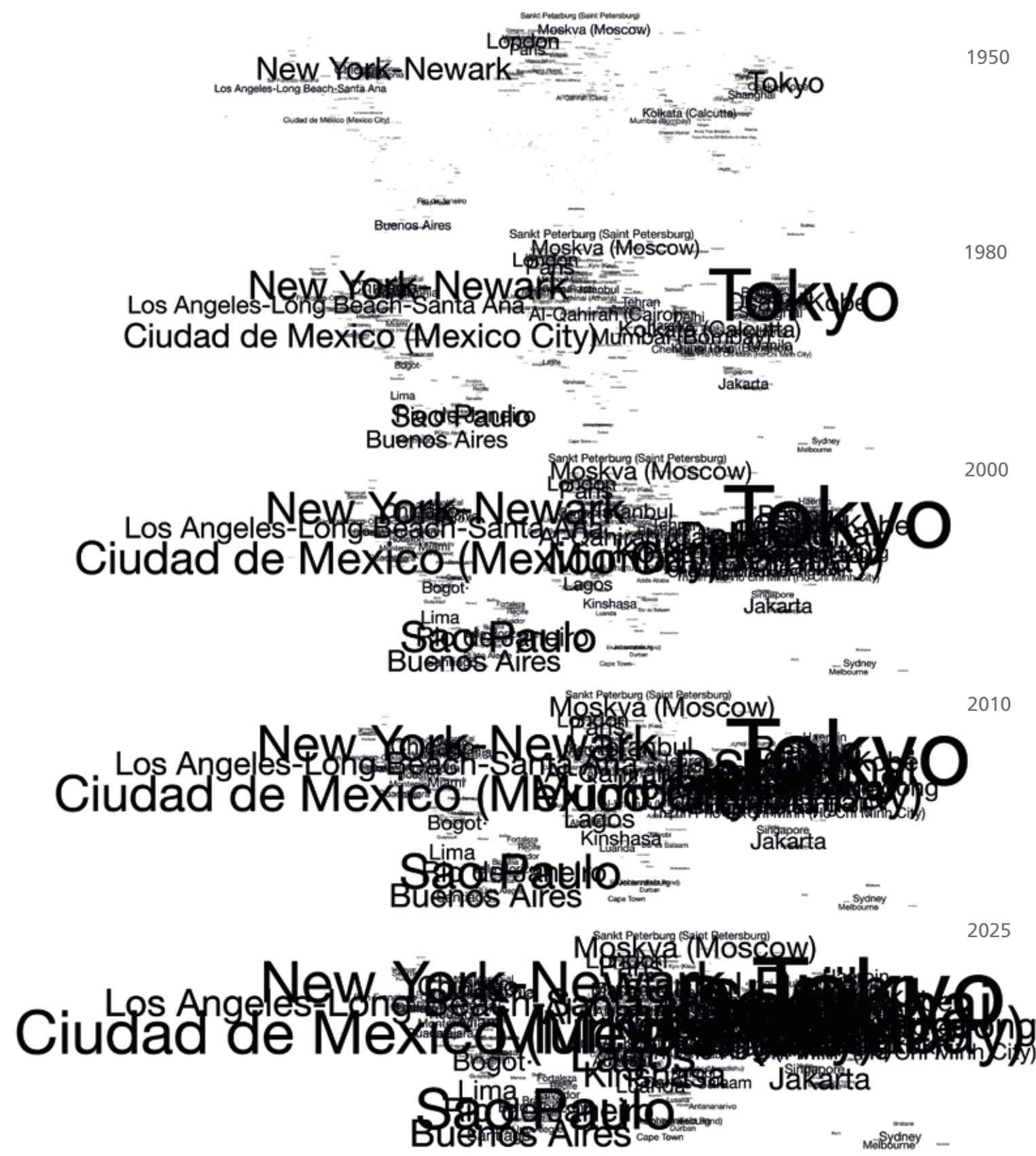
Mayors and the cities they are responsible for are as diverse and varied as the world. But common for all is the direct link to the people in their charge. While some problems differ vastly from city to city, other challenges are similar if not identical: How do I fight inequality? How do I make it easier for citizens to get from A to B? The solutions may need to be sought in various ways, but strengthened cooperation will benefit all.

Mayors know their cities better than anyone else. They face the challenges of their communities on a daily basis and in highly concrete ways. They are the ones implementing national as well as regional and local strategies. They are the doers. They are at the very epicentre of the global urbanisation.

The World Urban Forum is firmly established as the venue for urban professionals to discuss the most current issues. It is a place where networks are built, collaboration opportunities opened up, and vital knowledge transferred. The Mayors Roundtable, one of the most popular events at the WUF, is meant to be just that, a place where great ideas for urban development can be born, discussed and eventually developed.

- First Century BC** Rome's population passes one million, only to dwindle again after 402 AD.
- 1800** Three percent of humanity is urbanised. Urbanisation continues at a rather slow pace for another hundred years.
- 1948** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is adopted by the UN General Assembly, with Article 25 stating that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services..."
- 1950** One megacity; New York City, with population exceeding 10 million.
- 1976** The first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was held in Vancouver, Canada.
- 2002** The first World Urban Forum was held in Nairobi, home to UN-Habitat Headquarters.
- 2006** For the first time in human history, more than half of us live in cities.
- 2012** We have more than 20 megacities. However, nearly half of the world's urbanised population live in cities with less than 500,000 inhabitants.
- 2050** Estimates show 70% of the world's people will be city dwellers. Developing countries will see the most drastic urbanisation.

This series of graphs depict the rapid growth of the worlds largest cities, where the lettering of each area corresponds in size with the number of inhabitants.





NAPLES FACTS

- Naples has been inhabited since the early days of antiquity, making it part of a very exclusive group of towns in the world.
- It has been ruled by, among many others, the ancient Greeks, the Romans and more recently the Spanish, until Italy was united in 1861.
- The population of the city is 960,000, with over 3 million people in the Naples urban area, putting it on the top ten list of the most populated areas in the European Union.
- The city's historic centre is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- Naples has a bustling harbour, with the second-largest flow of passengers after Hong Kong.
- Luigi de Magistris, a former prosecutor, has held the office of Mayor since 2011.

Naples is a living architectural museum. The historical centre, pictured on post-cards and branded a World Heritage Site, still follows the same street plan as it did in antiquity when the city was called Neapolis. The buildings lining the narrow streets today have been standing, and in some cases improved, for many centuries, offering a wealth of information and inspiration for the historically, culturally and architecturally inclined. The difference from other historic sites is that people live and work in the historic centre, making it an integral part of modern Naples.



Naples has always been a city facing and interacting with the sea. In the 19th century, Naples was part of the obligatory tour of the European grand tourists. Still today, Naples is the natural point of access to classical tourist destinations such as Capri and the breath-taking Amalfi coast. At the entrance to Naples from the sea stands Castel dell'Ovo, the oldest remaining fortification in the city. It is located on the peninsula where the original nucleus of the city was founded 600 BC.



Facing the sea at the centre of Naples are the upmarket streets of Via Caracciolo and Via Partenope, lined by the city's best hotels. These streets used to experience near constant traffic congestion, making it impossible for Naples residents to get near the sea inside the city. To secure part of the seafront for pedestrians and cyclists, Mayor Luigi de Magistris has closed a considerable stretch of the streets to motor traffic. A bicycle lane has been opened, which, according to a proud Mayor is 25 kilometres long, "the longest in southern Italy".

Naples is a city of stark contrast. As some residents say: "There is no middle class in Naples. We have only two classes, the rich and the poor". Italy has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Europe, 35 per cent in July 2012, and many of the city's young prefer to go abroad to look for work. In low-income neighbourhoods, such as crime- and drug-ridden Scampia in northern Naples, where elected city leaders have little real power, it is much too easy for unemployed youth to get lured into organized crime.



The ancient and the modern. A traffic sign in Naples historic centre.

LUIGI DE MAGISTRIS MAYOR OF NAPLES

“Naples has to face global challenges, without the money. But I believe that citizens’ active participation is more important than money”

Anything and everything can be achieved through the power of people. Luigi de Magistris has been mayor of Naples since 2011, and wants to recreate the city’s splendour with the active help of his citizens. In the year since he took office, Mayor de Magistris has closed the city’s central avenues by the sea to cars, and opened them to pedestrians.

“Years back, when you took a walk, you could not hear the sea. The sound was overtaken by cars, fumes and honking horns”, he remembers.

“Today, there are families, children; the scenery has changed”. Some attention has also been paid to the city’s historical centre. It is gradually being closed to cars, and de Magistris says he wants to do the same in other neighbourhoods. Along with restricting the motor traffic in the city, a 25-km cycle track has been constructed and was inaugurated during the WUF.

But the resources for transforming Naples are not endless. “The city of Naples has to face global challenges, without the money. But I believe that citizens’ active participation is more important than money”, he says. The Mayor wants to repopulate the city centre, drawing



social and cultural life out into the streets and away from the computers and television sets.

“When we have people who truly live their city, enjoying the music and art of it, they contribute to making streets safer.” And security is an ever-present issue in a city where crime rates are high.

“Some think that security is about putting the military on the street. It is not. It is about making people come out, walk, listen to music. This is also about fighting organised crime – if there are more people out in the streets, there is less space for them to do their dirty tricks”, says de Magistris.

Looking at the years ahead, Mayor de Magistris wants to enhance the city’s cultural potential, reviving and enlarging the historical crafts of Naples and focus on attracting more tourists. He praises the Mayors Roundtable as an important network.

“As directly elected, Mayors are the closest ones to their communities. They can contribute to union between citizens. And in a world crisis, municipalities and Mayors can be effective in developing bottom-up, participating economies”.



Dr Aisa Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, welcomes participants at the Mayors Roundtable, with Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas and Naples Mayor Luigi de Magistris seated next to her.

IS THERE A VISION? MAYORS ON THE URBAN FUTURE

During a few intense hours, Mayors from all over the world shared their ideas on how best to face the urban future.

Well-prepared. And determined to make the most out of their three minute statements. Mayors assembled in the grandiose Sala Italia at the Mostra d'Oltremare complex in Naples had been told by facilitator Femi Oke that anybody speaking for longer than their allotted 180 seconds would be cut off with polite clapping. If they dragged on, the clapping would gradually become less polite.

Three minutes seemed harsh. Topics to be covered were not lightweight. As UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director Dr Aisa Kacyira told attendees in her welcome; "You Mayors are critical stakeholders in the urban agenda. You are the implementers, the practitioners. We need to hear from you!"

Responses to her call were not long in the waiting. After a welcome greeting by Maria Åberg, Secretary General of organising partner International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD), the gathered Mayors and other local leaders, sheltered from the south Italian sun by

heavy, deep red velvet curtains, launched into sharing their ideas on how to face urban challenges in years and decades to come. A few topics soon crystallized.

People. Inclusion.

Co-host and Mayor of Naples, Luigi de Magistris spoke of the power of urban humanity. "I believe in human capital", he said, speaking of the need to reclaim deserted city centres, making sure people can use and enjoy public spaces. He said the best way to make city centres safe is to create opportunities for ordinary people to spend time together there. The Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Africa, Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, framed the discussion in a larger perspective, reminding the room that towns have always been the cradle of civilisation, places of apprenticeship and prosperity. He said that today "we are at a crossroad, solidarity is being destroyed and segregation is growing". "In future", said Elong Mbassi, "towns will



have to fight against exclusion, and this is in the hands of Mayors and the people”. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, President of UCLG and Chair of United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, UNACLA, was thinking along the same lines, pointing out that the successful cities are the ones that can handle multiculturalism and manage to maintain harmony.

“Improve mobility and increase density”

Mpho Parks Tau,
Mayor of Johannesburg

Planning, planning, planning!

That was the key message, and exact words, from Harare Mayor Muchadeyi Masunda, receiver of the 2012 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour for his leadership. No room was left for misunderstanding. Mayor Masunda also urged Mayors, particularly in the developing world, to depoliticise the service issue, and recommended better use of Public Private Partnerships (PPP’s)

as well as twinning exercises with more developed cities. The importance of clever planning was underscored by Lu Ping, the Deputy Mayor of Nanjing, who spoke of the need of foreseeing difficulties in the urbanisation process, in a wide range of areas such as traffic, schooling, unemployment and environment.

He told his fellow local leaders of two Nanjing city plans, the Clean Water Action Plan and the Blue Sky Action Plan, which include measures such as moving polluting industries away from the city, and creating 85 kilometres of new subway. He said that in housing, priority lies on helping citizens with low and middle income.

“Please come visit us to see what is going on!” he concluded. Another aspect of planning was brought up by the Commissioner for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development of Osun State in Nigeria, Olu-muyiwa Ige, who urged local leaders not to forget about rural areas when planning for the urban future.

“An overwhelming section of the people are young and growing and heading for the cities”, he said, adding that the development of rural areas is essential, because without it, the movement of people to cities would be too massive to cope with.

The City of Johannesburg has a challenge all its own

when planning for the future. Its Mayor, Mpho Parks Tau, pointed to the fact that many South African cities were defined in the past by separation, making them highly inefficient in today’s urban context. Therefore, he not only needs to generally improve infrastructure and mobility, he needs to bridge a built-in, physical segregation in the process. His goals are to improve mobility and increase density.

Planning can have many aspects. A particular one is found in Fukuoka. Soichiro Takashima is Mayor of the city which has been named one of the most “liveable cities” in the world. He described how, although there is an abundance of water in Japan, there was a drought in Fukuoka in 1978. However, subsequent water saving awareness programmes were held among the local population, and as a result, Fukuoka today is the most water conscious city in Japan.

“No city can do it all alone”

Olu-muyiwa Ige, Commissioner for Lands,
Physical Planning and Urban
Development of Osun State, Nigeria

Sufficient resources

To plan, one needs sufficient resources. Otherwise, even the best plans in the world risk never taking off. Karen Leibovici, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, said cities must be able to rely on long-term, stable funding, and lamented the fact that the capacity of cities is curbed by lack of resources.

“We get very little back from the wealth that is generated in our cities”, she said, and emphasised the need for local governments to speak with one voice to national governments if they are to change that.

The Mayor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard, said that the institutional architecture, as well as the financial architecture of cities may have to be changed. The way forward, he suggested, lies in looking past the national horizon and forging international links.

“We all have retrenchments in our budgets, and simultaneously very little access to international resources” Ebrard said, “Mayors and cities need to rise to an international level”.

The Secretary General of CITY-Net, Mary Jane Ortega, urged the local leaders in the room to look into the future: “We will be living in a highly urbanised global



community. We will have to work with urban corridors and networks of cities”. But most importantly, she said, “we will have to work with people in cities”.

And with that, Mary Jane Ortega put her finger on an ever-urgent topic. Citizen participation in urban development is no easy thing. Many a Mayor has tried, quite a few have failed to reach a level of dialogue between leadership and citizenry that can be labelled truly democratic city governance.

Samuel O. Okello, the Mayor of the Kenyan city Kisumu, described how his city of 800,000 inhabitants grows by 2,8 percent annually which puts high pressure on utilities. To face this challenge, he said the city works closely with private enterprises, and by now, he said, “we have gone a long way with provision of water and sanitation”.

In order to have a dialogue about Kisumu’s development, he said that the city has a number of consultation groups. In addition, feedback on the city’s work through local radio stations is encouraged.

In Harare, Mayor Masunda strives to include more of the youth in shaping the city’s future, and he sees to it that there is youth participation in the councils in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Lena Malm, from Sweden’s second city Gothenburg, urged local leaders to be creative and bold, telling of how her city is in the process of transforming huge industrial areas into vital spaces with urban gardening, speakers corners and other spaces for the benefit of citizens. She said the initiatives were meant to inspire people participation in city development.

After summing up the discussion, UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director Dr Aisa Kacyira urged Mayors to think forward to the Habitat III conference in 2016. Dr Kacyira said they need to partake in the thinking process ahead of Habitat III, so “we will be able to take decisions that stand the test of time”.

“Local governments need to speak with one voice”

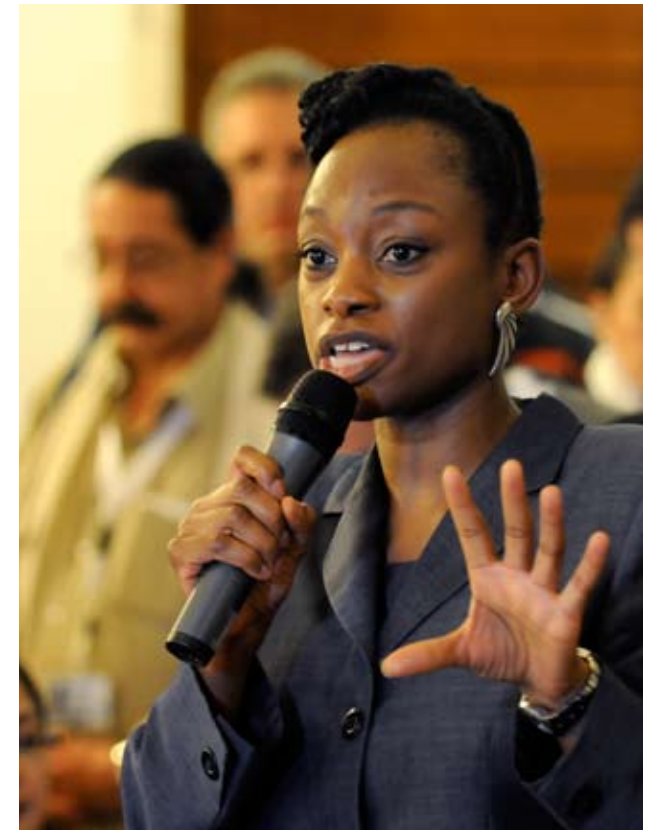
Karen Leibovici,
President of Canadian Municipalities

Rounding up this Mayors Roundtable UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr Joan Clos commended participants on the impressive round of discussion, but said “We need to increase our influence as Mayors”, adding he hopes that Habitat III will see an assembly of at least a thousand Mayors.

Assembled Mayors and local leaders seemed to agree that the key to successful future cities lay in citizen participation, careful and strategic planning, reworking the way cities are financed and, last but not least, tirelessly working against widening gaps, for inclusion, equity and harmony. Will they succeed? Or to quote Mary Jane Ortega from CITY-Net;

“25 years ago, there was a vision about urban development. 25 years from now – what will they say – will they say we had the vision?”

The Sheriff. There was no way of getting around facilitator Femi Oke. With a wide smile and a steady hand she guided the assembled Mayors and local leaders through more than three hours of focused discussion on the urban future.





UN-Habitat Executive Director
Dr Joan Clos, with UNACLA Chair
Kadir Topbas and Naples Mayor
Luigi de Magistris, said Mayors need
to increase their influence.



MUCHADEYI ASHTON MASUNDA MAYOR OF HARARE AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF UCLG

“It is our responsibility to get the job done”

FACTS

Muchadeyi Ashton Masunda, Mayor of Harare and Vice Chairman of UCLG, was awarded the 2012 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour for “his many years of charismatic leadership and courageous promotion of ethical governance in a city stressed by socio-economic, political and service delivery problems”.

Masunda is a lawyer by profession, not member of any political party, and is “widely recognised at home and abroad for creating an inclusive city governance environment”.

He has held office since 2008.

Muchadeyi Masunda cares not for excuses. “We can’t, We shouldn’t, Someone might object” are not in his vocabulary. If they were, he may have given up years ago.

Harare is in desperate need of upgrading of vital power and water treatment instalments, which have been in service for many decades before the end of colonialism.

“Our main challenge is water. The tragedy is that the raw water is there. But the treatment plants are not”, says Masunda.

To solve the problem, the city wants to build a dam, and Masunda is certain he can raise the money needed. But in Harare, as in so many other cities, there are differences to overcome between the local and national governments on who should do what. Mayor Masunda thinks his national government should stick to policy matters and let him “get the job done”.

The public transportation system is the other thorn in Masunda’s side. Since the deregulation of public transport in 1990, commuter omnibuses have overcrowded the city. The resulting problem is not only traffic congestion. “Our main way of revenue is property tax and shop licenses. If no one wants to come into the Central Business District because there is too much of a mess with the commuter omnibuses, we lose revenue”,

explains Mayor Masunda. The way forward, he thinks, is to stop the commuter omnibuses at the periphery of Harare and operate a shuttle system inside the city.

The Mayor is preparing a trip to India to look at bus manufacturing there. Attempting to solve the traffic situation is one way of securing the city’s income. Another path is to look at alternative and somewhat unconventional sources.

The city of Harare owns farms outside the city limits. Cattle are kept there, for export to countries in the region. Now, the Mayor plans to increase the number of cattle, and start a dairy. The venture would be expected to create revenue and thus lessen the city’s dependency

on property tax. In addition, it will offer employment, as well as much needed training for farm labourers and managers.

Muchadeyi Masunda praises cooperation and networking with other cities and their leaders. Munich, he says, has been extremely helpful in helping to supply city hospitals. He found a presentation on urban transport by the Mayor of Stuttgart hugely useful.

“We tap into this and other plans, and use and adapt what we can”, says Masunda, who likes to be a step ahead: “We listen to other Mayors and their situations, trying to think pre-emptively about it and be prepared ourselves”.

HARARE FACTS



- Harare was founded as Fort Salisbury in 1890. It officially became a city in 1935, and was renamed Harare in 1982, two years after Zimbabwean independence.
- The population is 1.6 million and the city sits at an elevation of 1400 metres above sea level.
- In 2005’s Operation Murambatsvina, a campaign of evictions launched by the government to clear slum areas in the country’s main cities, an estimated 700,000 people were directly affected.
- In 2009 and again in 2011, after several years of economic crisis, Harare was named the “hardest city to live in” in a livability poll.



HUGUA MAYOR OF WAKATOBI

”Before, while in the civil society world, I could influence perhaps a 100 people. Now, as mayor, I can influence 112,000 people”

Being Mayor of a slice of paradise has its own particular challenges. What keeps Hugua on his toes is plastic waste, an evil that could threaten the fragile marine ecosystem and burgeoning eco-tourism in Wakatobi, of which he is Regent Mayor.

Wakatobi lies at the heart of the Asia-Pacific Coral Triangle, and with its 942 fish species it outdoes many other famous dive sites in the world. Earlier this year, UNESCO confirmed the Wakatobi Marine National Park as a World Biosphere Reserve.

The tourists are discovering this gem between the Flores Sea to the west and the Banda Sea to the east. In 2006, there were 3,000 tourists a year. For 2012, the projection is 9,000 tourists. To safeguard this development, successful waste management is of utmost importance. The pilot phase of a project aimed at creating a greener and cleaner Wakatobi has run for a year, and is expected to be fully up and running by 2013.

“Waste management is now part of the local school curriculum”, says mayor Hugua and adds that he has also launched a competition:

“The family who cleans up their land best wins a

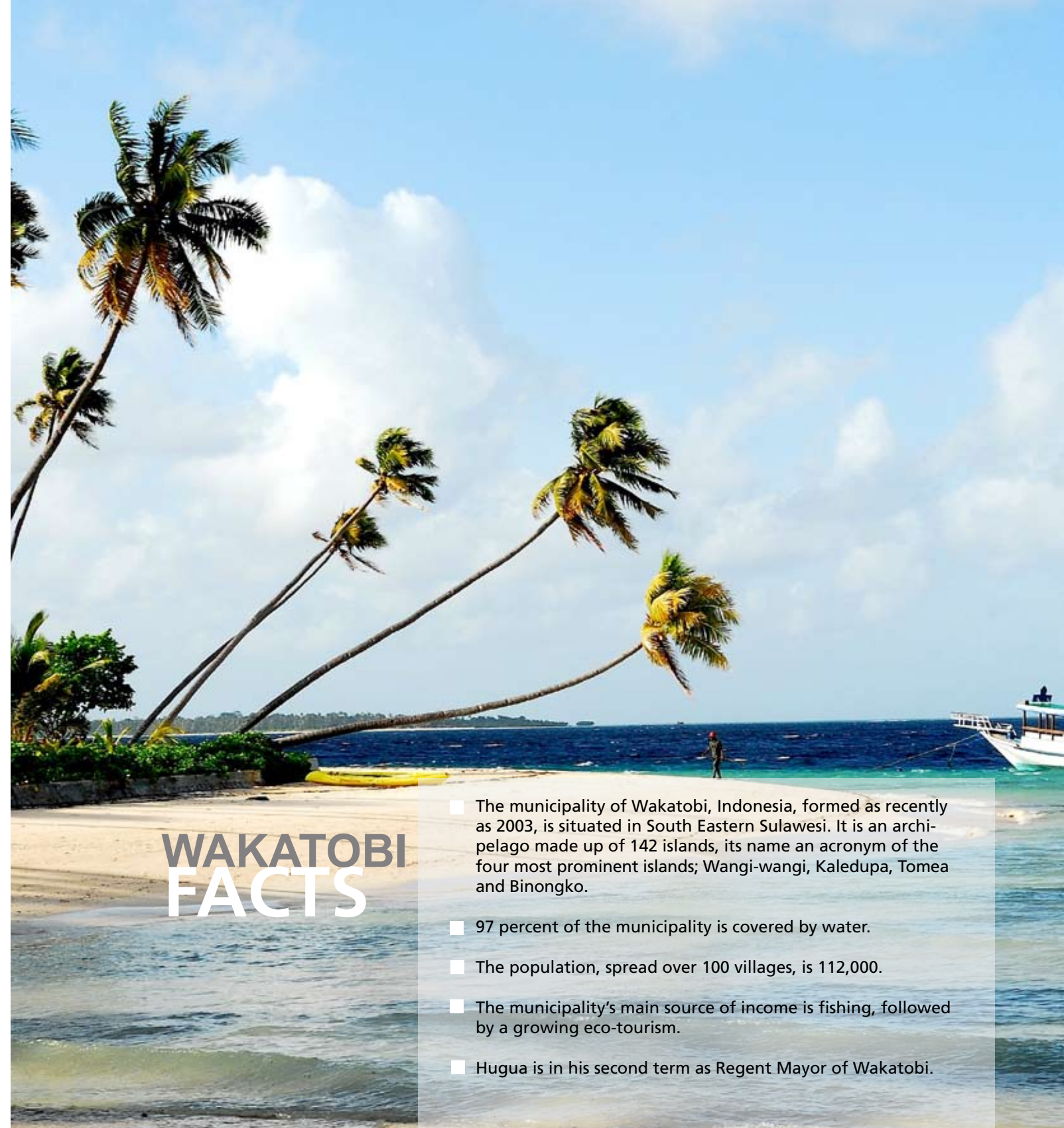
trip to Mecca, Saudi Arabia”. The competition, in its third year, is hugely popular in this Muslim municipality.

He speaks passionately about environmentally friendly solutions and local initiatives, and hopes to make Wakatobi what he calls a “bottom-up, low-carbon initiative”. He calls for a way to transform high-level academic talks and ideas into concrete policies and projects at Mayor and community level.

”Much of the urban issues are discussed on a scientific and academic level, but in the end, I as the Mayor am the one to formulate policies for my city. So we need a more concrete discussion about cities. Bottom-up!” exclaims Mayor Hugua.

Hugua also favours cooperation between cities which may not at first glance be obvious partners.

He takes the example of Wakatobi and Stuttgart. “We could cooperate in bioenergy. They have the technology. Our area absorbs a lot of carbon. We could trade the burden of carbon against technology”, says Hugua and adds: “We all have to realise that we have something to offer, for everything we need”.



WAKATOBI FACTS

- The municipality of Wakatobi, Indonesia, formed as recently as 2003, is situated in South Eastern Sulawesi. It is an archipelago made up of 142 islands, its name an acronym of the four most prominent islands; Wangi-wangi, Kaledupa, Tomea and Binongko.
- 97 percent of the municipality is covered by water.
- The population, spread over 100 villages, is 112,000.
- The municipality's main source of income is fishing, followed by a growing eco-tourism.
- Hugua is in his second term as Regent Mayor of Wakatobi.

CHALLENGES

There is an overarching agenda to further focus on establishing equity and fighting inequalities. Citizens' rights and responsibilities should be placed at the top of the urban agenda.

INEQUALITY

We need to push for progress amongst all people through solidarity.

LACK OF SOLIDARITY

The Arab Spring has shown us that it is time for us to look at the future of the younger generation and give further attention to those who live in slums as well as those who do not have access to adequate jobs.

THE URBAN POOR

As for resource mobilization, the global financial architecture is outdated and needs to be amended to reduce the barriers to access financing.

OUTDATED FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

We need to develop a further understanding that cities and regions contend with different realities. It is important to acknowledge how public policy is tied together at all levels.

DIFFERENT REALITIES

Consideration of the relationship between urban and rural is essential, as well as the different administrative territories involved.

RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

IDEAS FOR A NEW URBAN AGENDA, TABLED AT THE MAYORS ROUNDTABLE 2012

“Talking about the future invites analysis of the past” said the Mayor of Medellín, Anibal Gaviria Correa, during the Mayors Roundtable. Although he was talking about his city, which will host the World Urban Forum 7 in 2014, we take the liberty of paraphrasing him here:

TO BE ABLE TO WORK BETTER FOR OUR CITIES IN THE FUTURE,

WE MUST ANALYSE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE TODAY

RECOMMENDATIONS

PRO-PEOPLE MINDSET

Lead city development with a pro-people mindset, which encompasses good governance, participation, trust and reducing inequality.

PUBLIC SPACE

Create common public spaces so that city dwellers can enjoy social and cultural life out of doors.

CITY PLANNING

Emphasize the importance of city planning in order to respond to long-term needs and to manage the city's resources more efficiently.

A PLATFORM FOR LOCAL LEADERS

Create a platform for city leaders in order to give them a voice in the national and international development arenas.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Emphasize good governance. Give a voice to women and youth.

NETWORKING

Facilitate networking and partnership among local governments for capacity building.



“To be able to unite around a common message, you need to be respectful and be prepared to compromise”

CANADA FACTS

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has been the voice of Canada’s municipalities since 1901.
- It gathers 2,000 communities across Canada ranging from the biggest cities, to small urban and rural communities.
- Karen Leibovici is a social worker by education, and has worked in numerous roles in provincial and municipal politics before becoming President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 2011. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta.



KAREN LEBOVICI PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Karen Leibovici heads an organisation that represents 2,000 cities and municipalities. She knows about straggling wills. But after attending her first Mayors Roundtable she says she was impressed with the commonality of challenges facing local leaders from around the world.

For Canadian cities, the main issue is the infrastructure deficit. “Five years ago, we would have needed 123 billion dollars to upgrade our infrastructure. A recent report puts that number near 170 billion dollars”, she says. Most of the work is needed in roads and water systems, but also in public transportation.

The infrastructure deficit is not news to the federal government in Canada. They asked local leaders from around the country about their opinions and needs. Karen Leibovici and her team had to make sure that the government got one message, not 2,000.

“To be able to speak with one voice, we held briefing sessions with local leaders”, says Karen Leibovici.

So the message that got to the federal government was that there has to be a long term, predictable and sustainable funding plan for infrastructure.

“We need to be able to plan in a 15-20 year perspective”, she says. And, as many Mayors around the world say, the funding of city development is a particular challenge. “In Canada, city income is mainly from property tax, service charges and some licenses. We get eight cents of the tax dollar”, says Leibovici. She believes that is an unfair distribution, and much thinking is done on how to increase the part the cities get.

Canadian cities will continue to impress their message on the federal government. In creating one single strong message Karen Leibovici says that educating everyone involved on what the issue is about is crucial. She believes it is important to understand the needs of the other organisations one is partnering with and try to align one’s needs to theirs. Being respectful, and prepared to compromise is essential.

In spite of her wealth of experience, Karen Leibovici is bringing one new idea home with her.

“Participatory democracy. It is a relatively new field in Canada. My city, Edmonton, has experimented with it. But we are still learning about how to engage the citizens.”



COME AS ONE!

EXPERT TRIO: MAYORS MUST UNITE TO GET RESULTS

Leader of his or her city, a local force to be reckoned with and counted on. But nationally? Internationally? Can a mayor make a difference, or is he or she at the bottom of the national pecking order when it comes to urban development policy and implementation?

We put the question to three experts at the centre of this highly topical discussion, UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos, Istanbul Mayor and Chair of UNACLA Kadir Topbas, and Thomas Melin, Acting Head of External Relations at UN-Habitat.

Mr Topbas of UNACLA argues that the importance of Mayors, on a national and global scene, is increasing. “As urbanisation picks up, cities pick up. Cities are increasingly seen as solutions to many problems we have today. Before, cities were seen more as a cause of problems”.

He explains how cities have been seen as the villains in carbon dioxide emissions and other forms of pollution. But as energy and other resources become ever more scarce, we have to increasingly use existing resources. This is far easier in cities, where population density makes sharing of many sorts of facilities simpler. Additionally, today 60-80 per cent of carbon dioxide comes from cities. A cut in emissions there will thus

make a big difference in a short time, whereas in rural areas many small adjustments would have to be made to reach similar levels. In the centre of this process stands the Mayor. Much will depend on this one person and the team surrounding him or her.

However, there is no doubt about the fact that a lack of communication exists between various levels of government in many countries, and relations between these levels are sometimes difficult.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos suggested at the Mayors Roundtable in Naples that perhaps there should be a meeting at the World Urban Forum 7 in Medellín in 2014 with both Ministers and Mayors present.

“Perhaps a common meeting could improve things. I have seen heads of local government and representatives of national government from the same country, meet for the first time at a World Urban Forum”, says Kadir Topbas.

Improved relations between local and national governments are necessary, not least for a viable financial future for cities. As several Mayors and local leaders said during the Mayors Roundtable as well as in fringe discussions, the opportunity for cities to earn money

and share the tax income does not stand in relation to the wealth that is generated by cities.

“In most countries, cities can perhaps charge fees for various services, but they have to go to the national government to ask for any sizeable amount of money”, says Thomas Melin.

Although decentralisation has picked up during the last decade, “there is a tendency of nations to decentralise responsibility but not the necessary resources”, says Melin, adding that statistics show how cities contribute tremendously to GDP in their countries.

With increasing global focus on cities and urbanisation, there should be ample opportunity for lifting these burning issues into the public debate.

Thomas Melin sees a tremendous shift in reporting and public discussion on urbanisation over the last few years. “Urbanisation is suddenly acknowledged. Books are published and UN conferences have references to urbanisation. There are a number of reports that cannot be argued against”.

As a result, many countries have created urban policies, and are asking UN-Habitat for tools and assistance. Melin puts the growing interest partly down to the fact

“There is a tendency of nations to decentralise responsibility but not the necessary resources”

that we have passed the 50 per cent mark, with more than half of humanity living in cities.

“That has a huge impact. That, and the new information era we live in. You can see what is going on in other countries”, he says.

But, the information alone will not change anything unless Mayors unify around a common message, to their governments and to the world.

According to Dr. Joan Clos, the importance of a unified message from Mayors ahead of Habitat III cannot be underestimated.

“The Mayors have to agree on the message they want to bring to Habitat III. They have to secure that they have a unified voice, and they need to come as one.

Otherwise the message will be diluted, says Dr Clos. “But they cannot wait for Habitat III. They have to start this process. We are urging them to start now.”

MPHO PARKS TAU MAYOR OF JOHANNESBURG

“Our towns were designed with separation in mind”

Johannesburg, economic centre of South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, spent many decades more cruelly divided than most cities. It takes determination, hard work and eyes set firmly on the future to reverse a history of segregation.

Mayor Mpho Parks Tau has held office since mid 2011, and soon after put forward a 30-year city development strategy (Joburg 2040).

“We need to restore access to services for groups who have historically not had access. Our towns were designed with separation in mind. Poor communities were routinely placed far away from opportunities. They need access”, says Mayor Tau.

It is a message that Mayor Tau repeats passionately. He wants to reverse the legacy of apartheid, and create a more integrated Johannesburg.

One path to increased integration is raising the level of poor black areas to make them more attractive. Affluent blacks move into former all-white areas, but the reverse, whites moving into former all-black areas, is not yet taking place. Mayor Tau talks of the 300 kilometres of new tarred road that has been laid in Soweto, and gives



JOHANNESBURG FACTS

- Johannesburg is South Africa's largest city, founded in 1886 when gold was discovered in the Witwatersrand range.
- The municipality has a population of 3.8 million people.
- Johannesburg has the largest economy of any metropolitan area in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is also the world's largest city not situated on a river, lake or coastline.

the example of a theatre that recently opened in Soweto, where there was previously no theatre.

Another important aspect of inclusion is employment. Job creation and economic development form one pillar of his strategic plan for Johannesburg.

“We have several large companies in Johannesburg, but not enough small businesses”. He says one challenge is the lack of knowledge on how to start a small business. To overcome this, he intends to create zones where small businesses can be incubated.

The Mayor believes creating employment will also affect the public safety situation.

“Most crime is contact crime inside poor communities. For the sake of public safety we need to create employment”. To enhance public safety the Mayor wants to see

more people involved in processes, and says the Johannesburg police is to work more closely with communities.

Looking outward, Johannesburg is creating partnerships with other cities globally. Under the new international relations strategy, Johannesburg is partnering with New York, Shanghai and Lagos, while also showing solidarity with cities that face special problems.

Mayor Tau sees the Mayors Roundtable as an excellent opportunity to build relationships and networks, as well as showcasing one's city to others for input and opinions. He concludes with the importance of focusing on long-term strategies and not losing sight of the goal; creating a more equitable Johannesburg, where everyone is cared for and no one is neglected.



THE WAY TOWARD HABITAT III

In only a few years time, the urban agenda for the next generation will be discussed and decided. It may seem like plenty of time, but the Habitat III conference in 2016 is rushing toward us.

As has been pointed out several times in this booklet, it is of utmost importance that Mayors from all over the world unite around common goals, and come to Habitat III as a unified force.

How do we guide our cities and towns into the future? What do we want to tell world leaders and policymakers in 2016? No one is better placed to formulate the challenges and suggest the solutions than the people who are in the midst of urbanisation and its consequences every day – the Mayors.

After speaking to many Mayors and local leaders, and listening to more, the same issues come up over again; How should Mayors go about getting a bigger share of the wealth that their cities generate? How can urban transportation systems be optimized? How does one

best work against segregation and for inclusive, vibrant cities? How do we best engage and interact with our citizens? And what is the best way to interact with national governments and be able to face them with strong and united messages?

There will be several opportunities for Mayors to gather and network before 2016, but discussion and action must not be left waiting.

Which factors will most influence urbanisation in decades to come? What needs to be a central theme at Habitat III? Which partnerships will best benefit Mayors and their cities? Does UN-Habitat and its partners need to change their roles and mandates to better face the challenges of a rapidly changing urban environment? The questions are plentiful and profound. Mayors, united, can help provide the answers.

Democratically elected local officials owe their mandate to the people, and as such, are best placed to respond to the people's needs.





Sala Italia, venue for the Mayors Roundtable

PARTNERS

IICLD Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy

As part of Swedish development co-operation, the purpose of ICLD is to promote local democracy in low and middle-income countries. For the ICLD, local democracy principally concerns strengthening local institutions, issues regarding decentralisation, local autonomy, citizen influence and collaboration between various participants. Co-operating with existing institutions and authorities, as opposed to constructing parallel activities, is fundamental to the ICLD. www.icld.se

UNACLA was constituted as an advisory body that would serve the purpose of strengthening the international dialogue with local authorities involved in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The role of UNACLA is to advise the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, from the local authorities' perspective, on all issues concerning the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. www.unhabitat.org



UCLG is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. Representing over half the world's population, the members of UCLG are present in 140 UN Member States across all world regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and West Asia, Latin America and North America. Over 1,000 cities and regions are direct members of UCLG, as well as 112 national associations. www.uclg.org

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. At the dawn of a new urban era, with most of humanity now living in cities, UN-Habitat is at the frontline of the battle against fast growing urban poverty and the scourge of climate change. www.unhabitat.org



The province of Naples is situated in the Campania region in Southern Italy. It has 92 communes, and its capital is Naples. Luigi Cesaro is the President, and co-host of the Mayors Roundtable. www.provincia.napoli.it

The City of Naples is the capital of the Campania region of Southern Italy, and the third largest municipality in Italy. Mayor Luigi de Magistris co-hosted the Mayors Roundtable. www.comune.napoli.it





This report has been produced by **inSitu Urban Communications** (www.insitucommunications.se) for International Centre for Local Democracy, ICLD (www.icld.se) The Mayors Roundtable at the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples was organised jointly by ICLD, UCLG, UNACLA and UN-Habitat.
Text: Victoria Engstrand-Neacsu, inSitu
Photo/Layout: Anna Erlandson, inSitu
Graph: Lars Fridén, inSitu
(Photo page 23 David Brazier, page 25 Jenny Smith, page 28 Rob Toronto, page 30/34 Rebecka Gordan, page 33 Michael Denne)



"A city is an organisation of organisations"

*Bülent Tanık, Mayor of
Çankaya District in
Ankara Turkey*