



*Permanent Mission of Italy
to the United Nations*



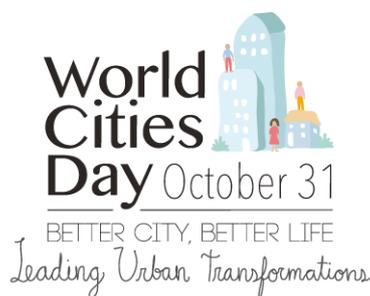
*Permanent Mission of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations*



WORLD CITIES DAY 2014

LEADING URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

ECOSOC Chamber – 31 October 2014 (9:30am - 12:30pm)



People-centred Urbanisation, Managing Social Inclusion in Today's Cities

Background

For the first time in history, in 2008, more than half of the world's population was recorded to be living in towns and cities. This number is constantly on the rise and is expected to reach almost five billion by 2030 (6.3 billion by 2050).

Cities have increasingly become a concentration of peoples with diverse backgrounds, different cultural and ethnic origins and beliefs. The challenges that this new identity and diversity pose for countries and, more broadly, regions are today heightened when concentrated in extremely reduced geographical spaces. Cities of all sizes often struggle to find resources and apply good practices to respond to the magnitude of this change.

In fact, cities are faced with the end results of transnational and internal migration¹ that further exacerbates challenges already faced by cities in providing equitable access to urban services and infrastructure, including housing, services and employment, and in ensuring adequate planning for the accelerated urban growth. Yet, Local Authorities have little if any say over international and national migration policies and they have little capacity to control migratory flows into their cities.

¹ The People's Republic of China is the biggest country in the world in terms of internal migration, which amounted to 166 million in 2013. See China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences/ China Association of Mayors/ Urban Planning Society of China/ UN-Habitat (2014). *The State of China's Cities 2014/15*. China City Press: Beijing.

As urbanization develops fast in many parts of the world, to ensure its sustainability, balance between economic growth and social progress and harmony between man and nature has become more important. Education, employment, the social safety net, public health services are very high on the urbanization agenda. In this regard, a more people-centred urbanization is necessary whereby social networks can be maintained and supported, and where economic development is balanced with social development and environmental protection. It is also very important for the international community to carry out urbanization cooperation, such as on improving urban and rural planning, strengthening social protection measures and promoting green cities.

Whereas global public debate has addressed the environmental, economic and demographic sustainability of cities, cultural and ethnic dimensions must also be taken into consideration to preserve rights and the well-being of cities and towns.

National and local authorities need policies that raise urban productivity and foster economic growth, but they also increasingly need policies that manage diversity and promote cohesion among residents. Local authorities have a key role in promoting civic engagement, social cohesion, participation and representation. It is increasingly important to make cities more socially, culturally and economically vibrant, including migrants as an integral part of their citizenry and urban wealth². Sustainable cities have the potential to empower migrants by offering equal opportunities and support for integration, broadening the horizon for all of the various groups sharing a common space.

On the occasion of World Cities Day, the Permanent Missions of Italy and of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, the Alliance of Civilizations, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) invite you to join a dialogue between international organizations, governments, mayors and civil society representatives on the need to pursue people-centred urbanization and manage social inclusion in today's cities. This event also aims to contribute to the ongoing discussions on the Post-2015 development agenda.

The event will focus on sharing experiences and ideas on how to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization, how to empower migrants for effective integration in cities, how the international community can address common challenges, how to facilitate the exchange of best practices, and what role civil society can play in this context.

For more information, contact Ms. Francesca De Ferrari (deferrari@un.org) and check <http://unhabitat.org/wcd/>

The event has been organized in collaboration with American Institute of Architects New York Chapter, co-sponsored by the AIANY Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee and the AIANY Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and supports the 2014 Civic Spirit:Civic Vision theme.

² Balbo, Marcelo (ed.) *International migrants and the city*, UN-Habitat, Cooperazione Italiana, Venezia University. Nairobi: 2005.

PROGRAMME

World Cities Day 2014
Friday, 31 October, 2014 (9:30am – 12:30pm)

People-centred Urbanisation, Managing Ethnic Diversity in Today's Cities

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

09:00 a.m. Registration

09:30 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

H.E. [Martin Sajdik](#), President, UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) *tbc*

H.E. [Sam Kutesa](#), President of the United Nations General Assembly *tbc*

UN World Cities Day Message

Mr. [Ban Ki-moon](#), United Nations Secretary General *tbc*

H.E. [Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser](#), High Representative of the UN Alliance for Civilizations (UNAOC)

H.E. [Sebastiano Cardi](#), Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

H.E. [Liu Jieyi](#), Ambassador, Permanent Representative of PR. China to the United Nations

Mr. [Ras Baraka](#), Mayor of Newark, New Jersey, USA *tbc*

UN-Habitat World Cities Day Message

Video Message by **Dr. [Joan Clos](#)**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

10.30 a.m. Panel Discussion

People-centred urbanisation and managing diversity in today's cities

Policy discussions continue over the role of city authorities, other levels of government, civil society and the private sector in managing diversity in cities and developing a people-centred sustainable urbanisation worldwide.

Moderator: **Ms. Yamina Djacta Director UN-Habitat New York Office**

Two three-minute videos from youth organizations working on integration in urban settings

Speakers:

- **Mr. [Thomas Dallessio](#)**, Director, Center for Resilient Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Board Member of Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
- **Professor Corrado Beguinot**, [Fondazione Aldo Della Rocca](#)
- **Professor Vincenzo Scotti**, President of Link Campus University, Rome
- **Mr. [Massimo Lapucci](#)**, Secretary General of Fondazione CRT
- **Mr. Rawan Kashkoush**, Social entrepreneur on urban planning, Amman, Jordan
- **Daniel Gonzalez**, journalist, The Arizona Republic, Phoenix, USA
- **Professor Giovanna Dell’Orto**, University of Minnesota
- **Ms. Mary Jo Toll**, Chair, NGO Committee on Migration

11:45 p.m. Debate:

Prof. Lance Jay Brown, President, AIA New York Chapter, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization founding Director.

12:15 p.m. Closing Remarks:

H.E. [Sebastiano Cardi](#), Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

H.E. [Liu Jieyi](#), Ambassador, Permanent Representative of PR. China to the United Nations