



September 5, 2014

RE: Invitation to participate in a Civil Society Partners' Orientation for Habitat III Prep Com I

On behalf of the Habitat III Civil Society Working Group, we cordially invite you to a **Partners' Orientation on September 16, 2014 at the First Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development** (Habitat III). For partners with long-standing work on urban issues and policy advocacy, as well as those just beginning to engage in these global processes, we hope this will be a meaningful opportunity to strengthen civil society engagement and collaboration towards Habitat III.

Habitat III (2016), which brings together governments, UN agencies, civil society, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities of urbanization and craft a New Urban Agenda, will begin in full force during Prep Com I on September 17 & 18 in New York.

The Habitat III Civil Society Working Group, composed of community based organizations, housing groups, planners and designers, architects and engineers, local authorities, academic institutions, and grassroots networks of urban stakeholders, has come together in this key moment in history to collaborate with one another and collectively advocate for the critical importance of a New Urban Agenda.

We welcome you to New York and invite you to participate in our Partners' Orientation, a multi-stakeholder dialogue that will reflect on Habitat II and the state of urbanization and cities worldwide, and review the roadmap to Habitat III and a New Urban Agenda. Following the panels, participants will engage in break out groups on key urban issues, such as planning, urban governance and rights, rural-urban synergies, living conditions and security of tenure in informal settlements, and urban policies for climate change and resilience.

An outcome document from this event will be submitted to the Habitat III Secretariat to document civil society's priorities, expectations, and recommendations in the Habitat III process.

Date & Time:

September 16, 2014

9AM: Coffee and Refreshments

9:30-1:00PM: Official Program

An informal networking session will follow the morning's program.

Location:

Church Center for the United Nations

777 1st Avenue, E 44th St, New York, NY 10017

Boss Room, 8th Floor

RSVP: Space is limited to 75 participants, RSVP required: <http://bit.ly/1twQ4yv>

For more information, please see the accompanying agenda, and we look forward to seeing you on September 16th.

Sincerely,

Jan Peterson

Chair, Huairou Commission

Habitat III Civil Society Working group members include: *Communitas Coalition; Community Access; Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization; Ford Foundation; Global Family; Habitat for Humanity; Habitat International Coalition; Huairou Commission; International Council of Women; International Real Estate Federation; Municipal Art Society of New York–Global Urban Practitioners Network; New Jersey Institute of Technology; The New School University; Penn Institute for Urban Research–University of Pennsylvania; Sherwood Institute; Urban Design Lab, Earth Institute, Columbia University; United Cities and Local Governments; United Methodist Women; University of Chicago; Wilson Center; World Urban Campaign*