



Rio de Janeiro - Brazil
22-26 March 2010

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM
**THE RIGHT TO THE CITY:
BRIDGING THE URBAN DIVIDE**

DIALOGUE, NETWORK, LEARN AND EXHIBIT AT THE WORLD'S PREMIER CONFERENCE ON CITIES



www.unhabitat.org/wuf

UN-HABITAT and the Government of **Brazil** welcome you to the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum in **Rio de Janeiro** which will be held from 22 to 26 March 2010.

The theme of the Forum in 2010 is “**The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide.**”

With **half of humanity** already living in towns and cities, it is projected that in the next 50 years, **two-thirds** of us will be urbanised. A major challenge is to **minimize** burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the rights of the urban poor to basic facilities such as **shelter, clean water** and **sanitation** and to achieve **environmentally friendly, smart urban growth** and development.

The Rio Forum will take this discussion to a new level in what promises to be an event that will have an **impact** for years to come on the urban debate. The host city, the Brazilian government and UN-HABITAT are joining forces to ensure that the meeting makes a **lasting contribution** to new ideas and new solutions for **inclusive** and greener cities.

Rio 2010 will be the first World Urban Forum that forms part of the **World Urban Campaign** designed to elevate and mainstream sustainable **urbanisation** in global, national and local policy making.

Cover photos:

Top - **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.** © Shutterstock

Bottom from left:

Dialogue session at the Vancouver Forum. © Globe Foundation

Round table discussion during the Vancouver Forum. © Globe Foundation

UN-HABITAT Exhibition. © City of Nanjing

Words of welcome



Photo © Federative Republic of Brazil

“We understand the urban space as a collective arena which belongs to all its inhabitants, which is culturally rich and diverse, and whose social functions are directed at securing the universal distribution of wealth, services and opportunities.

It is in this spirit of social transformation, of the construction of a new urban reality, through the exchange of ideas that aim to make cities more democratic, sustainable and, ultimately, human, that Brazil is pleased to host the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, in March, 2010.

We are confident that, through the many discussions, exhibitions and other events that are being planned, the Forum will provide a space for the elaboration of a common agenda with innovative and productive solutions for cities around the globe.”

-- Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil

“The persistence of urban poverty is largely the result of weak urban economies and finance, and the absence of the instruments and institutions required to support housing and infrastructure finance. The current global financial crisis and credit crunch only exacerbates this situation. There is a risk that our efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and to address the shelter crisis, will be rolled back.”

-- Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations



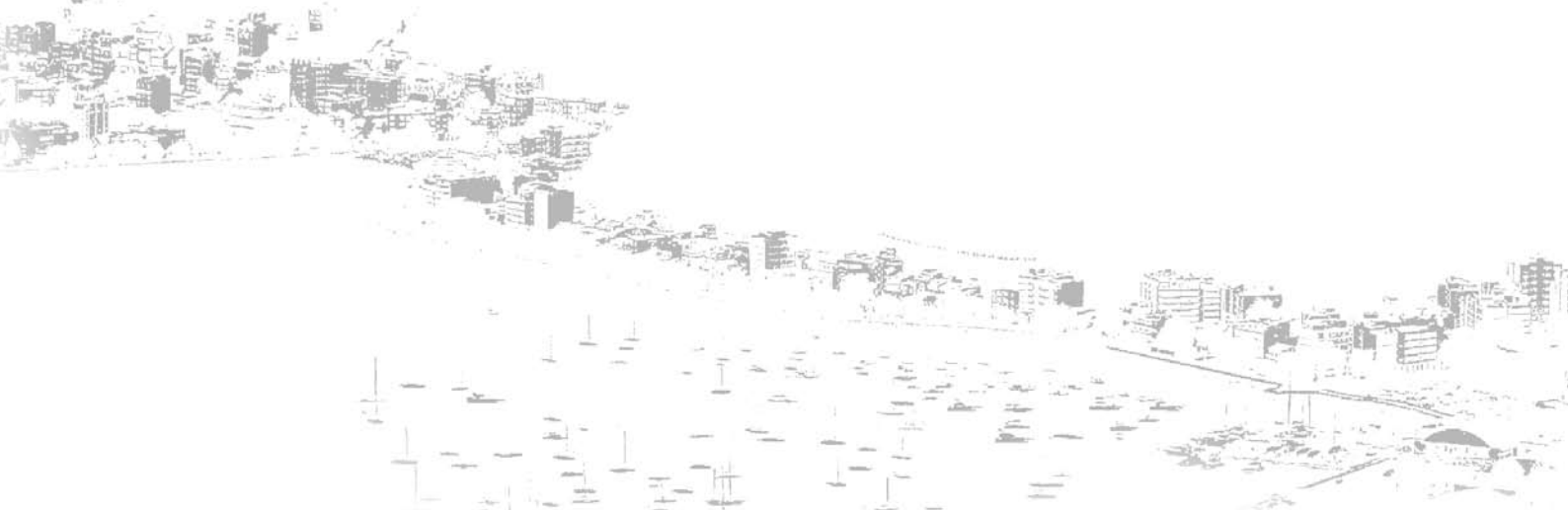
Photo © Urban Construction Archive, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, China

“When we speak of the right to the city, we are talking about ensuring that women, men, youth and children have equal access to basic services in the communities where they live. These basic services include access to potable water and adequate sanitation so that people can live in dignity and in an environment free from disease. The right to the city also implies minimum levels of safety and security so that people do not live in constant fear of being assaulted or of being robbed. The right to the city also includes affordable energy and public transport to facilitate access to jobs, education and recreation. The right to the city includes the right to adequate housing and the right for people to participate in decisions affecting their livelihoods. Finally, the right to the city should translate into equal opportunities for all to improve their living conditions and livelihoods without jeopardizing the rights of future generations to do the same.”

-- Anna Tibajuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT.



Rio de Janeiro, view of Favela in Copacabana. Photo © UN-HABITAT/Ally



"I would like to welcome you to the city of Rio de Janeiro and also to the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum.

Hosting such an important event, which seeks to promote, strengthen and spread the debate around issues such as urban mobility, diversity, environment and social development, underscores the dedication of an commitment of the State of Rio de Janeiro has to transform its urban spaces and also to the construction of sustainable cities, enabling its inhabitants to enjoy better standards of life.

The venue that will be used for the discussions could not be more appropriate: the Port of Rio de Janeiro.

Historically integrated into the daily life of the city and on the shores of the Guanabara Bay, the region of the port witnessed the foundation of the city of Rio de Janeiro and the beginning of its urbanization process. Today, this region is involved in one of the most important revitalization and restoration programs ongoing in the city, which aims to organize its occupation and utilization, and which characterize it as the ideal setting for the formulation of policies and innovative projects for urban planning.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you and I am counting on each one of you for the success of this event."

-- Sérgio Cabral, Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro



"It is an honor for the city of Rio de Janeiro to host the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum, the main forum for discussing a new global urban structure. I am sure that the meeting to be held with Rio as the setting, a city of worldwide renown as 'the marvelous city', will foster the formulation of vanguard solutions for urban space occupation throughout the planet.

Besides discussing models for more democratic and sustainable cities, representatives of more than 160 countries will share in Rio the largest urban transformation that the city will undergo in the next years: the Revitalization of the Seaport. It is not by chance that the warehouses of the Port of Rio were chosen as headquarters of the event. The region, from which Rio developed and that had been abandoned, is now beginning to receive high investments from the public sector as well as support from the private sector, in order to become an important business, tourism and leisure center.

This is a process of rediscovering the city, which we hope may inspire other metropolises around the world".

-- Eduardo da Costa Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro



Opening ceremony, Nanjing Forum 2008. Photo © City of Nanjing

The World Urban Forum

The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. Today, it is the world's premier conference on managing growing towns and cities.

Since its inception at the first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002, the Forum which meets every two years, has grown in size and stature as it travelled to Barcelona in 2004, Vancouver in 2006, and Nanjing in 2008.

A unique feature of the World Urban Forum is that it is one of the most open gatherings on the international stage. It brings together government leaders, ministers, mayors, diplomats, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, non-governmental and community organizations in open dialogue and exchange. Also invited are professionals, academics, grassroots women's organizations, youth, slum dwellers groups, the private sector and the media as partners working for smarter cities and inclusive cities. The Fifth Session in Rio, Brazil's second largest city, builds on the lessons and success of the previous four events.

As Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, the Brazilian Consul General in Shanghai, told delegates in an address at the Nanjing Forum: "Today, in Brazil, but also throughout the world, we need to rethink and renegotiate the fundamental bases of the type of

city we all want to live in. Our home planet is only one – we change addresses but consume the same globalized products, we travel the same way, we use the same natural resources and we develop together."

By tradition, UN-HABITAT uses the Forum to launch its biennial flagship report, the State of the World's Cities which gives a snapshot of the world's cities including some of the themes of the Forum.

These include ways of bridging urban income divides and reducing inequality and poverty in cities; fostering equal access to shelter, water and sanitation and services; and cities without slums. This report will also have a youth supplement which will look at the urban challenges faced by youth, one of the largest single demographics in the developing world.

New ideas and working models have been identified to include: the responsibility of governments to ensure that the urban poor have the right to adequate shelter, health, water and energy services.

To achieve these rights – all enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals – better urban planning, good governance, proper financing and gender and youth policies incorporated at every level are some of the roads to smarter and more sustainable cities of the future that will be explored in Rio 2010.



Brazil Exhibition at the Nanjing Forum. Photo © City of Nanjing

The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide

This theme for Rio 2010, as presented to the Twenty-Second Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, is intended to build on the concept of harmonious cities which includes the right to the city and the right to adequate shelter as enshrined in the Habitat Agenda.

As we head to Rio next year, we need to think the city we want in the 21st century. The combined impact of globalization and rapid urbanisation is the irreversible change in the way we use land, water, energy and other natural resources. Unless properly planned and managed, these changes can have very negative impacts on the environment. With just over 50 percent of the world's population living in cities, cities already consume over two-thirds of all energy and contribute to a similar proportion of all wastes including green house gas emissions.

In addition, not all social groups enjoy the same opportunities and the same access to what their city has to offer. In cities across the globe, there is a clear urban divide. For example, UN-HABITAT has identified youth and women as groups that often face substantial barriers in terms of accessing basic urban services and social amenities.

The Forum aims to address these common problems and promote critical thinking about solutions that can enable us to collectively enjoy the benefits derived from urbanisation in a sustained manner.

As a collective, culturally rich and diversified space that belongs to all its inhabitants, a smart city will assure universal access to benefits and opportunities offered by urbanization. An environmentally and socially sustainable city will enable the just and democratic distribution of wealth, services, goods and opportunities.

The goal of the Forum is the promotion of the right to the city as a collective endeavour that must be pursued equally by governments, the private sector, civil society and the general public, ensuring that we all act collectively to bridge the urban divide.

THE WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

Bridging the Urban Divide will require more than just a Forum. Starting with Rio 2010 the World Urban Campaign provides a mechanism for partners and institutions to build on the wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience generated by the World Urban Forum to improve urban policy at the global, national and local levels. In the same spirit of the Forum, the World Urban Campaign brings partners together to work on a set of commonly agreed goals and objectives and tools and methods in support of sustainable urbanisation.

The sessions

To accommodate the ever growing numbers of participants, the Forum meetings are divided into dialogue sessions discussing the main themes, networking events, caucus meetings, special sessions, roundtables, training seminars and an array of side events.

On the eve of the Forum, young people from countries around the world gather for the World Urban Youth Assembly to better ensure that their views are heard at the Forum. Similarly, there will be a special two-day Gender Equality Action Assembly, and a business caucus for business and industry representatives, policy experts, community representatives and others working with the business sector. There will also be an e-debate on the right to the city so that new ideas gathered can be incorporated into the discussions in Rio.

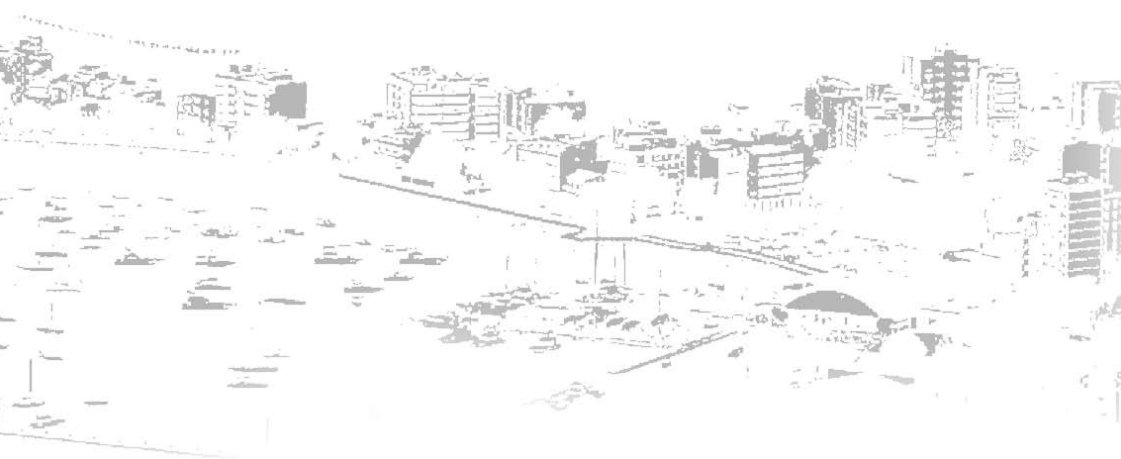
The dialogue sessions are, however, the highest profile events at the Forum. At Rio 2010 there will be 6 dialogue sessions:

DIALOGUE 1: TAKING FORWARD THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

This meeting will seek to identify urban and housing policies and practices that link the fundamental elements of the right to the city and deliver real outcomes that forge an inclusive,



Dialogue session at the Vancouver Forum. Photo © Globe Foundation



participatory and equitable city. It will look at the feasibility and policy implications of doing so.

DIALOGUE 2: BRIDGING THE URBAN DIVIDE

In this session the deep-rooted causes of urban inequality, poverty and slums and their impact on cities will be examined. Evidence from more than 300 cities cited in the State of the World Cities 2010-2011 will be presented. The aim is to improve our understanding about different dimensions of urban inequality and to develop knowledge on policies and approaches that can bridge the urban divide.

DIALOGUE 3: EQUAL ACCESS TO SHELTER

Here participants will analyse policies and practices that enable wider access to land and housing and thus help slum prevention strategies. It will promote a debate that helps identify the different types of policy responses, programmes and approaches that enable the provision of housing opportunities for different social groups at scale. The realisation of land and housing rights as well as the slum upgrading agenda will be highlighted within the framework of the right to the city approach.



Round table discussion during the Vancouver Forum. Photo © Globe Foundation

Provisional Programme at a Glance

For further details please visit the Forum website.

Time	Friday, 19 March		Saturday, 20 March		Sunday, 21 March	Monday, 22 March	Tuesday, 23 March			Wednesday, 24 March			
	GENDER EQUALITY ACTION ASSEMBLY	WORLD URBAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY	GENDER EQUALITY ACTION ASSEMBLY	WORLD URBAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY									
						Caucus meetings	Caucus meetings						
AM	Opening	Opening	Plenary	Sessions		Opening Ceremony and Introduction of Debate	Dialogue 1: Taking Forward the Right to the City	Dialogue 2: Bridging the Urban Divide	Training Events	E			
	Plenary	Sessions	Plenary	Sessions									
	Lunch		Lunch			Lunch	Lunch/Side Events						
PM	Group Discussions	Sessions	Group Discussions	Sessions		Networking Events	Round Table Ministers	Thematic Open Debate: Rights, Responsibilities & Opportunities in Cities	Networking Events	Thematic Open Debate: Inequalities in Cities	Round Table Global Parliamentarians	Special Session	Th
	Plenary	Reception	Closing	Plenary		Networking Events	Round Table Mayors	Thematic Open Debate: Challenges in Cities	Networking Events	Thematic Open Debate: Beyond Income & Consumption Inequalities	Round Table CSOs/NGOs	Special Session	Th
				Closing and Cultural Events				Thematic Concl. Session	Thematic Concl. Session			Th	
						Government of Brazil Reception for all participants							

The topics of the thematic open debates are linked to the Dialogues of the same day

Opening/Closing	Caucus / Evening Events	Plenary Sessions	Special Sessions	Sessions	Networking Events
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Wednesday, 24 March					Thursday, 25 March					Friday, 26 March	
Caucus meetings					Caucus meetings					Caucus meetings	
Dialogue 3: Equal Access to Shelter		Dialogue 4: Cultural Diversity in Cities		Training Events	Business Caucus	Dialogue 5: Governance and Participation		Dialogue 6: Inclusive Sustainable Urbanization		Training Events	Business Caucus
Lunch/Side Events					Lunch/Side Events					Lunch	
Thematic Open Debate: Access to Affordable Land	Networking Events	Thematic Open Debate: The Various Identities in the City	Round Table Habitat Professionals	Round Table Partner Universities	Special Session	Thematic Open Debate: Effective Citizen Participation	Networking Events	Thematic Open Debate: Reducing Vulnerabilities in View of Climate Change	Round Table Business	Round Table Global Land Tool Network	Special Session
Thematic Open Debate: Affordable and Adequate Housing	Networking Events	Thematic Open Debate: From Indifference to Tolerance	Round Table Gender and Women	Round Table Urban Researchers	Special Session	Thematic Open Debate: Revisiting Urban Planning	Networking Events	Thematic Open Debate: Inclusive Cities: Closing the Urban Divide	Round Table Youth	Round Table Indigenous Peoples in Urban Areas	Special Session
Thematic Concl. Session		Thematic Concl. Session				Thematic Concl. Session		Thematic Concl. Session			

■ Dialogues	■ Thematic Open Debates and Thematic Concluding Sessions	■ Training Events	■ Business Caucus	■ Peer Round Tables
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Exchanging ideas at the Vancouver Forum. Photo © Globe Foudation

DIALOGUE 4: CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN CITIES

This dialogue will seek to unfold the cultural dimension in cities and build an understanding about its impact on sustainable, equitable and inclusive urban development. Following on the concept of harmonious cities and focusing on one of the elements of the right to the city approach, it will be an opportunity to develop knowledge about the role of cultural diversity and expression, ethnicity, language, gender and sexuality in bridging the urban divide.

DIALOGUE 5: GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This session will look at the basic elements of a democratic city that engages its residents in forging inclusive and equitable urban development. It will focus on the various mechanisms that enable civil society to participate in local decision making and how this participation can better ensure equal opportunities, more transparency and efficiency in urban management and planning.

DIALOGUE 6: INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

This session will explore how environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness can support the right to the city. It will highlight the spatial dimensions of sustainable urban development and the critical role of good urban governance in meeting the current social, economic and environmental challenges facing our cities. It is intended to enhance our understanding of how integrated approaches to social, physical and environmental vulnerability result in more equitable cities.

THEMATIC OPEN DEBATES AND CONCLUDING SESSIONS

The Thematic Open Debates and Concluding Sessions are closely linked to their respective dialogues, focusing on specific themes addressed by each dialogue.

The Thematic Open Debates provide an opportunity for the participants of the Forum



Discussions at the Nanjing Forum. Photo © City of Nanjing

who attended the dialogues to narrow down the discussion on a theme linked to the dialogue of the morning in a much more participative and interactive manner within a roundtable environment. Speakers at the dialogues and other prominent guests will interact with the public and go in-depth on some of the specific challenges

raised during the morning dialogues. The concluding sessions will bring together a number of speakers and participants in the events during the day who will draw lessons, conclusions and issues raised during the dialogues, thematic open debates, network events and training sessions associated with the theme of the dialogue and present this to a wider public.

ROUNDTABLES

Twelve roundtable meetings will be held for ministers, mayors, parliamentarians, partner universities, business, urban researchers, Habitat professionals, women's and youth groups, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, indigenous people, and the Global Land Tool Network. Most are open to the public, but access to some, like the ministerial sessions, are restricted.



Round table participants at the Nanjing Forum.
Photo © City of Nanjing



View of the Forum venue, Rio de Janeiro. Photo © City of Rio de Janeiro

NETWORKING EVENTS

Approximately 150 Networking Events will be held in Rio. These events enable governments, partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, community representatives, international and national organizations, academics and other UN bodies to discuss specific issues that touch on the urban agenda. Organizations and governments interested in hosting a Networking Event, may access the application form and further information at: www.unhabitat.org/wuf from September 2009 onwards. Networking Events organisers have to register as participants to the Forum.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

A number of special sessions on topics closely related to the theme of the Forum will be organized by UN-HABITAT and its partners. A good example is the UN-HABITAT Cities Lecture.

CAUCUS MEETINGS

Caucus meetings will be informal meetings held between peers every morning before the main events take place and will mainly focus on the topics of that day.

SIDE EVENTS

The topic of a side event is related to the overall World Urban Forum theme and is scheduled during lunch hours, taking place for not more than one and a half hours. A side event is only held by application and would include book launches, receptions, presentations, etc. The organization holding the side event is responsible for its financing.

PRIVATE SECTOR EVENTS

In the present global financial downturn and the increasing environmental threats where cities are hit by impoverishment and insecurity, innovation is the key to ensure a sustainable living for all. Investing in innovation is essential to achieve an efficient, inclusive, low-carbon, green and sustainable city. The private sector, as a key driver of innovation, will show-case best practices and debate new solutions to housing, infrastructure, energy, transport and ICT needs in cities.

THE BUSINESS CAUCUS

Two sessions of business caucuses will provide a platform for exclusive presentations on best practices and innovation for sustainable cities.



Youth at the Nanjing Forum. Photo © City of Nanjing

They will allow interactive debates on the following key challenges: Green Technologies for Cities; Affordable Land and Housing; Basic Services for Healthy Urban Living; The Digital City.

Invitees are representatives from business and industry, policy experts, representatives of communities and other stakeholders working with the business sector.

WORLD URBAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The World Urban Youth Assembly will be held from 19-20 March 2010, shortly before the main event. This Assembly provides the youth an opportunity to discuss and debate issues of importance to them.

It will enable youth delegates to make meaningful contributions to the main World Urban Forum 5 theme. Some of the other activities will include: a Youth roundtable, a meeting of global network of young councillors, Youth main stage (Global Hip-Hop Summit), and meeting of the Youth Advisory Board.

GENDER EQUALITY ACTION ASSEMBLY

UN-HABITAT will host the first World Urban Women's Assembly from 19-20 March 2010 that

will bring together partners to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the Gender Equality Action Plan. The World Urban Women's Assembly will be organized in accordance with Governing Council Resolution 22/7 Work Programme and Budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010-2011.

The two-day discussions will focus on the challenges, progress, and strategies for action and policy implications of the Gender Equality Action Plan. The first day will feature discussions with UN-HABITAT programme managers and partners while the following day will see a high level meeting being held and bringing together UN-HABITAT, its partners, and women Ministers of gender, housing and local development.

TRAINING AT THE FORUM

UN agencies and other institutions will hold a series of training seminars. Each will last for roughly a morning for a maximum of 40 participants. The call for proposals is currently open on the website. For further information, see www.unhabitat.org/wuf.



THE E-DEBATES

The road to Rio will be highlighted by a series of e-debates to garner new ideas to enhance the dialogue sessions. Internet users from around the world will be able to engage in thematic debates with their peers under the moderation of an e-debate coordinator. The idea is to give as many people as possible a chance to join in a discussion that will also provide new ideas and thinking for the Forum as a whole. The e-debates are currently on-going on the website and will be concluded by mid December 2009.

THE FORUM EXHIBITION

A world city exhibition and business expo will showcase some of the world's premier cities and many innovations in urban development for smarter, inclusive cities. Those wishing to exhibit should register online for exhibition space which is already at a premium and has to be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Complimentary standard booths will be set aside for Least Developed Countries on a first-come, first-served basis.

JOIN THE EXHIBITION

To exhibit at the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum, complete the Exhibition registration form on the Forum website at www.unhabitat.org/wuf. The application deadline is 21 February 2010. Please note that the Forum Exhibitors also have to register as participants at the Forum.





UN-HABITAT Exhibition. Photo © City of Nanjing

PARTICIPATION

Participants must register for the Forum. Registration is free, but those attending are expected to meet their own travel, accommodation and living expenses. Online registration opens at www.unhabitat.org/wuf end of September 2009.

VISAS

Most non-Brazilian visitors require visas, and should obtain these in advance from their nearest Brazilian embassy or consulate. Details can be found under the Visa and Frequently Asked Questions site at www.unhabitat.org.

World Urban Forum 5 venue. Photo © City of Rio de Janeiro



HOTELS

Rio de Janeiro offers a wide range of accommodation for all budgets. There will be World Urban Forum designated hotels, from which a shuttle service will run back and forth to the Forum venue. In due course you will be able to book your hotel of choice through our host. For more details we again encourage you to visit our website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We have posted on the website a summary of the frequently asked questions, which you will find very useful and are constantly updated. In case of queries don't hesitate to get in touch with us through the following email address: wuf@unhabitat.org.

THE VENUE

The Forum will be held at the Warehouses of the Rio de Janeiro Harbor, a waterfront area under renovation pictured below.



Participants registering at the Vancouver Forum.
Photo © Globe Foundation





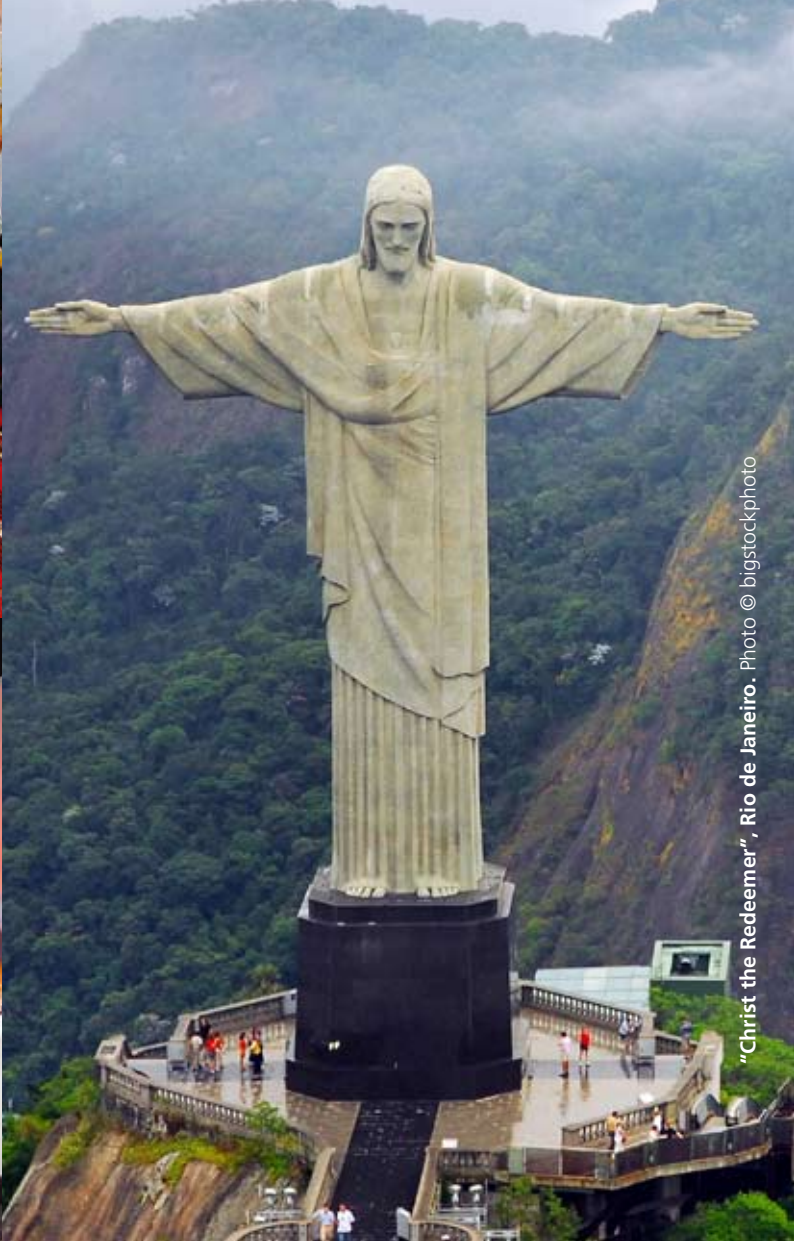
Photo © UN-HABITAT/C. Acioy



Photo © City of Nanjing



Photo © Globe Foundation



“Christ the Redeemer”, Rio de Janeiro. Photo © bigstockphoto



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