



THE 4TH ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)

**YOUTH AND IT IN SUSTAINABLE
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**





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AMMAN, JORDAN
10TH - 12TH DECEMBER, 2012

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YOUTH AND IT IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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Back cover: Jordanian ancient city of Petra

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMMY	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth
AMR	Annual Ministerial Review
APMCHUD	Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development
APUHF	Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BPPSPAM	Badan Pendukung Pengembangan Sistem Penyediaan Air Minum
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMD	Chief Managing Director
CSD	Commission for Sustainable Development
DG	Director General
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
HK	Hashemite Kingdom
HFIR	Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution
HPC	Higher Population Council
HUDCO	Housing and Urban Development Cooperation
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTD	International Conference on Trade and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
InSTEDD	Innovative Support to Emergencies Disease and Disasters
IT	Information Technology
JNWC	Jordan National Commission for Women
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
KIBS	Knowledge-intensive Business Services
MD	Managing Director
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MFA	Minister of Foreign Affairs
MLTM	Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
MPW	Minister of Public Works
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Services Companies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHB	National Housing Bank
NWG	New Working Group
PPPs	Public Private Partners
RC-CEHUD	Regional Center for Community Empowerment of Housing and Urban
RSUWG	Regional Slum Upgrading Working Group
SAARC	South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UDRO	Urban Development and Revitalization Organization
UN	United Nations
UN ICT	United Nations Information and Communication Technology
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IPRED	International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disaster
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VOTY	Voice of the Youth
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WUF	World Urban Forum
YLD	Youth Led Development



FOREWORD



We live in a rapidly changing world, and one of the principal forces driving that pace of change is the continuing information and telecommunications revolution. This transformation is not just changing our economies and cultures, but is also changing the face, shape, size and functions of cities world-wide. Even if we do not yet quite know the exact shape of things to come, we all share a collective and instinctive feeling that this future will be radically different from the world we know today, and that it will certainly be much more urban than in the past. It is for this reason that the theme of the 4th meeting “*Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development*” is very important, particularly to the Ministers tasked with Housing and Urban Development.

It is quite clear that today’s generation of young people, at 1.2 billion, is the largest the world has ever known. An overwhelming majority of this number live in developing countries. This demographic phenomenon offers an unprecedented opportunity for innovation and development. Yet, too many young

people, some of whom are highly educated, have inadequate, unchallenging or no job opportunities. A large number of youth have no immediate prospects and are increasingly getting discouraged; even becoming distrustful of existing institutions and leaders. Economically empowered youth can greatly contribute to good governance and democracy. Through empowerment, many youth can access opportunities that will improve their living standards, get involved in decision making and thus play a key role towards achieving Millennium Development Goals 7 and 8

If these issues are not addressed urgently, the social pressures associated with the Arab Spring phenomenon may be replicated in many more countries. The host country of the 4th Conference, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, being aware of this situation, has decided to address it in a timely manner, hence the choice of the topic for this conference: ***Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development.***

Stressing the importance of youth issues, the UN Secretary-General has made working with and for young people a priority of his five-year

action agenda. This is clear from his call to the United Nations system to deepen and scale up the youth focus of existing programmes, with particular attention to employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, as well as to education, including on reproductive health. The youth want recognition. They demand meaningful employment and closer engagement in the governance and decision making processes of their respective cities and countries. Youth exclusion and deepening alienation have negative implications for cities. Both experience and research have shown that excluding a large swathe of the healthy population from production and services does little to advance sustainable development. Youth should be factored into the broader development process.

The perception of the youth as a group peripheral to the national discourse tends to obscure their potential contribution, particularly their energy, innovative potential and skills.

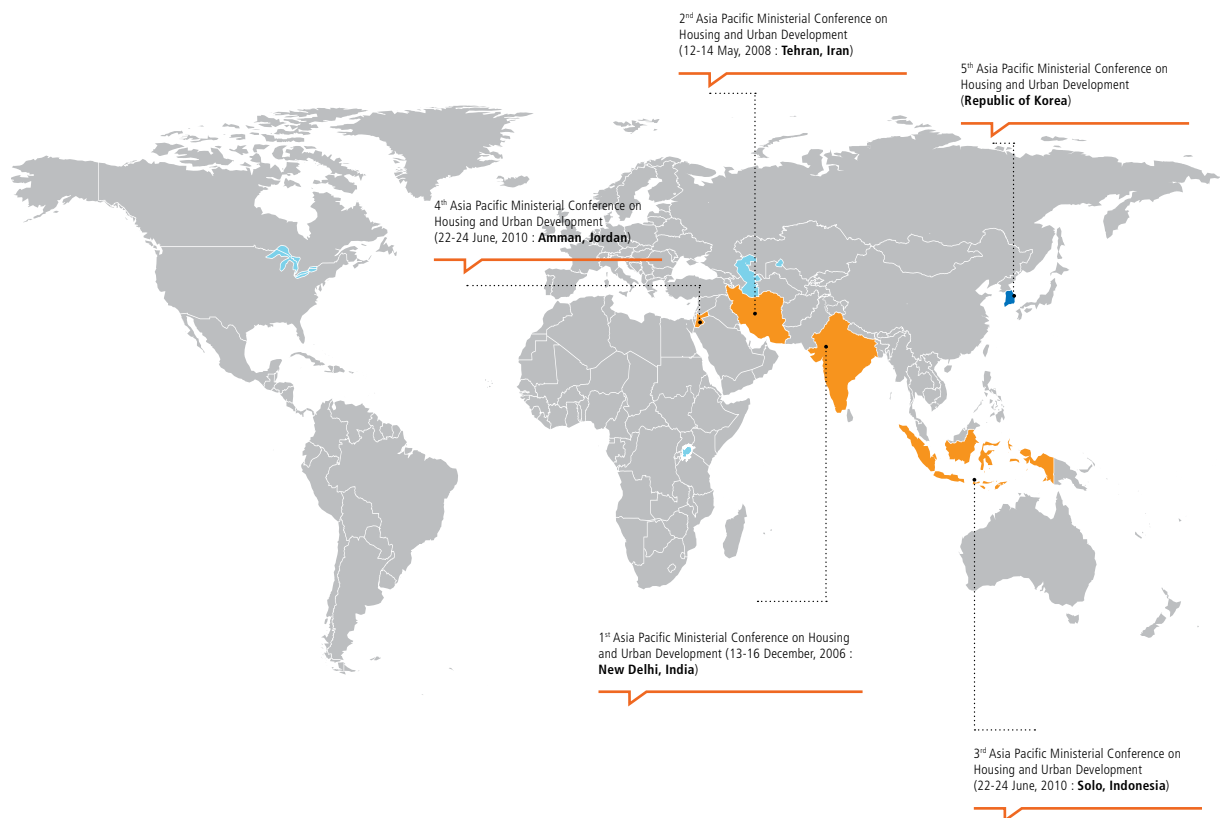
Youth should be seen as positive human power and not as a problem. Youth with the right skills and knowledge in ICT constitute a particularly potent asset for countries and cities.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their hospitality and warm reception, for successfully delivering the conference which committed to implement the Amman Declaration and sponsor a resolution which was adopted in the just concluded 24th Governing Council in April 2013 in Nairobi.



Dr. Joan Clos

Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director United Nations Human
Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



OVERVIEW

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was established through resolutions 20/2 and 19/3 of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat to convene regional ministers conferences on regular basis to understand and have common position on the urban challenges of the 21st century, raise the profile through fostering partnership among countries and report to the Governing Council on the progress made. APMCHUD is an inter-governmental body at the level of ministers responsible for housing and human settlements. UN-Habitat is promoting this forum for the speedy implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The conference has a Bureau, Secretariat and the biennial conference. The first conference was held in 2006 in New Delhi, India. The subsequent conferences were held in 2008 in Tehran, IR Iran, in

ABOVE: Countries in orange have hosted and the blue will host the next APMCHUD in the Asia-Pacific region.

© UN-Habitat

2010 in Solo, Indonesia and the fourth was hosted by Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from December, 10-12, 2012.

The current Bureau members are:

- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Republic of Indonesia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Republic of India
- Republic of Iraq
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Maldives
- Independent State of Samoa

The Asia-Pacific region has more than half of its population composed of young people. The region is experiencing quite a number of positive developments but equally in the same measure registers quite a number of challenges



ABOVE: Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) logo. © APMCHUD

amongst which are unemployment, poverty and increased population in slums. These issues need to be addressed urgently, failure to which the Arab Spring may be replicated in several other countries of the world. The host country H.K. Jordan was aware of the challenges and as a way to provide possible solutions they adopted the theme '**Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development**' which was timely and most strategic. Youth want recognition, meaningful employment and engagements in decision making processes. IT is becoming a very strong tool for connection, and the burning question is how ICT companies under the public-private partnerships can come up with modalities and take more social cooperate responsibilities in addressing short comings. Youth should be seen as positive human power and not as a problem.

This 4th APMCHUD conference was organized under five sub-themes which were addressed under the five established corresponding Working Groups:

- **WG1:** Urban Rural Planning and Management
- **Sub Theme 1:** Youth and IT in Urban and Rural Planning and Management
- **WG2:** Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements
- **Sub Theme 2:** Slum Upgrading-Livelihood Opportunities for Youth
- **WG3:** Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation
- **Sub Theme 3:** Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services
- **WG4:** Financing Sustainable Housing

- **Sub Theme 4:** Opportunities for Financing Youth – Led Development
- WG5: Urban Development with a Focus on Natural Disasters
- Sub Theme 5: Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities

This 4th APMCHUD conference debated and came out with a concrete Implementation Plan for execution through specific projects to address these challenges in the region. UN-Habitat is committed to assist in developing and execution of the projects in the interested countries. The main outcomes of the conference include:

- a. Declaration of Amman
- b. Action Plan for Implementation

The main objective of the 4th APMCHUD conference was to promote the implementation of the agreed action plan and commitment stipulated in the declaration of the conference to address the issues of youth and IT in sustainable urban development.

The member countries have committed to develop policies on youth engagement, provide funding for the vocational training of youth and youth exchange programmes for knowledge sharing. This was equally reemphasized in the recently concluded 24th Session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council which passed the resolution on *Youth and Sustainable Urban Development*. The report of the 4th APMCHUD conference was presented in the form of the statement of the Chairperson of APMCHUD during the 24th Session of the UN Habitat Governing Council.

The 5th APMCHUD conference will be hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2014 on a theme and venue to be proposed by the host country and approved by members of the Bureau.

The main challenges faced by the Member States are how to strengthen the Secretariat with adequate human resources and funding so that it can implement the adopted plan through various projects in member countries. Secondly, the challenge of mobilizing and motivating the strategic countries of this region for their commitment and participation in the APMCHUD Biennial General Meeting, and in the Meeting of the Bureau at the Minister's and higher official levels.



ABOVE: The 4th session of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in Amman, Jordan. © **APMCHUD**



ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)

Introduction

The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was established in the year 2006 through the UN-Habitat's Governing Council resolutions 20/2 and 19/3 with a mission to promote sustainable housing and urban development for human settlements in the Asia-Pacific Region, aiming to consider and address the challenges of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific. Since its establishment four conferences have been held with different themes and produced declarations and action plans to be implemented by the member countries.

ABOVE: Signing the agreement to host the first APMCHUD in New Delhi India. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat provides technical support to APMCHUD which is promoting sustainable housing and urban development in the Asia-Pacific region. It has become a very effective forum for networking, knowledge dissemination and lessons learned from each other in a very short span of time. It discusses the current challenges the region is encountering and devises strategies to address them through required policies and legislation at the national, regional and local levels. Through these actions the forum is promoting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The APMCHUD conference is organized by a member country every two years and the Conference's outcomes are reported to the subsequent Governing Councils of the UN-Habitat on the progress made by the elected chairperson of the Conference.

The 1st APMCHUD was held in New Delhi, India, from 13-16 December 2006, under the theme: *'A vision for sustainable urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020'*. The conference focused on housing and human settlements issues with an aim to identify strategies to manage urbanization and promote urban research among Asia Pacific countries. Four main topics were deliberated in the conference:

1. Pro poor urban governance and planning.
2. Delivery of MDGs for water and sanitation.
3. Slum upgrading.
4. Financing sustainable urbanization.

The 2nd APMCHUD was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 12-14 May 2008, with the theme: *'Sustainable Urban Development; Associating Growth with Equity and Identity'*. The main objectives of the conference were the exchange of viewpoints on policies and strategies of a uniform mechanism for sustainable urban development with a focus on the goals of the Millennium Declaration. The conference also focused on issues such as prevention of expansion of urban residents living in slum while trying to encourage regional and international partnership in support of the poor and the fight against urban poverty.

The 3rd APMCHUD was held in Solo, Republic of Indonesia, from 22-24 June 2010, with a theme: *'Empowering Communities for Sustainable Urbanization'*. The objective of the conference was to address the challenges of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific.

In support of the theme of the conference, the working groups were divided into five groups for discussion that addressed strategic issues in the Asia Pacific regions, as follows:

WG1: Community Participation in Planning and Governance.

WG2: Participatory Urban Slum Upgrading.

WG3: Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation.

WG4: Financing Sustainable Housing and Urban Development.

WG5: The Role of Communities in Addressing Climate Change.



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THE 4TH APMCHUD

Introduction

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Ensour, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hosted the 4th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. This conference was held in Amman organized by the Housing & Urban Development Corporation/ Ministry of Public Works and Housing from 10-12 December 2012, in close cooperation with the APMCHUD Secretariat and UN-Habitat.

ABOVE: The opening session of the fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in Amman, Jordan.
© APMCHUD

Recognizing the role of the youth in sustaining development policies, and understanding that information technology is the key actor of the century, the conference was conducted under the theme ***'Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development'***.

As agreed in the earlier conferences, the conference focused on five main housing and urbanization issues, addressed under the five working groups meeting in parallel to discuss and produce the declaration and an action plan to be adopted by the member countries. The five working groups were:

- **Working Group 1:** Urban and Rural Planning and Management.
- **Working Group 2:** Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements.
- **Working Group 3:** Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation.
- **Working Group 4:** Financing Sustainable Housing.
- **Working Group 5:** Urban Development with a focus on Natural Disasters.

These working groups focused on the following sub-themes with special sessions that were held during the conference to discuss the role and the involvement of youth, women and information technology:

Sub-theme 1: Youth and IT in Urban Planning and Management

Sub-theme 2: Livelihood Opportunities for Youth

Sub-theme 3: Youth and MDGs for Water and Sanitation

Sub-theme 4: Opportunities for Financing Youth-led (Sustainable) Development

Sub-theme 5: Youth as City Changers for prosperous cities



ABOVE: The 4th session of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in Amman, Jordan. © **APMCHUD**

On the other hand, two side workshops were organized on the role of youth and women in the urban development process.

Furthermore, recognizing the role of other non-governmental organizations in developing the mandate of APMCHUD, two MOUs were signed with partner Institutions: Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance (APUHF), Regional Center for Community Empowerment on Housing and Urban Development (RCCEHUD) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), where also presentations from their representatives were also given at the panel on the first day of the conference.

A field trip was organized on the second day of the conference to Khadem Alharamain new city; which is a new urban development in the Al Zarka governorate, constructed in partnership with private housing developers/investors. One of the projects of the Royal Initiative “Decent Housing in Decent Living” was presented to the participants.

The conference was attended by about 140 participants from 19 countries. Seven ministers from Iraq, Iran, Samoa, Korea, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives attended the conference.

The 4th APMCHUD conference concluded with two main documents; the Amman Declaration and the Amman Implementation Plan which signify the commitments of the governments of the Asia-Pacific to the outcomes of the meetings and developing the actions and programs needed to implement such commitments. Considering the main issues under the conference theme, the role of youth and ICT was mainly emphasized as part of the housing and urban development process and at all levels of and procedures.



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CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 4TH APMCHUD CONFERENCE

Over the last decade, Asia in particular has witnessed enormous demographic changes. In 1990 the Asia-Pacific region had an urban population of just over 1 billion. In the next twenty years that number had grown by over 75 per cent to 1.76 billion and the trend is expected to continue. By 2030 Asian cities are projected to be home to some 2.6 billion people. While Asia is not expected to reach the 50 per cent urbanization mark before 2026, the proportion of Asia's urban population increased from 31.5 per cent in 1990 to 42.2 per cent in 2010, the highest percentage increase (10.7 per cent) amongst all regions in the world. More than half of the region's population is young (less than 25 years). It is experiencing considerable positive developments but this has come with several problems of un-

ABOVE: Students take a computer course at the Banana Center which is a private school. Cambodia.
© Masaru Goto/World Bank

employment, poverty and high percentage of population in slums.

Youth want recognition. They have in several years demanded for a meaningful employment and closer engagement in governance and decision making processes of their respective cities and countries. Youth exclusion and deepening alienation has negative implications for cities and different policy and theoretical literature have shown that excluding a large swathe of the healthy population from production and services does little to advance sustainable development. Youth should be factored into the broader development process and the perception of the youth as a group peripheral to the national discourse tends to obscure their potential contribution particularly their energy, innovative potentials and skills. In other words, the youth should be seen as positive human power and not as a problem. Youth with the right skills and knowledge in ICT constitute a particularly potent asset for cities and countries and this capability could form the basis for new sectoral formation. One of the ways of generating new economic dynamism is to foster collaborative relationships with ICT companies under public-private partnership with a clear policy that promotes greater social corporate responsibilities for youth. Also ICT as a tool for advocacy aiming to improve housing conditions focused on youth in urban slums as well as provide skills for upgrading housing and other infrastructure. In addition, Youth and IT is a particularly potent tool of empowerment for young women in urban areas.

The rising youth population, which is generally known as the “urban youth-bulge”, makes it imperative to address the various dimen-

sions of the urban youth against the broader background of prosperity. There are more people under the age of 25 today than the world has ever seen; this demographic change has resulted in a total of nearly three billion youth of which 1.3 billion are in the ages between 12 and 24.

This global phenomenon is a marked characteristic of what is now known as the “Asian Century”, clearly both the asset and challenges of such a rapid transition need to be addressed in the Asia-Pacific Region. In addition to population dynamics, is the fast growth of Information- and Communication Technology in the region, and the theme of this 4th APMCHUD conference connects the two phenomena namely, “Youth” and “ICT”. It examines systematically the challenges and repercussions on youth employment in the process of sustainable urban development



ABOVE: Youth Tech Festival 2011, Amman, Jordan: Building Youth Capacity to Drive Social Change © Women’s Learning Partnership (WLP)

The Arab spring has demonstrated that governments which ignore urban youth unemployment and underestimate the power of ICT (especially social media) can easily be thrown out of power. Member States of APMCHUD are aware of this political phenomenon and were therefore disposed to adopting the theme of APMCHUD 2012, which was proposed and unanimously approved by the 4th APMCHUD bureau meeting on 5th April 2012 in Amman, H.K. Jordan. UN-Habitat has a long standing youth programme which has addressed the above issues in a whole range of events, projects and strategies. APMCHUD has commissioned a background paper which contains a chapter on effective policies to deal with the challenges at the national and regional level. The conference will provide UN-Habitat an excellent opportunity to deploy its expertise to member states towards addressing this topical need. It provides an important opportunity to dialogue with ministers, directors and decision makers from member states on the subject. It is important to understand that the APMCHUD conference provides a unique opportunity to mainstream knowledge, lessons learned and experiences from UN-Habitat's global youth programme to the national level and to a region which constitutes more than 60 % of world's population. These youth programmes include the "Global Urban Youth Fund", the "One Stop Youth Centers", "World Youth Exchange for Employability and Empowerment", "Messengers of Truth", "UN-Habitat Youth Goodwill Envoys", "Youth Advisory Board", "World Urban Youth Assembly" and "State of the Urban Youth Report". There are other project areas such as youth volunteerism and moral ethical youth matters which go beyond the tradition-

al youth subjects but are equally important for APMCHUD. The implementation of these global projects in the APMCHUD countries would definitely create high visibility and generate considerable impact at the national level.

The working group areas of APMCHUD are broad, going beyond the Youth and IT nexus, as a hook linking the theme of APMCHUD to previous themes which cover all aspects of sustainable urban development. The conference will not only serve as benchmark for members states to consolidate their national plans but will also inform the Asia ministers at subsequent UN-Habitat and related milestones such as the 24th Governing Council of UN-Habitat in April 2013, post 2015 Development Agenda/ Sustainable Development Goals, World Urban Forum VII in 2014 and the Habitat III conference in 2016.



ABOVE: Millennials Jam Workshop, Youth and ICTs beyond 2015 where approximately 25,000 young people will input their ideas for the post-2015 global development agenda.

© Rowan Farrell/ITU



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THE THEME PAPER OF THE CONFERENCE: YOUTH AND ICT IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

I. Introduction

On 18 October, 2012, at the 190th session of the Executive Board of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a tribute was organized to recognize the bravery of Malala Yousafzai, a 14-year-old Pakistani girl who was shot nine days earlier by the Taliban for speaking out for the right of girls to education. For the last three years, Malala had used a variety of media – print, television and web – to air her views on educating girls. Malala survived the attack and she is hailed as a ‘*worldwide icon, a symbol for girls’ right to education*’.

ABOVE: Digital Storytelling
Track: Debate and Citizen
Journalism Camp in Kyrgyzstan
© Worldbank



ABOVE: Participatory video project in Dhanusha District, south Nepal. © Pawan Kumar/World-Bank

This 14-year-old girl has struck a chord with the citizens of the world by highlighting the issue of girls' education. Her actions show two facets of the demographic and socio-economic change that is currently taking place in the world. A young teenager was able to take up a global campaign on behalf of her peers who were denied the right to education by using the web to reach out to people far beyond her country. Like Malala, thousands of young unsung heroes are taking up the challenge of changing their worlds and are addressing some of society's most persistent problems such as lack of education, health care and employment opportunities.

Youth are in critical ways already contributors to the development agenda and if provided with the right support and opportunities can become significant leaders and partners in pursuing it.

With growing confidence this generation is bringing services to communities, negotiating with local authorities for the welfare of their peers and others, building relevant social enterprises and even challenging undemocratic regimes and systems that endanger their future.

There are several reasons why young people should be placed at the center of the development agenda.

1. The lag in the achievement of social development goals is affecting young people's future. For example, The Office of the UN Special Envoy for Global Education lists four key statistics that should concern all of us. One hundred and fifteen million child laborers are engaged in hazardous work, 61 million children are out of primary school, 34 million adolescent girls are not in school and 16 million children with disabilities are not in school. How can these children and adolescents be the agents of change?
2. The demographic 'youth bulge', defined as a high proportion of 15 to 29 year olds relative to the adult population, is a double-edged sword. While recent research has shown that a youth bulge may be associated with increased risk of conflict and that one of the primary drivers for violence is disenfranchised and unemployed youth,¹ the youth bulge is also a window of opportunity, where a youthful labor force provides a chance to maximize investment, economic growth and employment.

¹ *Cities of Youth: Cities of Prosperity, 2010, UN-Habitat*

3. Third, in many countries in the Asia Pacific region information and communication technologies (ICTs) have contributed to moving countries on to a path of decent growth, even if not yet of prosperity. China, for example, went from 22 million internet users in 2000 to nearly 540 million in 2012. There is an opportunity today to harness the emerging youth activism and enterprise in the region with these technological developments and create synergies to achieve sustainable, equitable growth.²
4. Fourth, today ICTs, and specifically the world – wide web, enable young people to reach across cities, countries, and regions to exchange ideas, develop them and put them to practice. Growth and innovation in the ICT sector has often been driven by its use and we have seen young users promoting the development of a range of online platforms including blogs, social networking sites, learning object repositories, image and video sharing platforms,

² *The idea that youth could themselves address the problems of their community successfully was first pioneered by UN-Habitat. The concept of youth-led development (YLD) has since then been adopted widely. YLD was first recognized by UN-Habitat at the World Youth Forum in Vancouver, Canada in 2006. YLD puts youth at "the center of their own and their community's development". It is also the way to mainstreaming youth issues and bringing them into the development agenda. In 2007, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat agreed to further the idea by establishing the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development. The Fund is today an important mechanism for ensuring the sustainability of UN-Habitat's efforts to engage youth as partners in the development agenda. This change in perception of youth as agents of change rather than as recipients has dramatically altered the agency's perspective on youth. See State of the Field in Youth-led Development: through the Lens of the UN-Habitat's Urban Youth Fund, UN-Habitat, 2012.*

discussion forums and increasingly short messaging platforms that can distribute a single message to millions in minutes.³

5. Fifth and most importantly, the aspirations of many young people for a better life and an equitable and sustainable future are driving them to pit their wits against all odds to achieve their goals. For instance, it has been envisaged that ICTs would be the tools that would accelerate other initiatives to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the hands of the young, ICTs have themselves transformed to be more than tools and are now an integral part of the solutions. One such transformation is in the spread and development of mobile phone platforms whose use and potentials make for not just achieving targets but exceeding them. In 2012 the World Bank's report "Information and Communications for Development 2012: Maximizing Mobile" showed the importance of mobile technology and applications, often produced by young people, for achieving development objectives. This use has led to the further customization of mobile phones for specific purposes. In Bangladesh, the Digits to All (DTA) project have customized mobile phones to provide instructions in Bengali with audio support. In India, the Aakash Tablet for schools with customized content has been tested widely and is in full production.⁴

³ *Primer Series on ICTD for Youth: Primer 1: An Introduction to ICT for Development: A learning resource on ICT for development for institutions of higher education. Lead Author: Usha Rani Vyasulu Reddi, ICT for Development Consultant, India. Asia Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development.*

⁴ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTINFORMATIONANDCOMMUNICATIONANDTECHNOLOGIES/Resources/JIC4D-2012-Chapter-1.pdf>

This paper mostly revolves around the concept of youth-led and youth-empowering development in an inter-generational matrix and how the Asia and Pacific region's growth and prosperity is linked to harnessing the energies of the young to realize the potential of ICTs, especially virtual and digital technologies for development. Having achieved the technological leapfrog in the ICT space, developing countries are today being presented with a way to turn their Achilles heel, i.e. low female workforce participation and poor youth unemployment rates, into a source of strength.

Can ICT initiatives for the youth and led by the youth be used to improve socio-economic outcomes and thereby make progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals? Can governments and international institutions facilitate the participation of youth not just in the implementation of programmes of social development but in defining and developing the concept of sustainable development with the use of new technologies? Our central focus is on how to harness the many ongoing initiatives already in the field under youth leadership and how they can be up scaled and integrated into country and regional policies and programmes.

It is pertinent to point out that sustainable development has been one of the most active areas of youth engagement in the UN with the Earth Summit of 1992 setting a youth agenda. Since then, the UN has made consistent efforts to involve youth in sustainable development initiatives, especially sustainable development as it relates to the urban world, where the vast amount of youth live. The Habitat Agenda, adopted by heads of state and government at HABITAT II in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, asked governments to work towards

developing the full potential of young people and prepare them to take a responsible role in the development of human settlements, specifically cities and towns. It is estimated that as many as 60% of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030.

Building on these mandates, the rise of youth activism and the availability of information on the internet, there was a rise in the participation of youth globally in forums such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, the UN's annual Commission on Sustainable Development and more recently the Rio + 20 conference where youth pushed for the establishment of a Permanent Forum on Youth, which would give youth a voice globally.

This paper has a number of sections. After a brief introduction to the youth demographics, it documents how UN-Habitat and other UN and global agencies have long placed youth as major actors and participants in achieving the MDGs and pursuing the objectives of sustainable urban development. This is followed by a comprehensive look at the Asia-Pacific region in terms of its demography and socio-economic development. It then discusses ICTs, their spread, use for development and use by youth. This section demonstrates how the pursuit of sustainable development goals will drive the growth of ICTs and further innovations that in the hands of youth may further be applied to the achievement of sustainable social and economic growth. Finally, it looks at the broad directions that policy must take in the region to enable the linked development of ICTs, the securing of the futures of youth in the region and achieving sustainable growth, followed by specific recommendations for the conference.



ABOVE: U.S. envoy: ICT industry in India 'more women-friendly' than other sectors. © Sumadhar Thota/World Bank

II. Where are the World's Youth?

Over 45 per cent of the world's youth live in the Asia-Pacific region. That constitutes 700 million people and growing. Of these, a growing proportion lives in urban areas. Their proportion in the population of the different sub regions ranges from 20 per cent in South Asia and China to 18 per cent in Southeast Asia and 17 per cent in East Asia. Over the last decade primary school enrolments overall have risen. In most economies over 95 per cent of 15-24 year olds are literate. However, only a quarter of those who enroll in schools reach the tertiary level in Central Asia; only 13 per cent do so in South and West Asia. Vulnerable groups and women still do not have easy access to education especially beyond the primary level. Enrolment in technical and vocational education is particularly poor in South and South West Asia being only 2 per cent of the total secondary enrolment. The picture is a

little different in the 22 countries of the Arab countries where half the population is below 25.⁵ While there has been much progress in educational indicators illiteracy among youth is still high. As in many countries of the Asia-Pacific there is a mismatch between education and labour market skills.

Addressing the mismatch is critical to sustaining economic growth. The International Monetary Fund's *World Economic Outlook* released in October 2012 makes the observation that Asia "has weathered the global slowdown well and looks headed for a soft landing".⁶ Asian economies are projected to grow at 6.0 percent in 2012 and 6.5 percent in 2013. In contrast world output is projected to grow at 3.3 percent and 3.6 percent respectively in 2012 and 2013.

5 *State of the Urban Youth 2012/2013; Youth in the Prosperity of Cities; UN-Habitat*

6 *World Economic Outlook 2012* <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/01/pdf/c2.pdf>

Within Asia there are differences across countries with the IMF expressing concern that growth in the Middle East has stalled and the outlook is uncertain. In the current environment, the importance of the Asian economies in revitalizing the world's growth is now well established.

While this is the good news the disconcerting facts are highlighted in the *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012* brought out by the International Labour Organization. The stark message in the report is the continuation of the youth unemployment crisis. The report states "Discouraged by high youth unemployment rates, many young people have given up the job search altogether, or decided to postpone it and continue their stay in the education system. If the unemployment rate is adjusted for the drop-out induced by the economic crisis, the global youth unemployment rate for 2011 would rise from 12.6 to 13.6 per cent (p.7)".⁷ Despite the Asian economies being dynamically economic regions, youth unemployment rates continue to be stubbornly high. The ILO points out that the youth unemployment rates in Middle East stood at 26.5 per cent in 2011. Youth unemployment and low female workforce participation rate is the Achilles Heel of developing economies in Asia.

III. The Impact of the Web and the Digital Economy

The experience of many Asian countries shows that even if economic growth is generated and maintained, unemployment rates, particularly among young people, often remain stubbornly high.

⁷ *World Youth Employment Outlook, 2012* International Labour Organization. Excerpt accessible at http://www.ilo.org/dyn/jobcrisis/?p=jobcrisis:51:796835983533992:::P51_CONTENT_ID:70727



ABOVE: Youth Tech Festival 2011, Amman, Jordan: Building Youth Capacity to Drive Social Change. © WLP-International/World Bank

In addition, many Asian countries have not managed to narrow the gap in wealth between them and developed countries while achieving similar standards of living.

However, the region has seen quick growth in the use of digital technology. South Korea, for example, now has 83% internet penetration, higher than most European countries, while countries such as Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines have seen the numbers of internet users increase more than tenfold since 2000. The question now is whether the spread of ICTs, mainly by youth can also create a socio-economic leapfrog.

The World Wide Web Foundation's Web Index measures the impact of the web on the world's nations and peoples by looking at the availability of infrastructure, Web usage and the impact of the Web on social, economic and political indicators.

THREE-LAYER MODEL OF ICTs AND ECONOMY

Virtual Economy	Exchanges of virtual goods, currencies, links, digital labor
Digital Economy	Online services, communities, games Online shopping, eCommerce, eGov
ICT Infrastructure	Broadband connectivity Wireless networks

Source: Lehdonvirta and Mirko, 2011

Among the 61 countries for which information is available, the countries in the top ten are from the global North along with Australia and New Zealand, while all the countries in the bottom 10 are from the global South.

The Index indicates that the positive impacts of the digital economy are still to happen in many places in the South, including the Asia-Pacific region. It is estimated that the output of the virtual economy - the exchange of virtual goods and services - is in the region of US\$ 3 billion and has the potential of creating many new types of jobs in developing countries.⁸ Lehdonvirta and Mirko, for example, (2011) estimate that “more than 100,000 people in countries such as China and India earn a living through online games and websites disseminating micro-tasks”, despite the fact these countries only have internet penetration rates of 40.1% and 11.4% respectively. To understand the impact of the digital economy in creating new jobs and income opportunities, Lehdonvirta and Mirko have proposed a three-layered model of ICTs and economy.

⁸ *Knowledge Map of the Virtual Economy: Converting the Virtual Economy into Development Potential*, Vila Lehdonvirta and Mirko Ernkist, 2011 infoDev,

Each of these layers has the potential to create new types of jobs and income opportunities. Examples include micro work, ICT-enabled contracting, gaming services, and app development. Examples of ‘digital micro-work’ could be transcribing books, translating documents, improving search-engine results and so on. In sum, large numbers of jobs can be created in the ‘digital micro-work’ industry, thus promoting sustainable growth and development.

Below we take a quick look at areas in which young people can take a bigger role in furthering sustainable development goals through the use of technology.

- In earlier information technologies such as print, radio and television, the production and regulation of content and the means of delivery were in the hands of governments and the private sector. With new digital ICTs, however, content can be created and published by individuals or social groups without the need for traditional structures. In this regard, the development of digital technology has been described as being as revolutionary as the invention of the printing press. The development of digital technologies is often user -driven. This has meant structural

changes in the way content is produced, stored and disseminated and makes it possible to integrate cultural dimensions and localization as never before. One example is of open-source technologies which are often based on peer-production and which are distributed freely with access to the end product's design.

- The changing nature of copyright, often driven by young people involved in free culture movements, has produced new models for monetization of content online such as micropayments, 'freemium' models, in which users are only required to pay for premium features of a product and new forms of online advertising.
- User-generated content and the loss of control over information and data has started breaking down traditional hierarchies by making traditional 'gatekeepers' such as journalists and media houses, less relevant. The emergence of news agencies and news services with a global reach in the developing world has partly been made possible with the spread of the internet. This has been of particular consequence to youth participation in public life.
- The rise of social networking tools has greatly enhanced the potential of information sharing and the ability to mobilize people locally as well as garner global support. This is increasingly impacting on the ability of young people to drive social change and promote human rights.
- By providing anonymity, the internet can provide a voice for marginalized people. This was evident in what is now popularly referred to as the Arab Spring, in which

a series of protests and movements led to change of governments in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen. Many of these movements were led by internet-savvy youth who mobilized and shared information using digital technology. When the Egyptian government blocked access to social networking sites, innovative young people used landline phones to access servers outside the country and used these sites to mobilize world opinion.

A most important emerging fact is that the coming years are set to usher in the mobile age. According to Ericsson, the number of mobile broadband subscriptions will increase from 1.4 billion to 5 billion in the next five years. This growth is going to be highest in developing countries.⁹ Such growth in mobile technology is also fuelling new services including mobile payments and mobile app stores, producing new economic opportunities for young people involved in the development of services such as mobile games.

IV. Case Studies

With this background, we present here some instances in which ICTs are used by youth to pursue the objective of sustainable development in countries across the region as well as in other parts of the world. Some of these are youth-led initiatives, that is, young people have taken charge of the technology and have themselves planned its utilization on development and community projects. In others, youth are the main beneficiaries of such use.

⁹ *The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All*, International Telecommunication Union; Economist October 27 2012, p4, Web index



ABOVE: Young journalist Saltanat Iskakova from Kadamjay, Kyrgyzstan types an investigative article at the IATP access site in Khujand, Tajikistan as part of an OSCE-funded training for young journalists. © iatp-eurasia/World Bank

In yet others, the projects and initiatives significantly assist in youth participation in development or make it possible for youth to so participate. Most of these examples are within urban areas, demonstrating how youth are banking on the “urban advantage”, a concept relating to the abundance of goods, services such as health, recreation and education, and amenities such as access to ICT infrastructure found in cities. Some of these cases use older technologies only or a combination of older and newer digital technologies and some are using innovative social networking technologies. These together make a most compelling story of the potential of how ICTs are being harnessed for equitable and sustainable social and economic gain.

Bridging the Information Gap

The Voice of the Youth (VOTY) NETWORK is a multimedia organization aimed at “encouraging Filipino youth to believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference in the Philippines”. Driven by youth, the goal of the VOTY Network is to foster a sense of leadership and social entrepreneurship among youth through the innovative use of technology and media. The Network uses four main communication channels to facilitate information sharing, dialogue, and collaborative action among Filipino youth: the internet and email, text messaging to cell phones, AM radio and face-to-face exchanges. The goal is to make the sharing of information, knowledge and resources among youth organizations and

individuals more efficient to prevent duplication of effort and to facilitate stronger local, national and international collaboration and cooperative youth-adult partnerships.

Such networks could well connect to create a very large network of youth who are taking charge of their own lives and create inter-country partnerships. Most importantly, they create a medium for the mainstreaming of news from peripheries and also enable young people to come face to face with critical issues.

Digital Expressions in Mukalla Yemen, a youth-led project of the Democratic Youth Society funded by the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund, aims to train youth in the various tools of journalism and film-making so that they can generate news stories from their regions and from a youth perspective. This and other such projects are in areas that are poorly represented in the international media and even when they are the situation of youth in these regions is poorly presented.¹⁰

MUST in India is a different kind of media project that emerged as a university FM radio and digital radio project of the Mumbai University. It is now emerging as a training ground for the disadvantaged youth of the surrounding community and as a space for presenting issues, showcasing local and often traditional folk arts, and provides a platform of interaction to people in informal settlements so the negative images of slum dwellers are replaced by real stories of their lives and struggles.¹¹

10 All information on grantees of the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund has been drawn from www.globalyouthdesk.org.

11 Interview with Pankaj, coordinator, MUST Mumbai University, India

In Palestine, another recipient of the UN-Habitat Youth Opportunities grant is **Young Reporters for Citizenship** a platform of dialogue and communication for young Palestinians. It has been creating skilled reporters on citizen media to advocate democracy and tolerance. It has set up a Youth Observatory on Media Outreach in the Gaza Strip in order to provide practical training on civic education and media uses for young and children. It has its own Facebook page through which youth use digital tools to advocate on local and national issues ranging from unemployment to prisoners' rights issues and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Handsets are used to send SMS messages that are then transferred to Facebook or other social media that do not need internet connectivity. The project is also prompting the local government to sensitize its officials in the use of internet and social media. It is in the process of launching its own website and monthly magazines are to be launched to address the issues it is taking up and to provide a space for its own reporters.

ICT in Education and Vocational Training

One of the oldest uses of ICT has been in education. With assistance and encouragement from UN agencies such as UNDP and UNESCO, several countries have used innovative tools to bridge geographical gaps and to make education available and accessible. So far this has been at higher levels of education because of infrastructural issues and lack of access to technology by those who had been left out by the education system. Today, with mobile technologies, it is possible to transmit lessons and work instructions via mobile video

transmissions and extensive use of a variety of Applications that allow for the sharing of content seamlessly. Youth groups are beginning to make use of these technologies to set up village schools in remote areas.

ICTs in addressing Gender Issues:

HarassMap is a volunteer initiative in Egypt currently funded by the UN Youth-led Urban Grant Programme that works to end social tolerance for sexual harassment using face to face community outreach and social media and mobile phone-based reporting and referral systems for victims of sexual harassment. HarassMap is youth-led with 75 per cent of its volunteers between the ages of 15-32. HarassMap is facilitated by the NGO Nahdet el Mahrousa (NM) and, in its own words, “leverages the ideas of young Egyptian change makers to impact Egypt’s development”. Its flagship program, the “Incubator of Innovative Social Enterprises”, identifies and supports social entrepreneurs by providing capacity-building, technical support, access to networks and seed funding.

HarassMap addresses a problem increasingly seen in many countries. Through its surveys it has found that 83 per cent of Egyptian women reported being harassed and half of those on a daily basis. Harassment occurs at all levels and young people suffer it in silence and accept blame as victims or risk the severe social consequences of speaking out. The project makes reporting possible, prompt, secure and safe through mobile phone communication and social networks. It also trains youth to take on the responsibility of being resource persons in times of crisis.



ABOVE: A young man takes a photo with his mobile phone in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

© Abir Abdullah/ADB

ICTs in Peace, Democracy and Conflict Resolution

Huge numbers of youth reside in the conflict zones in every region of the world. Even as disenchanted and disempowered youth are recruited into informal armies they are also banding together to bring peace and resolve conflict in their areas. Tools using ICTs are being used by young people to create alert systems and monitoring programmes that may well prevent conflicts or defuse social and political tensions, and which have been used in peace negotiations and conflict negotiations. NGO led initiatives with private sector assistance are being put to use extensively by ordinary people. One such is Martus, a software tool by Benentech, a US-based non-profit technology that allows the documenting of human rights and is helping human rights groups’ access information necessary for their work. (<http://martus.org>).

Youth, ICT in Public, Private Partnerships (PPPs)

The following two are recent examples of how ICT companies are creating tools especially directed at engaging youth in development issues of facilitating through technology interventions, youth action for sustainable development. PPPs in collaboration with youth organizations can play a significant role in rolling out services and training people in their use.

Adobe Youth Voices is a philanthropic programme by Adobe that is designed to provide youth in under-served communities with the critical skills they need to become engaged members of their communities. It seeks donations of software and encourages employees to become involved with the projects besides running competitions: <http://youthvoices.adobe.com>

DeforestACTION in Indonesia is a programme prompted by the Microsoft Regional Innovative Education Forum where a number of students and youth from the Asia Pacific region attended a workshop. They decided to tackle the problem of deforestation. Their aims are to find ways to preserve at-risk forests; to create global awareness campaigning against the destruction caused by palm oil production; collaborate with local people in helping animals that are victims of deforestation. <http://dfa.tigweb.org/action/>

ICTs in governance:

UN-Habitat has identified four governance pillars: outcome, responsiveness, public openness and engaging citizens that provide an approach to exploring the impact of these tools



ABOVE: Millennials Jam Workshop, Youth and ICTs beyond 2015. © Rowan Farrell/ITU

in urban governance.¹² ICT-Enabled Urban Governance in the Developing World. When looking at it through a youth lens, other dimensions also become important. A recent review of ICT, Urban Governance and Youth has used directionality as a means of classifying the growing number of ICT using projects in governance. It poses the following key question: “How can ICTs facilitate a more effective and systematic engagement of young people in various local regional and global reform agendas influencing their lives?”

An outstanding example of how young people are bringing added value to government is demonstrated by the **Map Kibera project** funded by the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund. Kibera is an informal settlement in Nairobi and youth in the community have

¹² *ICT, Urban Governance and Youth, 2012, Daniella Ben-Attar and Tim Campbell, UN-Habitat*

produced the first comprehensive map of the area and local resources using digital open mapping techniques. This has expanded now to launch the Kibera News Network and Voice Kibera where local youth generate their own video content. SMS tools and the Ushahidi crisis-mapping platform are used to map local stories facilitating youth access to information for effective social action. This has meant effective mobilization of the community for development of new projects and thematic maps across a range of issues --- education, health and nutrition—to facilitate planning and resource allocation for public services. MapKibera has provided the government with sound tools for policy making and implementing. For instance, the Ministry of Internal Security now uses the organization's security map for peacekeeping activities.

The **Sri Lankan Youth Parliament** is a youth-led, youth-run initiative that uses ICTs extensively and is supported by a grant from the UN-Habitat Youth Opportunities Fund. The objective is to create a network of young people to develop policy, acquire new skills and initiate social action for change. Youth are encouraged to become Action Partners and network with communities to implement their programmes of change.

An innovative use of ICTs to introduce and sensitize youth to parliamentary election processes was developed and tried out in India and is listed as an outstanding social enterprise project by NASSCOM.¹³ The project, executed just before the main parliamentary elections in the country, comprised of computer based tools to organize the process of the creation

of mock election rolls in schools and inviting children (under the age of voting) to vote for candidates who were standing for elections in their constituencies. This resulted in the students prompting their parents to exercise their franchise, which it is estimated pushed up the voter turnout in these constituencies. Further, elaborate gaming tools similar to this may be developed for use in the educational sector.

A similar project in Aceh Indonesia, **Youth Voice: YOUTH Voluntary Initiative for Community Education and Local Democracy** aims to encourage youth who have not access to higher education to understand the development process in the region and acquire skills for employment. Other than running open schools, it has also created a platform on the local radio networks where these youth can exchange their opinions on the various development initiatives and on the functioning of the government. The project initiative receives support from the UN-Habitat Youth Opportunities Fund.

These projects and many like them all over the world show the success of youth initiatives using ICTs in even large social development projects. It must now be acknowledged that to the youth of this region ICTs are familiar tools with which they have grown up - in education, entertainment and in the playground. Utilizing and adapting these technologies of daily use for social enterprise comes easily. We cannot but acknowledge that youth are the best equipped change makers today. Young people today are keen to take charge of their present and of their future to build sustainable societies.

¹³ <http://www.nasscomfoundation.org/Insih2013/iris.html>

V. Policy Recommendations

A. Broad policy tracks

In a rapidly globalizing world, the only way to constructive and sustainable development is through a collaborative framework. This is especially true in the modernizing context of the spread of the use of ICTs, which have the potential of bridging social, political, and geographical divides. Before embarking on specific recommendations, institutional frameworks and the preconditions necessary for the implementation of concrete measures are briefly discussed.

1. Building Blocks for Collaboration:

The task of leveling the knowledge playing field, a prerequisite for sustainable development across a region, must rest on a collaborative framework. The construction of a collaborative framework requires systematic attention to the process and a sincere adherence to the concept.¹⁴ Youth movements across the globe are putting this to action and evolving processes, tools and strategies for collaborative work. It may well be that global institutions will need to learn from the youth movements here.

Collaboration may be across regions, countries and within countries. It may be across sectors and across generations. It may also be across public, private, and civil society sectors. Mechanisms need to be evolved to operationalize these collaborations. Youth movements across the globe can play a vital role in becoming the seeds of country-to-country and region-to-region collaborations on various issues.

Similarly, youth-led incubators for social entrepreneurship can be set up to foster inter-country programmes.

2. Rights and Freedoms:

It is clear that without adequate attention to the rights and freedoms of youth, there can be no social growth. Sustainable development is premised on the existence of structures that ensure basic rights and freedoms to all without discrimination. Human rights organizations across the world have pointed out that the assurance of fundamental freedoms and the safeguarding of basic rights is essential to the growth and development of regions and countries. In the current tumultuous economic scenario, these structural features define a country's ability to pull out of a crisis. Human Development Reports have all consistently shown this: the Arab Human Development report, for example, shows from a wide survey that the single most important factor for non-participation of youth in democratic processes is 'fear' of family, tribe/community and higher authority structures.¹⁵ As shown during the Arab Spring, information access and the means to share ideas help to challenge the lack of freedoms and rights. It is here that the web and mobile platforms have found their extensive use.

3. Regional Cooperation:

South-South cooperation has a long history. The many initiatives that have resulted in several youth platforms need to be explored and revived with a new vision for youth cooperation across the region. Given that developing regions of the world all share many fundamentals - rising youth populations, unsatisfactory

¹⁴ *Youth Movements: White Papers 2012.*
Prepared by TakingITGlobal

¹⁵ *Arab Human Development Report, 2009: Challenges to Human Securities in Arab Countries.* <http://www.arab-hdr.org>

progress towards attainment of the MDGs, unplanned, unsustainable and erratic growth and technology leapfrogging with rapidly growing use of ICTs by youth - it is imperative that South-South connections be revitalized. As is evident in any of the youth meets and conferences, young people are already doing this. It is now time to institutionalize the partnerships at the policy level.¹⁶

¹⁶ *There are other regional and sub regional platforms as well such as ASEAN, the Arab League of Nations, SAARC and others whose work has had positive impact on country economies and created best practices for exchange of resources, technologies and skilled and super skilled populations. Some have created participatory space for youth. ASEAN constituted the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth to act as the higher-level body to resolve common social problems among young people in ASEAN member countries. AMMY is now part of the ASEAN institutional framework reporting to the ASEAN Heads of Government Meeting through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. Youth @ ASEAN is an interactive youth website that provides information on regional events and issues.*

The Arab Youth Observatory and the League of Arab States Youth Forum were both established in response to the decree of the Arab Kings and Presidents' Summit (Khartoum Summit, 2006). They were intended to help implement the strategic orientations of the Arab Declaration on Youth Empowerment. The main objective of the youth Observatory set up under the Population Policies and Migration Department (www.poplas.org/eng) is to foster youth participation through: collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on youth at the Arab regional level and creating a regional comprehensive and updated database; formulating an Arab vision on youth empowerment and participation; activate dynamic dialogue among different stakeholders to gain the support of decision makers on youth empowerment and participation policies and to integrate youth issues in development policies; and enhance the capacity of youth leaders, youth organizations and national institutions working on youth empowerment.

The League of Arab States Youth Forum is organized annually but has not met since 2009. SAARC Youth Forum is active on several platforms including the hosting of a SAARC Youth Entrepreneurs Forum.

The region has a number of intra region youth platforms that need to have common or complementary programmes involving youth leadership in moving towards sustainable development through ICT use.

4. Youth in the UN:

The Youth have had some involvement in some of the UN programmes. The nature of involvement has changed over time and across agencies. The Youth 21 programme spearheaded by UN-Habitat in a meeting in Nairobi in March 2011 emphatically called for greater participation of youth at the decision-making levels in the UN.¹⁷ With a general acceptance of this point of view at the highest levels of the UN, it is imperative that UN agencies pull together to create the environment for youth to be actively engaged in sustainable development using ICTs intelligently and creatively.

5. Research and data gathering:

While bodies like the Arab Youth Observatory are gathering youth-related data and making it widely available there is a need to expand these efforts. More importantly the concept of youth-led research needs to be consolidated in order to create strategies and templates for evaluating programmes affecting youth. This research using a wide variety of ICTs will not only yield regular data but also train youth in research and data gathering and provide employment.

UN-Habitat's Global Youth Helpdesk (www.globalyouthdesk.org) is also a repository of teaching and training material, data and news and a communication space for youth. UN-Habitat's Global Youth Research Network is poised to do just this and needs wide support and collaboration across the Asia-Pacific region.

¹⁷ *Briefing paper UN-Habitat and youth, 2012*

Training youth in research practices, evaluation and planning will provide skills for a wide variety of jobs and also encourage a flow back to higher education and academic research and teaching occupations.

6. Public-private-civil society partnerships:

Typically PPPs combine the expertise and experience of the private sector with the administrative reach and political influence of the public sector. They are also aimed at leveraging additional investment for public infrastructure to deliver public services. In 2001 the UN ICT Task Force, in its report to the Secretary-General had emphasized that government-private partnerships “enable real, tangible and sustainable transfer of knowledge and technology, especially ICT, to developing countries.”¹⁸ In such enterprises youth can play an intermediary role, taking charge of ICTs to be used and further creatively developed for social betterment.

Public-private civil society partnerships can be a very effective vehicle for ICTs using youth-led initiatives on development issues. Among the early examples of involving youth in PPPs is the UNIDO promoted PPP with the Microsoft Corporation with multiple objectives: to promote the use of ICTs in the small and medium sectors in Uganda, to set up a rescue and computer refurbishment center of excellence in Uganda and evolve recycling solutions for e-waste.

18 UN ICT Task Force (2001): *Report of the Secretary-General: The role of the United Nations in promoting development, especially information and communication technologies, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, E/2001/59, 2 May, para. 70, p. 33.*

The center also provides employment and training for youth.¹⁹ Technology companies can also fund large initiatives. For instance, InSTEDD was set up with funding from Google to track infectious diseases in the Mekong valley of Cambodia. A lab focused on a triple bottom line: building human capacity, creating social impact, and achieving financial sustainability has also been set up.²⁰

In recent years PPPs have been more innovative and more directly concerned with the sectors they address. They also involve more actors and stakeholders. A good example of this is the **Egypt Smart Village**, www.smartvillages.com, a technology park resulting from, a PPP between the government and a private consortium, designed to remove obstacles to ICT firms investing in Egypt’s ICT sector. Many companies also set up production facilities such as Nokia in China and started the trend of setting up software development centers as PPPs. These provide huge employment opportunities for youth.

Another kind of PPP which is growing in number is where a private company develops programmes and tools for a social enterprise. Among the earlier ones was the Cisco Networking Academy Program, a computer networking education program developed by Cisco Systems especially for non-profit, public education institutions. The Cisco Networking Academy Program teaches students to design, build and maintain computer. Using Web technologies, the Cisco Networking Academy Program is also a valuable model for successful e-learning.

19 http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Services/PSD/ICT/GSA%20White%20paper%205.12.08.pdf

20 <http://www.ictworks.org>



ABOVE: Vocational training students, southern Mongolia. ADB's education strategy in Mongolia includes supporting the government's attempts to align the skills and education of the labor force with market demand. © World Bank

Web-based delivery of educational content is supplemented by numerous online tools that empower Academies to manage all aspects of the program. In addition to the networking curriculum, it provides online testing.

B Specific Recommendations

1. Youth focus or platforms in every UN sponsored conference:

Without the active engagement of youth no deliberations can have a meaningful life. It should be mandatory for every major conference under auspices of the UN to create a viable, high level platform/advisory group/caucus for youth engagement. This would make sense especially with the appointment of a special youth representative to the UN Secretary-General having been recently announced.

These platforms would assist the Special Representative in advising the Secretary-General in youth affairs.

2. Infrastructure Growth:

Countries in the region need to enhance their investment in infrastructure for ICT. Investing in broadband connectivity and its accompanying transformations creates jobs in four ways:²¹

1. Direct job creation through the construction of broadband networks related to civil works and installation of network equipment;

²¹ 'Broadband and job creation: Policies promoting broadband deployment and use will enable sustainable ICT-based job creation', Wonky Min and Carlo Maria Rossotto (2012) <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/>

2. Indirect job creation through incremental employment generated by businesses selling goods and services to those directly involved in broadband network construction
3. Induced job creation through additional employment occasioned by household spending based on the income earned from direct and indirect effects
4. Transformational job creation, through new jobs created by new businesses as well as business innovations and flexible work practices in existing firms, enabled through broadband adoption;

Recommendation 10 of UN-Habitat's State of the Urban Youth report tackles unemployment with knowledge-intensive business services. "Knowledge-intensive Business Services (KIBS) have been gaining increasing share in urban economies these past few years. These include financial services, accountancy, computer services, the media, advertising, design, legal services, data processing, research, engineering and other forms of consultancy. They demand highly qualified workers, usually university graduates, the higher demand for which is inciting more and more cities to compete for talent through attractive amenities and diverse career opportunities." Here again, PPPs could be the strategy.

3. Training and capacity building:

All across the region, while enrolment in schools has risen, the numbers of people who reach beyond the secondary stage are few. In many countries these young people have little access to acquiring employable skills. Other countries may have these facilities or may have the resources to create the infrastructure for training and capacity building.

For example, the technical education sector that grew rapidly in India in the last decade now has excess capacity that could be systematically utilized for new programmes in ICTs. Systematic exchange programmes for disadvantaged youths to acquire skills in ICTs within this region and selected programmes of training outside would create synergies.

Internships and work exchange programmes in private, public and NGO sectors: Training and capacity building also happens in the course of employment and in the work place. Public-private partnerships with civil society organizations need to create internship and training programmes across the region. It has been well recognized that such youth exchange programmes not only improve employability but also foster better social and cultural understanding. Such youth exchange

Programmed should also be created in the civil society sector so that model programmes can impart skills and train youth from other parts of the region. For instance, the series of UN-Habitat one-stop youth resource centers can act as training grounds for young people from other countries to enable them to set up similar projects. Such a programme would also establish peer learning as a viable medium of imparting knowledge and skills.

More specifically any plan of action for the region should include:

- Establishment of a national vocational education and training system which takes into account the recent developments in IT;
- Establishment of national private sector incentives for hiring apprentices and creation of jobs for youth in IT-related fields.

4. Establishment of support funds specifically targeted at youth-led ICT initiatives:

The experience of the UN-Habitat Youth Opportunities Fund and other similar youth-specific grants has been extremely positive. Young people are more than eager to engage with social problems and find ways of initiating change in their communities. They are the natural change makers. With the use of ICT and support funds young people deliver results even in complex and difficult projects. Programme after programme shows that youth are capable of taking on a wide range of responsibilities, learn new skills and produce new ways of addressing social challenges sustainably. The benefits are many: employment generation; skill development; training; finding a 'voice' on public issues; recognizing one's own potential and role in social and economic development. The establishment of youth-specific funds especially for ICT initiatives in sustainable urban development is the most cost-effective way of engaging youth productively even as the region as a whole benefits.

5. Recognizing and establishing youth forums and platforms

Mere rhetoric of youth participation and involvement is not enough. Public platforms with authority and wide ranging roles need to be created at the national and regional levels. A national youth assembly should be mandatorily established in every country.

More importantly, national advisory boards need to be established with specific roles and legislated authority to advise the government on youth components of policies and programmes. Adequate funds need to be placed at their disposal for the discharge of these duties.

6. Establishment of regional cooperation and regional youth assemblies

Just as important as the national assemblies, platforms for regional youth cooperation need to be created and funded to enable youth agendas to be pursued at the level of national and regional government.

7. Establishment of national and regional youth volunteering programme and peace initiatives

Given the sharply expanding economic gap in most developing countries, there will be an ever-widening chasm in services, resources and manpower. Creating systematic avenues for volunteering ensures a space for cooperation and exchange among youth of different classes, communities and social groups. Wherever they are in existence they have been very successful in drawing sustained youth engagement in public arenas and in bridging divides while at the same time ensuring badly needed services.



MAIN STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



H. E. Dr Abdullah Ensour
Prime Minister
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



*Your Excellency **Dr Joan Clos**,
 Executive Director of the UN-Habitat
 Your Excellency **Mr. Sunu Soemarno**,
 Deputizing for **H. E. Mr. Djoko Kirmanto**,
 Minister of Public Works of Indonesia
 Excellencies Honorable Ministers*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Jordan, and to express the delight of the people of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to have you all with us here ... coming from around the biggest of the continents and around the shores of the largest of the oceans...of where all of our peoples are seeking to face the challenges to provide for a better life...

Your Excellencies ...Ladies and gentlemen

Facing the accelerated global changes and developments require us to join efforts to manipulate globalization to interact with our interests... to meet the negative impacts enforced by civilization on our countries and peoples...

***Your Excellencies
 Ladies and gentlemen***

Youth around the world dominate our societies.... they look to us... policy and decision makers as the road map to their future... they are the users and beneficiaries of development...As such it is our mission... to provide for the well-being of our children and grandchildren.... and to build together the dream of welfare and fulfillment of the needs of our youth... to maintain our globe and their dream...

In Jordan... our leadership... have always sensed the aspirations of the young men and women ... a special entity the All Jordan Youth Commission was established ... to encourage and train the young people to participate in shaping their future... and their communities... these young women and men would reflect the need of their societies and communities and share their

views of the policies and programs... collaborating with policy and decision makers to pursue the aspired goals and objectives of development...

Yet on the other hand, information and communication technologies are developing in acceleration... a tool ... a blessing that facilitates life or a curse irritating our horizons. None the less, information technology has become the media for interaction and globalization... a youth facility to tackle life's complications and challenges... and profoundly to interlink the world, bringing the furthest to the spot... the world becoming a hub for information – a one world...

Your Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

I cheer you for choosing this specific theme for your conference... linking Youth and Information technology to a very profound necessity to every human being... the shelter... a sustainable urban development...

Communication technologies have showed tremendous stories of which youth manipulated information technologies to serve their causes and reroute their countries paths and obligations, where technologies were able to adapt the natural resources and predict risks to ensure the well-being of societies and secure the capability and right of access to shelter to all.

In this regard, the world is looking forward to the outcomes of the world leaders commitments of the millennium goals ... and the Beyond 2015 campaign which aims to influence the creation of a post 2015 development framework that succeeds the current UN Millennium Development Goals. Reflecting our leadership insight of the needs of Jordanians and the people of the world, Her Majesty Queen Rania AlAbdallah was appointed as part of the High-level Panel to advice on the global development agenda beyond 2015.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The world faced and is still facing vast economic crises... of which the developing countries were the most affected, and where youth played an important role in calling for just dissemination of profits and resources.

I herewith, call upon your good selves to promote a new era of cooperation among our nations ... our governments... our countries, to better utilize our main human resource ... the youth ... of whom I am approaching you to incorporate in all your programs and plans...

And to our youth allow me to say ... take the best of which the new technologies would give to serve our visions and dreams of a life where peace and justice prevail...

*Your excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Each and every one of us on this earth seeks a shelter where our soul pacify... I lay in front of you the challenges of securing affordable shelter to all our citizens....I call upon you to invest in our youth ... they are the sustainable non-diminishing energy of our time ..

I wish you fruitful meetings and discussions

Our dear guests...

I wish you a pleasant enjoyable stay in Jordan.

هتاكربو هللا قمحرو مكيلع مالسلاو



Dr. Joan Clos

Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director UN-Habitat



*Honorable Ministers of Housing and
Urban Development*

*Excellencies, Invited Guests, Ladies and
Gentlemen,*

It gives me great pleasure to be present at this Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD). This meeting is of special significance to me, since it is the first time I am attending an APMCHUD meeting. At the outset, I would like to thank and congratulate the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their hospitality and warm reception. I would also like to thank the APMCHUD Secretariat, and all others involved, for all the hard work that has gone into the preparations for this meeting. In addition, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all Honorable Ministers and esteemed participants present here today. UN-Habitat greatly values the work that you are advancing collectively within APMCHUD, and separately within your own countries.

I am aware that the previous meetings held since 2006 have addressed issues ranging from Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific by 2020, Sustainable Urban Development: Associating Growth with Equity and Identity and, most recently, the third session that took place in Solo, Indonesia, in June 2010, considered the theme of Empowering Communities for Sustainable Urbanization.

We live in a rapidly changing world, and one of the principal forces driving that pace of change is the continuing information and telecommunications revolution. This transformation is not just changing our economies and cultures, but is also changing the face, shape, size and functions of cities world-wide. Even if we do not yet quite know the exact shape of things to come, we all share a collective and instinctive feeling that this future will be radically different from the world we know today, and that, for sure, it will be much more urban than our past. It is for this reason that the theme of this meeting is very important, particularly to the Ministers tasked with Housing and Urban Development.

It is quite clear that today's generation of young people, at 1.2 billion, is the largest the world has ever known. An overwhelming majority of this number live in developing countries. This demographic phenomenon offers an unprecedented opportunity for innovation and development. Yet, too many young people, some of whom are highly educated, have inappropriate or no job opportunities. A large number of youth have no immediate prospects and are increasingly getting discouraged; even becoming distrustful of existing institutions and leaders. If these issues are not addressed urgently, the Arab Spring phenomenon may be replicated in many more countries. The host country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, being aware of this situation, has decided to address it in a timely manner, hence the choice of the topic for this conference: Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development.

Stressing the importance of youth issues, the UN Secretary-General has made working with and for young people a priority of his five-year action agenda. This is clear from his call to the United Nations system to deepen and scale up the youth focus of existing programmes, with particular attention to employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, as well as to education, including on reproductive health.

The youth want recognition. They demand meaningful employment and closer engagement in the governance and decision making processes of their respective cities and countries. Youth exclusion and deepening alienation have negative implications

for cities. Both experience and research have shown that excluding a large swathe of the healthy population from production and services does little to advance sustainable development. Youth should be factored into the broader development process. The perception of the youth as a group peripheral to the national discourse tends to obscure their potential contribution, particularly their energy, innovative potential and skills. Instead, the youth should be seen as positive human power and not as a problem. Youth with the right skills and knowledge in ICT constitute a particularly potent asset for countries and cities.

In order to have cities that generate wealth, prosperity and jobs for young people, countries need to have national urban plans that provide for public spaces and basic services. One way a city can generate wealth is by providing space for communication between the people (including the young) and by facilitating the movement of persons, goods and services. In order to achieve sustainable cities, commitment from urban local governments and residents, particularly the youth, must be deliberately created and nurtured.

It is for these reasons that concerted efforts by all partners to implement youth programmes are imperative. Research reports with concrete recommendations will enable policy makers at national and local levels to mainstream youth issues into all aspects of their planning and operational areas. For instance, how should national and city-level policies confront the effect of structural change on skill requirements, including in the area of ICT? How should

programmer managers build complementary strategic partnerships with the private sector as well as invest in youth apprenticeship training? Other areas we need to focus on are the matching of skills and labor markets through vocational training. It is my hope that the background paper and its recommendations prepared for this meeting will enhance the meeting's discussions in this respect.

I wish at this point to invite all our partners (including the Private Sector) who are able to support this vision to come on board and provide their support.

Let me conclude these short opening remarks by congratulating again all Honorable Ministers and Excellencies present today for your commitment to this conference. We need your strong support and partnership in advancing the evolving Urban Agenda, especially following the outcome of Rio+20, which stressed the important contribution of sustainable cities to sustainable development. We believe that, with your support, the Post-2015 Devel-

opment Agenda, about which discussions are on-going globally, and the Habitat III Conference in 2016, will consolidate and firmly establish sustainable urbanization as an important pillar of sustainable development. Let me also say that your attendance of the forthcoming Twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat will be crucial, especially as preparations for Habitat III will start in earnest. I therefore very much look forward to your active participation in that session of the Governing Council.

Once again, I am very delighted to be in this meeting. I encourage you to continue this very important initiative that you have started of advancing the youth agenda within the work of APMCHUD and also the work of other stakeholders involved in this process. I wish you successful deliberations and very much look forward to the outcome of the meeting. I believe this will provide further guidance to UN-Habitat's work in the Asia and Pacific region.

Thank you for your attention



H.E. Sunu M. Soemarno

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to UN-Habitat on behalf of H.E. Djoko Kirmanto Minister of Public Works of the Republic of Indonesia, Chairman of the Third Bureau of APMCHUD



*His Excellency **Dr. Abdullah Ensour**,
Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,*

*His Excellency **Mr. Yahya Kisbi**,
Minister for Public Works and Housing of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,*

*His Excellency **Dr. Joan Clos**,
Executive Director of UN-Habitat,*

*Your Excellencies Ministers and Heads
of Delegation from APMCHUD Member
Countries,*

*National Organizing Committee of the
Conference,*

*Distinguished Speakers and Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am delivering this statement on behalf of H.E. Djoko Kirmanto, Minister of Public Works of the Republic of Indonesia -- Chairman of the Third Bureau of APMCHUD, who is regrettably unable to attend this important conference due to an unavoidable engagement at home.

Let me begin by thanking the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, particularly His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Ensour, Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and to His Excellency Mr. Yahya Al Kisbi for the excellent ar-

rangement and warm hospitality extended to all of us in this beautiful city of Amman. I would also like to convey the most sincere apology of H.E. Djoko Kirmanto for not being able to attend this Meeting. His Excellency would like me to emphasize to this conference that Indonesia's commitment to APMCHUD remains strong.

Excellencies, Honored guests and participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The participation of the Indonesian delegation at this meeting, the Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, signifies our commitment to address the issues of sustainable housing and urban development in the Asia Pacific region, and the collective role we need to play. I am sure we will have fruitful deliberations and shall be able to share our experiences for the prosperity of our region.

It has been a privilege for the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to be the Chair of this prestigious organization since June 2010. The Third Conference of APMCHUD in Solo, Indonesia, in June

2010, has come up with the Implementation Plan, as part of the Solo Declaration, for addressing the challenges of sustainable housing and urban development, and has outlined the specific strategies and steps needed to move further ahead in achieving our common objective.

I am particularly thankful to all the member countries of the Third Bureau for their excellent cooperation during the five meetings we had had since June 2010. The first meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 29 November 2010. The second meeting took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 10 April 2011, the third was held in Seoul, South Korea, on 28 October 2011, and the fourth took place here in Amman, Jordan, on 5 April 2012. And the last meeting of the 3rd Bureau of the APMCHUD was held in Naples, Italy, on 4 September 2012.

The Bureau has focused its works on issues addressed by five Working Groups, which respectively are: Urban and Rural Planning and Management, Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements, Delivery of MDG's for Water and Sanitation, Financing Sustainable Housing, and Urban Development with a Focus on Climate Change and Natural Disasters.

On this occasion, I would like to thank India, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Republic of Korea for their significant initiatives and leaderships on their respective working groups, together with Indonesia. I express our appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran and India, who organized the Asia Pacific Regional Technical Meeting on their respective Working Groups, towards iden-

tifying required actions by the Asia Pacific countries at large. I would like to thank all the member countries for their active participation and significant contribution in technical meetings of the working groups, as well as the Secretariat for their support.

Excellencies, Honored guests and participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the UNDP report in July 2012, half of the world's top 20 megacities, those with populations of 10 million or more, are located in Asia. By 2026, over half of Asia population will be urban, and by 2050 the proportion could reach two-thirds. Asian cities also tend to be densely populated with 6,500 people per square kilometer, as compared to 4,500 in Latin America and 4,000 in Europe. Currently, the Asia Pacific region is home to 3.9 billion people, which contributes to more than half of the world's population.

Approximately, 40% of the region's population resides in urban settlements. About 505 million slum-dwellers or over half the world's slum population live in the Asia Pacific region. Furthermore, 45% of the world's natural disasters occurred in the Asia Pacific region in the last three decades. These are the main challenges that our region needs to address in the context of sustainable housing and urban development.

Excellencies,

The major outcome of the Third APMCHUD Conference in Solo was the Solo Declaration and the Solo Implementation Plan. One of the recommendations of Solo Declaration was the establishment of a Regional Center for Community Empow-

erment on Housing and Urban Development (RC-CEHUD) in Indonesia. As a regional knowledge hub, RC-CEHUD has worked together with several local governments in Indonesia and with international partners to empower communities in housing and urban development. In the last two years, this Center has conducted trainings, research, and workshops in promoting community empowerment in housing and urban development.

The Center also organized an International Training on Low-Cost Housing for ASEAN countries, and built partnership with UNESCO-IPRED (International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disasters) to disseminate earthquake-resistant building technology to the community in the earthquake-prone areas.

On this important conference, I would like to highlight one best practice in community-based programs related to disasters in Indonesia, which is called REKOMPAK, or Community-Based Program for Post-Disaster Housing and Infrastructure Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. This is one of the fastest and successful rehabilitation and reconstruction programs in the world as compared to similar activities in other countries. Upon the completion of the program, more than 15,000 houses were built and basic infrastructures were restored in 265 villages in disaster areas in the Java region. This program is successful as it was supported by the active partnership of the Government and community in each stage of the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing and infrastructures.

This success story is also a result of education and public campaign to many members of the community in enriching their knowledge on how to reduce the impact and address the aftermath of disasters.

There are actually many best practices of community development programs in Indonesia. To mention a few, we also conducted Community-Based Programs in Water Supply Development (Pamsimas), in Sanitation Development (Sanimas), in Rural Infrastructure Development (PPIP), and also in Urban Poverty Alleviation Program (P2KP/PNPM).

Excellencies, Honored guests and participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Indonesia attaches great importance to youth and women involvement in housing and urban development. In our community-based programs, every stakeholder is accommodated and taken into account, including youth and women. For example, every year we conduct public campaigns to promote sanitation and hygiene for the young generation, especially for middle and high school students from all over the country, in the form of Sanitation Jamboree and Sanitation Ambassador Contest. Those events were also annually linked with the World Habitat Day celebration in our country.

We also facilitated gender responsiveness in housing and urban development, particularly by providing equal opportunities to men and women in decision-making process, access to human resources, financial management, and training opportunities.

Excellencies,

I appreciate the fact that the agenda of this Fourth APMCHUD Conference has a theme on ‘Youth and Information Technology (IT)’. I am sure that the deliberations on this issue in the working groups would enable formulation of appropriate recommendations, which hopefully would be considered as part of the outcome of this meeting.

Finally, I would like to convey the gratitude of my delegation to all of the Asia Pacific countries that have actively involved in APMCHUD organization. On behalf of the Head of Third Bureau of APMCHUD, I would like to handover the chairmanship of APMCHUD Bureau to H.E. Mr. Yahya Kisbi, Minister of Public Works and Housing of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is my firm belief that the Jordanian leadership will bring forth a better future for cooperation in housing and urban development in the Asia Pacific region.

Thank you very much.



H. E. Eng Yahya Kisbi
Minister of Public Works & Housing
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Chairman of APMCHUD4



*Your Excellency **Dr Abdullah Ensour***

*Your Excellency **Dr Joan Clos**
 Executive Director of the UN-Habitat*

*Your Excellency **Mr. Sunu Soemarno**
 Deputizing for **H E Mr. Djoko Kirmanto**
 Minister of Public Works of Indonesia*

Excellencies Hon'ble Ministers

It is a great moment for me today to meet your Excellencies. friends from so many different countries... please allow me to welcome each and every one of you to Jordan... dear guests...I extend my thanks to all of you travelling from vast places to join us in the 4th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on housing and urban development... wishing you all a pleasant stay among us your Jordanian friends and family.

Let me start by offering on your behalf the gratitude and thanks to Indonesia, through H E Mr. Sunu Sumarno deputizing H E Mr. Djoko Kirmanto my colleague the minister of Public works in Indonesia for the efforts they have undertaken during the past couple of years chairing and manag-

ing Asia Pacific Ministerial meetings and the five bureau meetings held during this period..

*Your Excellency **The Prime Minister***

Your Excellencies ladies and Gentlemen.

We were honored here in Jordan to host the fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban development and hence chair it for the coming two years...

Taking into consideration His majesty King Abdullah Ibn AlHussein vision and interest in the youth and the Information technology, we have proposed having the main theme of the conference to be about the Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban development... three sectors of special interest to His Majesty...the youth... the drivers of production make more than half our society ... IT the main tool for communication between nations ... and the media for information as a power for decision making.. Urban development on the other hand is our destiny as human beings... to secure our healthy living ...

It is in this context that sustaining development plans would affect and be affected by the needs of the communities... whereas Information technologies facilitate and ease the burden of exploiting experiences and priorities...

*Your Excellency Dr Ensour
Your Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen*

In our process of preparation for the 4th conference and in cooperation with our partners the Un-Habitat and Indonesia and the secretariat in India... an organizing committee was set up with the participation of the relative governmental and non-governmental agencies to cover for all the related aspects to housing and urban development..

Our aim at hosting the 4th conference in Jordan was to call upon our friends across the region to explore Jordan ... a small country in size however huge in its achievements... we, in this regard are proud that we have not one homeless... and that almost all our households have access to water ... electricity ... road networks ...

Jordan was also among the very first of the countries to set a national housing strategy going back to 1989 ... which and at that early time have recommended the Public Private partnership approaches to enable all income groups to access affordable housing and especially the low income groups...

On the other hand, several subthemes were also adopted to expand the relate the different development issues to the youth and IT... it was hence focusing on the role of youth in urban planning , slum upgrading ,

housing finance and a very interesting topic about the role of youth as city changers..

Promoting the Jordanian experience we have set a field trip to one of the housing schemes reflecting two important trends; the public private partnership in housing production and the initiation of housing agglomerations to act as nuclei for new cities on the suburbs of high density main cities...

In this regard, it is worth mentioning here that the government of Jordan and over a period of more than fifty years have executed housing projects to cover the needs across the twelve governorates in the country... the housing themes which were developed and executed by the Housing and Urban development Corporation – the government executive arm for the housing sector in Jordan ... have become extended new centers serving to ease the tension of the big adjacent cities...

*Your Excellency Dr Ensour
Honorable Guests*

We are looking forward to the 4th conference as means to exchange experience between our nations... in this regard, please allow me to thank the United Nations Program for Human Settlements headed by H E Dr. Joan Clos for their continuous support ... to our friends in Indonesia for their effort and assistance in the preparation for the conference...and to the secretariat team in India for their support and for India for hosting the secretariat ever since establishment of the conference in 2006.

My gratitude and thanks to all our friend and sister countries for responding to our invitation and their effective role in making our conference a success.

Our thanks and gratitude is extended to all the ministries and official and non-official agencies who participated with us and supported our activities in the conference...

I wish all of you a pleasant enjoyable stay in our beloved country

هتالكربو هللا تمحرو مكيلع مالسلاو



Mr. Susheel Kumar

Chief Coordinator,
APMCHUD



H.E. Mr. Abdullah Ensour, *Hon'ble Prime Minister of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Host of this Conference,*

H.E. Mr. Yahya Al Kisbi, *Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Housing, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,*

H.E. Dr. Joan Clos,
Executive Director, UN-Habitat,

H.E. Mr. Sunu Soemamo,
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, representing the current Chair of APMCHUD,

Excellencies, Dignitaries and Delegates from the member countries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD), take this opportunity to welcome you to the Fourth APMCHUD conference in the historic city of Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during 10th – 12th December, 2012. We are grateful to the Government of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for making such elaborate arrangements for this mega event.

Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) envisages regional cooperation on

promoting sustainable housing and urban development among Asia Pacific countries. It facilitates experience sharing and information exchange in the field of housing and urban development and also enables the member countries to speak with a unified voice at regional and international fora on our common concerns and challenges as well as approaches to address the same.

APMCHUD was established in December, 2006, subsequent to the first Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development held at New Delhi under the aegis of Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation and UN-Habitat. India was the first Chair of the APMCHUD during 2006 to 2008. The second conference of APMCHUD was held in Tehran during May, 2008 when the Islamic Republic of Iran took the Chair for the next two years. The third conference was held in June 2010 at Solo and the Republic of Indonesia has been the chair since then.

It is my proud privilege to report that the APMCHUD, since its inception in 2006, has progressed as a vibrant Inter-governmental Institutional mechanism in the field of housing and urban development. The body has constantly grown in stature and is today recognized as a representative forum for expression of the collective concerns of the Asia-Pacific Region in the housing and urban development sector. This recognition and growth has been possible due to the vision and guidance of the successive chairs, the distinguished bureau members, all the member countries and the UN-Habitat.

The Bureau of the APMCHUD has been playing a very significant role and has taken major steps towards sustaining the initiative and strengthening the institutional arrangements. The Bureau has been meeting very regularly and conducting business through an active participatory approach. The third bureau had five meetings, which were held in Bali, Seoul, Nairobi, Amman and Naples. The meetings had extensive participation from the members of the Bureau.

Towards presenting a collective vision in the sector for the Asia Pacific Region, the APMCHUD availed the opportunity to present its approaches for sustainable housing and urban development in the 23rd Governing Council of the UN-Habitat at Nairobi from 11-15 April, 2011. Further,

APMCHUD also shared its vision at the 6th World Urban Forum at Naples Italy during September 1-7, 2012, wherein the Honorable Minister of Jordan made a presentation on behalf of the APMCHUD on “The Urban Future – Sustainable Development of Human Settlements in the Asia Pacific Region – Vision of APMCHUD”.

Subsequent to announcing the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the APMCHUD in New Delhi as part of the Solo Declaration during the third conference, the Bureau extensively deliberated on the financing mechanisms for supporting the Secretariat to enable it to effectively take up multifarious activities in line with the already adopted framework for the Secretariat of the Bureau of APMCHUD. A separate agenda would be considered as part of Organizational matters at this conference on this aspect.

The APMCHUD is poised to contribute more significantly towards the sector, and on behalf of the Secretariat I would like to assure its continued commitment to the ambitious agenda of the APMCHUD for promoting sustainable human settlements in the Asia Pacific Region. Also on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the honorable members and distinguished dignitaries.

Thank you.



H. E. Mr. Ali Nikzad,

Minister of Roads and Urban Development,
Islamic Republic of Iran



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the beginning, I would like to express my gratitude for having participated in the Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of H E Mr. D J Kiramanto and his colleagues during the third APMCHUD. I congratulate H E Eng Yaha Kasbi, Minister of Housing and Public Works, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for being appointed as the chairman of the 4th APMCHUD and wish him success in the crucial task he has to undertake during his term. I would also like to thank Mr. Joan Clos Executive Director of UN-Habitat and his colleagues for the support given to APMCHUD since it was conceived.

Your participation in the Fourth APMCHUD demonstrates your concern for enhancing the role of youth in sustainable urban development—a holistic goal to be achieved in human settlements of this region. I am confident that sharing of knowledge and information in this conference has had an everlasting impact on our future efforts to achieve this goal.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite all sanctions and Western pressures Islamic Republic of Iran is currently facing, my country has tried to make significant progress towards achieving MDGs. In particular, by mobilizing considerable resources, direct provision of free land and affordable financial assistance under the Mehr Housing Plan, some 5.8 million dwellings were built over a period of 5 years in both urban and rural areas. Therefore the household per unit ratio has now reached 1.01 in the country. Nevertheless about 1.5 million dwellings have to be built each year to cope with the needs of more than 60% of our population who are under 30 years of age. The Mehr Housing Plan has also had a significant economic impact and employment generation.

The government also has plans for upgrading 72,000 hectares of urban deteriorated fabrics serving a population of 10 million people. The implementation of upgrading plans is supported by provision of low-interest loans. Today more than 55,000 hectares have been upgraded with 600,000 new dwellings built.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should nevertheless, emphasize that our efforts towards the implementation of MDGs are hindered by the pressure of despotic regimes such as USA and Israel whose forced evictions and illegal construction of settlements have aggravated the already grave situation of life for Palestinians.

I am confident that share of experiences and information in this Conference and its Working Groups will contribute to implementation of Dehli, Tehran, Solo and the new Amman Declarations.

Thank you for your attention



H. E. Mr. Kwon, Do Youp

Minister of Land, Transport and
Maritime Affairs. Republic of Korea



Honorable Chair!

Distinguished Excellencies!

First and foremost, I sincerely appreciate the hospitality extended by the Secretariat and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at this beautiful venue.

I am very pleased to see that the 4th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) is coming to a successful conclusion.

I believe that the conference gave us a meaningful opportunity to discuss urban slum improvements, sustainable urbanization and other key urban development issues in the Asia Pacific region.

I would like to cordially propose that Korea be the host of the 5th APMCHUD Conference in 2014. Ever since rapid industrialization in the 1970s, Korea has suffered from chronic housing shortages.

To solve this problem, the Korean Government has developed and implemented diverse policy tools including the establishment of the National Housing Fund, the Housing Corporation which supplies public housing and operating a Housing Subscription System which gives preferential

treatment to non-homeowners.

These efforts have greatly improved the residential housing sector throughout the nation.

The Korean government would like to share its 40-years of experience to tackle common urban problems with APMCHUD member countries.

To this end, Korea sincerely hopes to host the 5th conference in Seoul.

I would consider it a great honor if government officials of APMCHUD member states can make an effort to visit Korea so that we can share our firsthand knowledge of urban development and to discuss policies that will mutually benefit our member countries.

Once again, on behalf of the Korean Government, I greatly appreciate the endeavors that APMCHUD has made

And in closing, I ask for your support in our bid to host the next APMCHUD meeting in Korea in 2014.

Thank you.





THE CONFERENCE SUB-THEME'S REPORT

Youth represent an opportunity for increase in a country's human and economic capital. In the Asia-Pacific region Youth has become the major component that constitutes approximately half of the communities. Information Technology IT has become a driving force in cities' integration to global markets, investments, capital flows and technology transfer. IT has a great benefit for youth keeping them up with changes, helping them to reach their local communities, representatives and enabling them to address their needs towards improving the quality of life in their communities. Therefore a major role of the governments and communities is a good investment in IT skills of youth as the main driving force in the urbanization process; let them participate in decision-making and policy-making for the benefit of sustainable urban development.

ABOVE: The 4th session of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in Amman, Jordan.

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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGIES/
 Resources/2012-02-ICTPolicyNotes.pdf

Working Group 1: Urban and Rural Planning and Management.

Sub-Theme 1: Youth and IT in Urban Planning and Management.

Youth are a crucial and vital voice in the process of urban planning and management. They have an active role in formulating the policies that guide growth and change in their cities shaping their communities. Their participation could take many different forms including: planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes. Youth engagement is more successful when surrounded by supportive relationships, therefore urban planning strategies must be integrated with the IT strategies in order to connect a city with the online world, practice the e-planning, create networks of knowledge sharing and learning on governance, and encouraging the youth to use the web to develop new forms of community participation based on their own needs, observations and aspirations. Enabling citizens to create the better places to live is a key factor for empowering communities towards sustainable development.

Working Group 2: Upgrading of Slums and Informal Settlements.

Sub-Theme 2: Slum Upgrading - Livelihood Opportunities for Youth.

Lack of decent livelihood opportunities could lead to deprivation of youth with the opportunities for securing independent housing necessary for the establishment of families and participation in their community issues. Moreover it can create an environment of social problems of which the youth are particularly more vulnerable to its effects. If youth are to effectively practice and demonstrate responsi-

ble citizenship in their lives, they must be safe, healthy and engaged in a positive way during their transition years. Governments therefore have the obligation to ensure that the youth plans and policies are included in the national structures to increase opportunities for the youth in the economy. Policies should be clear and coherent with the related laws towards creating jobs, increasing employment opportunity, and provide work conditions in the market. Education is one of the major determinants of equal opportunities, and the “right to the city” is more effective for those who have access to services and education early in life. Taking advantage of training and education opportunities represents both an acquisition of skills and a capacity builder for urban youth. Access to land and safe urban space is crucial for the protection, voice and empowerment of youth. Youth-responsive policies and institutions require capacity-building among urban decision-makers and youth, promoting equal access to shelter, education and services results in more stable and cohesive sustainable communities.

Working Group 3: Delivery of MDG's for water and sanitation.

Sub-Theme 3: Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services.

Urban basic services are among the main driving forces for socio-economic and environmental development. In relevance to water and sanitation, citizens can have access to better healthcare and education. It also enhances security and safety through transportation and energy. Moreover facilitate citizens' mobility between cities and places and scale up economic activities in cities. In addition it di-

rects the process of land use planning and creates the integration between cities. Therefore Youth should be encouraged to take lead in caring for and improving their communities through a broad involvement in the process of decision-making for the provision of the urban basic services. Raising awareness among youth that access to the urban basic services is a public issue and enable them to address their community problems specially those related to the health.

Governments, intergovernmental agencies and NGOs can enable youth to become active contributors acting as service providers in their communities to decreasing problems. A stable source of finance is essential to ensure the continued growth of the relevance networks that works for the basic services such as the safe drinking water. Provide incentives such as grants or micro-finance for youth to work for safe water in their community, and for youth-led clean water projects. Establish a fund to support youth-led renewable energy enterprises. Develop partnerships in areas without access to safe water to train youth to lead community-based water supply projects. Governments support training in sustainable consumption towards sustainable lifestyle and follow up initiatives including networks and small grants.

Working Group 4: Financing Sustainable Housing.

Sub-Theme 4: Opportunities for Financing Youth Led Development.

An Eco-Home which is the good standard house can amongst other things reduce the water and energy use in a home, increase the use of sustainable materials and ensure

ecology of the site is improved. Developing youth involvement will encourage them to get involved in development and play an active role in the decision-making process. It is crucial to create a sustainable funding source to which youth can come to get simple community development projects funded and supported with appropriate advice and guidance, complete the projects with the minimum of financial resources and the maximum community support. Supporting youth involvement could be through enhancing the role of the networks as a platform to exchange experience and provide suggestions on sustainable housing development. Also by providing training set up a project design panel involving representatives from youth in their local community, and introduces self-help and self-build strategies. Governments have to setup housing finance policies that meet the ability and willingness of citizens to pay. Different building strategies and technologies to be adopted and regulations adjustment to influence the price of housing in a way that enables the citizens to have access to housing finance.

Working Group 5: Urban Development with a focus on Natural Disasters.

Sub-Theme 5: Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities.

Cities are the drivers of economic growth and human development. A prosperous city can self-sustain if it is inclusive and equitable in nature. An equitable city alleviates poverty and inequality by ensuring a methodology of re-distribution of the economic benefits of development. An inclusive city protects the rights of all its residents, particularly the

most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and it takes steps to promote gender equality, minority rights, etc. A prosperous city is characterized by cultural diversity, respecting differences in lifestyles and expressions, including ethnicity, language, religion, historical origins, values and beliefs. Prosperity is the essence of progress and the way development positively materializes. While these days young people are facing challenges of urban development as urban problems are increasing around the world, IT has become one of the tools used to create information flow to young people. This has created opportunities for youths' participation by strengthening their capacity to fully participate and invest in IT towards the prosperity of their cities. Protecting our en-

vironment is a central element in sustainable urban development. Youth have demonstrated a huge promise and readiness in addressing environmental concerns through leadership of environmental projects in the areas of safe water, renewable energy and sustainable consumption and through contributing to and influencing the inclusion of sustainable development in policies and programs. Information is critical for development and tangible support should be provided for the youth initiatives around the world including technology tools, training, financial resources, and the creation of networks to allow sharing of knowledge and experiences that enhance influence and impact. Young people are an important resource in urban service delivery.



ABOVE: The 4th session of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in Amman, Jordan. © **APMCHUD**



THE AMMAN DECLARATION

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development, meeting in Amman, Jordan, 10 – 12 December 2012, to consider challenges and to explore opportunities of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the excellent arrangements of the Fourth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and our gratitude to the people of the Hashemite Kingdom and particularly the city of Amman for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to us throughout our stay;

Also expressing our sincere thanks to the Republic of Indonesia for successfully chairing the 3rd Bureau of APMCHUD and providing excellent leadership and guidance during the tenure as the chair.

Convey our gratitude to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for the continuing support provided by UN-Habitat since the creation of APMCHUD;

Thank with appreciation the continued support by the Government of India, more specifically by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation for hosting the Permanent Secretariat in New Delhi.

Take note with appreciation the progress that APMCHUD has made since its establishment in serving as a platform for consultation and a vehicle for collaboration in fostering sustain-

able urban development in the region;

Reaffirm our determination to realize the goals and objectives of APMCHUD as pronounced in the Delhi Declaration and the subsequent commitments agreed in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also in Solo, Republic of Indonesia;

Take cognizance of the dynamic potential of youth across the region in terms of their demographic dominance in our cities, their potential role in socio-economic development, their increasing engagement in the governance of our communities, cities and nations, and also their critical importance in ensuring the sustainable development of our region;

Acknowledge with pride the leadership role our region is assuming in advancing in *information and communication technology* (ICT) globally as well as the increasing usage of ICT in urban, rural and national development;

Acknowledge also the role that cities play in advancing ICT and the way in which the skill, expertise and creativity of youth in the region have served as powerful factors in shifting the technological hub of information and communication to the Asia-Pacific region;

Appreciate the positive experiences acquired in different parts of the region in using ICT for providing livelihoods, improved services, participation in planning, fostering transparency and accountability, and in general promoting the role of youth in local and national development;

Recognize that the dynamism of our youth at local and national level and the potential of ICT need to be fully and optimally utilized;

Cognizant that the challenges of unemployment, alienation, despair, unequal access to resources still undermine the potential of youths in the region, particularly those in the urban centers;

Welcoming UN-Habitat's State of Urban Youth 2012/2013 Report which recommends a better match between education skills and labour market needs through vocational training and the participation of the private sector;

Appreciating the opportunities we have as Ministers Responsible for Housing and Urban Development and acknowledging the gravity of the youth challenge as well as the potential of ICT in accelerating sustainable urban development in the region decide:

1. *Develop* National Urban Policies where they do not exist and review the existing ones in order to promote youth participation in decision making, volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development;
2. *Call upon* the relevant ministries to undertake capacity building within their institutions to meet the changing demands for the utilization of ICT at the national and local levels;
3. *Encourage* resource mobilization for the benefit of local authorities and municipalities to enable them to achieve the objectives of the declaration;
4. *Consider* setting up an inter-ministerial committee with relevant ministries working towards implementing youth programmes related to ICT, Housing and Urban Development;
5. *Encourage* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth with the aim of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development in the Asia Pacific region;
6. *Agree in principle* to contribute a sum of US\$10,000 per member state annually to the budget of APMCHUD. However, member states are encouraged to contribute higher amounts. Agreeable member states may start contributing to the budget. For other member states, however, it may be discussed further in the next APMCHUD conference in the Republic of Korea in 2014;
7. *Agree* to equip the APMCHUD Secretariat with adequate human resources to execute the Implementation Plan agreed in the conference and for long term sustainability of APMCHUD;
8. *Commit* to actively engage in the 24th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and to sponsor a resolution on youth, as well as actively involved in the World Urban Forum 7, World Habitat Day, Post 2015 Development Agenda and preparations for Habitat III in 2016;
9. We the Ministers of Asia-Pacific region condemn in the strongest language the increase in violence and terrorist actions which is leading to displacement of people across the region, and to demand

the countries and groups behind these calamities to recognize the right of these people to return to their homes and birthplaces. In line with that we call on all members of the United Nations to recognize one's right to their legally owned land and to condemn illegal land acquisition and internal and external displacement of people anywhere.

10. We call on International organizations and especially United Nations and UN-Habitat to strongly continue their mandate and defend the rights of these victims and make the reconstruction of their cities and homes, as well as the provision of shelter for the less privileged in urban and rural areas in the Asia-Pacific region, their main priority.
11. *Encourage* member countries to take the lead to chair the Working Group 3, and agree to continue with the Working Groups as below:
 - WG1 Urban and Rural Planning and Management with a sub-theme of Youth & IT – Republic of India
 - WG2 Upgrading of Slums and Informal Settlements with a sub-theme Livelihood Opportunities for Youth – The Islamic Republic of Iran
 - WG3 Delivery of Basic Services with a sub-theme of Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services
 - WG4 Financing Sustainable Housing with a sub-theme of Opportunities for Financing Youth-Led Development – Republic of Korea
 - WG5 Urban Development with a focus on Natural and Climate Change related Disasters with a sub-theme of Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities – Republic of Indonesia
12. Endorse the composition of the 4th Bureau of APMCHUD with its members being Ministers representing:
 - a. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - b. Republic of Indonesia
 - c. Islamic Republic of Iran
 - d. Republic of India
 - d. Republic of Iraq
 - e. Republic of Korea
 - f. Republic of Maldives
 - g. Independent State of Samoa
13. Request the current chair of APM-CHUD to ensure the implementation of this declaration in collaboration with other members of the Bureau, the APM-CHUD Secretariat and the UN-Habitat Secretariat look forward to receiving regular updates.
14. Welcome the offer by the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the 5th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in 2014.

Adopted at Amman on 12th December, 2012



AMMAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Preamble

The Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development of the Asia Pacific region in the conference in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan adopted the Amman Declaration which consists of many recommendations that requires number of concrete actions by the member countries.

To recognize that youth through the ICT are the future and important stakeholders in development of national policies and strategies.

They would be the largest beneficiaries today and leaders tomorrow in the process of planning and management consistent with sustainable development.

They should be participants in the planning and management process and given the right space and voice to enhance their confidence and sense of ownership.

Ministers of Asia-Pacific have committed themselves to implement the plan in housing and urban development as follows:

1. Invest in ICT infrastructure equal in parallel with physical infrastructures both as vehicle of employment generation and platform for democratization and e-governance and unfettered access for all citizens.
2. Enhance the national vocational education and training system to take into account the recent advancement in ICT
3. Encourage public and private sector to hire apprentices, interns and create jobs for youth especially in the ICT sector.
4. Allocate dedicated financial resources specifically targeted to youth-led ICT initiatives such as national youth funds.
5. Recognize and establish a local, regional and national youth platforms to promote and advise and create awareness on sustainable urban development policies.
6. Promote local, national and regional youth volunteering programmes and initiatives.
7. Make ICT-based Youth exchange programme as part of national strategies for better understanding and learning between countries of the region. Furthermore, countries can encourage be to utilize UN-Habitat wealth of experiences in executing successful youth programmes across the world.
8. Ensure the participation of youth in future APMCHUD conferences through their inclusion in national delegations.

WG1: Youth and IT in Urban and Rural Planning and Management

- a. Ensure youth participation in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of urban programmes in order to make it youth and user friendly
- b. Expand e-Governance to include the above as well as approval for all plans and permits, make the system more transparent, credible and efficient and use ICT to utilize the true potential of cities. Give incentives to provincial and local governments to ensure the reforms take place. Remove the obstacles and resistance, if necessary through legislation
- c. Strengthen national, urban and rural linkages through ICT and develop IT hubs through youth involvements for better rural empowerment and the true democratization at the rural level.
- d. Encourage the involvement of International Financial Institutions in the development and expansion of ICT infrastructure.

WG2: Slum Upgrading – Livelihood Opportunities for Youth

- a. Prioritized socio-economic enabling in upgrading of informal settlements.
- b. Utilize Information Technology as an effective instrument for engaging youth in slum upgrading.
- c. Pilot-testing the slum upgrading database and indicators in three volunteer countries, Jordan, Indonesia and Iran,

and present the results between April - June 2013.

- d. Vigorously participate in the Virtual Scientific Committee established by the Secretariat of The Slum Upgrading Working Group to share information and experiences, establish and regularly update the joint slum upgrading database.

WG3: Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Basic Services

- a. Ensure that youth have a right to equal opportunities in the city which includes the rights to economic, social, political and cultural opportunity.
- b. Ensure youth have access to safe urban spaces where they are provided with basic services and trained in democratic and economic processes where they can access information and communication technologies.
- c. Promote innovative use of ICT for equitable and sustainable supply of urban basic services in a manner that enable efficient, green and smart cities.
- d. Promote the use of ICT for connected and sustainable mobility, buildings, energy, public safety and security and work places.

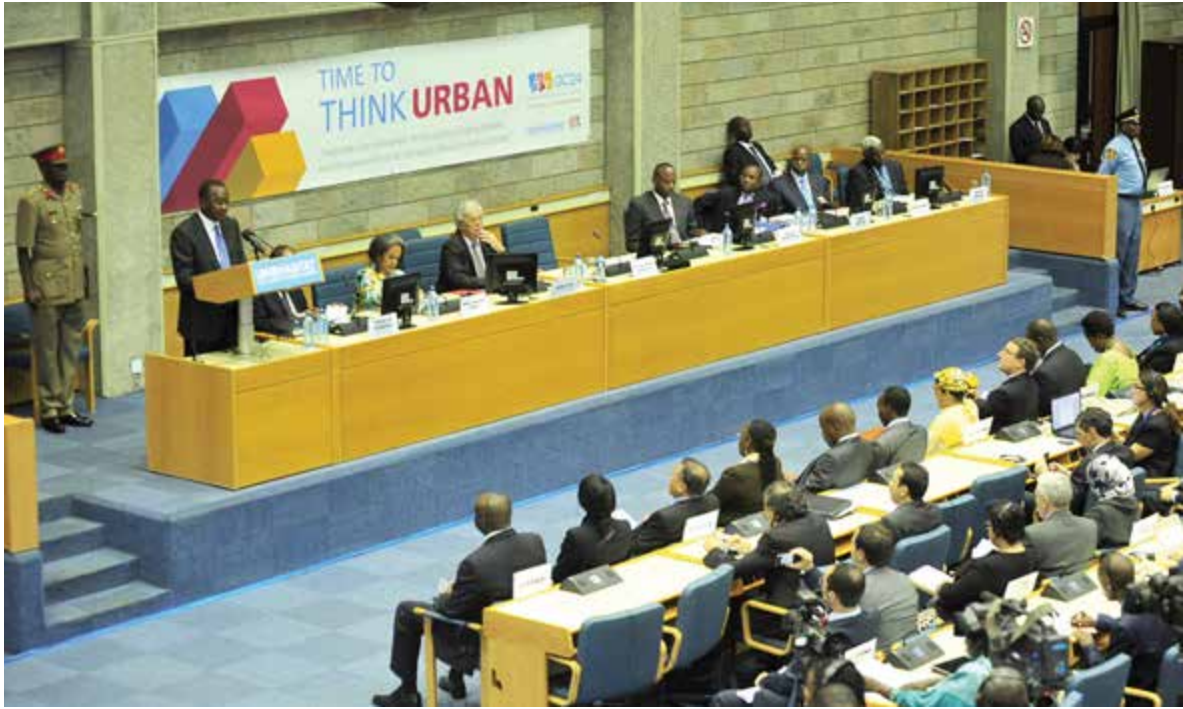
WG4: Opportunities for Financing Youth-led Development

- a. Ensure youth have access to affordable housing and housing financing with special attention to low income and new households.

- b. Encourage development of employment training programmes which support those youth most marginalized in learning skills associated with housing construction.
- c. Encourage the formal financing systems to extend financing to youth-led projects and initiatives.

WG5: Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities

- a. Document youth initiatives and innovative solutions on city development in exchangeable formats.
- b. Develop virtual forums for interaction and collaboration of youth organizations in Asia Pacific region.
- c. Initiate APMCHUD youth training programme with the focus on spatial planning.



WAY FORWARD

ABOVE: Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of Republic of Kenya addresses the opening plenary of the Twenty Fourth Session of Governing Council for UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya.
© UN-Habitat /Julius Mwelu

The fourth APMCHUD in Amman had two main outcomes, the Amman Declaration and the Implementation Plan. The Declaration recognizes the dual trends of increased urbanization and the rapidly growing youth population within cities in the Asia Pacific, and the potential of youth in achieving sustainable urban development. The ministers acknowledged the leadership role the Asian Pacific region has taken in fostering advances in information and communication technology (ICT) and the positive experiences acquired in different parts of the region in using ICT for providing livelihoods, improved services, participation in planning, fostering transparency and accountability. The Declaration can be summarized briefly as follows as a way forward:

- Member states agreed to develop National Urban Policies where they do not exist and review the existing ones in order to promote youth participation in decision making, volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development. Further called upon the relevant ministries to undertake capacity building within their institutions to meet the changing demands for the utilization of ICT at the national and local levels;
- Advocate for more resource allocations and mobilization for the benefit of local authorities and municipalities to enable them to achieve their objectives;
- Set up an inter-ministerial committee with relevant ministries working towards implementing youth programmes related to ICT, Housing and Urban Development;
- The Executive Director of UN-Habitat to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth with the aim of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development in the Asia Pacific region;
- Equip the APMCHUD Secretariat with adequate human resources to execute the Implementation Plan agreed in the conference and for long term sustainability of APMCHUD;
- Actively engage in the 24th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and to sponsor a resolution on youth to be adopted during the 24th Governing Council. Further, to be actively involved in the World Urban Forum 7, World Habitat Day, Post 2015 Development Agenda and preparations for Habitat III in 2016;
- Advocate for more vocational training centers to empower the youth with the skills which match the market demand, allocate adequate resources to the youth programs and lobby for more resources and follow up on the just approved youth resolution to ensure its objectives and goals are achieved;
- Call on International organizations and especially United Nations and UN-Habitat to strongly continue their mandate and defend the rights of these victims and make the reconstruction of their cities and homes, as well as the provision of shelter for the less privileged in urban and rural areas in the Asia-Pacific region, their main priority;
- The Chairman and Members of Bureau to ensure the implementation of the 4th APMCHUD declaration and Implementation Plan
- Out of the Amman Declaration and the subsequent adoption by the 24th Session of the UN Habitat Governing Council, UN Habitat calls upon all the members of the United Nations to recognize one's right to legally owned land and to condemn illegal land acquisition and external displacement of people anywhere. As follow up UN-Habitat should actively participate in the forthcoming International Conference on Syria called Geneva 2 for reconstruction and resettlement issues to be deliberated upon.



ANNEXES



The 4th APMCHUD Programme

Programme Schedule 10 - 12 December 2012

DAY 1 : Monday December 10, 2012	
OPENING CEREMONY	
08:00-10:00	Arrival and Registration
10:00-10:45	Arrival of Dignitaries
	National Anthem
	Statement by Mr. Susheel Kumar – Chief Coordinator APMCHUD
	Statement by HE Chairman of the 3 rd Bureau of APMCHUD, HE Sunu Soemarno, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Kenya and handing over Chairman of the Conference to host country
	Statement by Host Country and Chairman of the 4 th Conference , HE Yahya Al Kisbi
	Statement by Dr. Joan Clos – E D of UN-HABITAT
10:45-11:15	Opening and Tour of the Exhibition
11:15-12:00	Coffee Break
	Senior Officials (Experts) level Meeting

DAY 1 : Monday December 10, 2012

12:00-12:40	Organizational Matters	Report on the Activities of the 3 rd Bureau of APMCHUD by Chief Coordinator Agenda Item on APMCHUD Organizational Matter – Contribution by Member Countries for APMCHUD Presentation by Partner Institutions entering into MoU with APMCHUD – Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance (APUHF), Regional Center for Community Empowerment on Housing and Urban Development (RCCEHUD) and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Announcement of Chair / Co Chair / Rapporteur; Organizing of Working Groups ; and Formation of Drafting Committee for preparation of Amman Declaration and Implementation Plan Any other Organizational Matters
PLENARY MEETING		
12:40-13:30	Reporting of WG's Since Solo	WG 1: Urban and Rural Planning and Management – Republic of India WG2: Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements – Islamic Republic of Iran WG3: Delivery of MDGs for Urban Basic Services – UN-Habitat WG4: Financing Sustainable Housing – Republic of South Korea WG5: Urban Development with a focus on Natural Disasters – Republic of Indonesia
13:30-14:00	Introduction of the theme of the conference	Presentation of the Main Theme Paper on Youth and ICT in Sustainable Urban Development – by Dr. Guenter Karl, former UN Senior Manager; Announcement of the New Working Groups (NWGs) and their venues Announcement about inputs to be given by the new Working Groups to the Drafting Committee - UN-Habitat
14:00-15:00	Lunch Break	
15:00-16:15	Meetings in Parallel NWGs discussion on the topics of sub-themes	NWG1: Youth and IT in Urban and Rural Planning and Management NWG2: Slum Upgrading – Livelihood Opportunities for Youth NWG3: Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services. NWG4: Opportunities for Financing Youth-Led Development NWG5: Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities
16:15-16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30-18:00	Youth Session (Side event)	Youth involvement in sustainable urban development Population opportunity... All Jordan Youth Commission...
	Women Session (side Event)	Women role and involvement in sustainable urban development.

DAY 2: Tuesday December 11, 2012

Senior Officials (Experts) level Meeting Continue

9:00-11:00	Meetings in Parallel continue	NWG's finalizing discussion on the sub-themes topics	NWG1: Youth and IT in Urban and Rural Planning and Management NWG2: Slum Upgrading – Livelihood Opportunities for Youth NWG3: Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services. NWG4: Opportunities for Financing Youth-Led Development NWG5: Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break		
11:15-13:00	Plenary Meeting	Presentation by New Working Groups (NWGs)	
13:00-17:00	Field Trip (Royal Initiative Project) & Lunch	Discussion of inputs for Draft Declaration and Draft Implementation Plan	
14:00-16:00	Drafting Committee Meetings	Discussion of Draft Amman Declaration Discussion of Draft Implementation Plan	
20:00-22:00	Dinner and Jordanian Cultural Night	hosted by His Excellency, the Minister of Public Work and Housing in Jordan.	

DAY 3: Wednesday December 12, 2012

Senior Officials (Experts) level Meeting Continues

9:00-11:00	Plenary Meeting		
Ministerial Meeting			
11:00-11:30	Presentation of Amman Declaration and Implementation Plan by the Drafting Committee		
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break		

DAY 3: Wednesday December 12, 2012

Senior Officials (Experts) level Meeting Continues

<p>12:00-13:00</p>	<p>Ministerial Meeting</p>	<p>Launching of the State of the Urban Youth 2012-2013 Report Signing of MOU's. Adoption of the Date and Venue of the 5th APMCHUD Election of 4th APMCHUD Bureau Members. Adoption of the Amman Declaration Adoption of Amman Implementation Plan</p>
<p>13:00-14:00</p>	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by Chairman of Organizing Committee • Statement by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director UN-Habitat • Statement by Chairman of 4th APMCHUD- HE. Eng. Yahya Kisbi • Statement by host country of 5th APMCHUD 	
<p>14:00-15:00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	



THE 4TH APMCHUD PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

Exhibition:

In the framework of the conference the exhibition was organized at Le Royal Hotel and Resort with the participation of leading housing and construction related companies, and focused on projects, products and best practices related to housing and urban development. The exhibition provided the participants with the opportunity to contact the companies involved in the housing and urban development sector.

Field trip:

Housing and Urban Development Corporation in Jordan in cooperation with Jordanian

Housing Investors Association arranged a field trip for delegates to view the achievement of the government of Jordan in the Royal Initiative, which is being implemented to provide decent housing for Jordanian families throughout the Kingdom.

Venue:

The Conference plenary sessions, meetings, all workshops and the exhibition convened at Le Royal Hotel located at the heart of Amman at the Third Circle, in the neighborhood of Jabal Amman.

The 4th APMCHUD Chairs & Rapporteurs for Parallel Working Group Sessions

Working Group	Chair	Co-Chair	Rapporteur	Meeting Rooms
NWG 1 - Youth and IT in Urban and Rural Planning and Management	Mr. R.V. Verma, Chairman & Managing Director, National Housing Bank, India	Eng. Mahmoud Jameel, Jordan	Mr. Masayaki Yokota, UN-Habitat Mr. Farzin Fardanesh, UN-Habitat	Zanoubia
NWG 2 – Slum Upgrading – Livelihood Opportunities for Youth	Eng. Kianpoor, Islamic Republic of Iran	Eng. Huda Dabbas, Jordan	Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa, UN-Habitat Mr. Babak Pirouz, Iran	Hamurabi
NWG 3 – Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services	Mr. Moustapha Madbouly, UN-HABITAT	Eng. Osama Rabeea, Jordan	Dr. Kulwant Singh, UN-Habitat Ms. Mariam Yunusa, UN-Habitat	Hamurabi 1
NWG 4 – Opportunities for Financing Youth-Led Development	Dr. Jae Cheol, Kim South Korea	Mr. Mazen Dhaifallah, Jordan	Mr. Douglas Ragan, UN-Habitat	Hamurabi 2
NWG 5 – Youth as City Changers for Prosperous Cities	Dr. Ir. Danang Parikesit, Msc	Eng. Hend Sahagat, Jordan	Ms. Fiona, UN-Habitat Mr. Tarik Osaison, UN-Habitat	Hamurabi 3
Youth Session	HE Ra’eda AL-Qutob, S G (HPC) Jordan		Rania Abadi, HPC Amin Jaber, HPC Jordan	Hamurabi
Women Session	HE Asma Kheder, JNWC Jordan		Einas Ensour, HUDC Rawan Ma’aitah, JNWC Jordan	Zanoubia



THE 4TH APMCHUD ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

Steering Committee

Eng Faris AlJunaidi - The Housing & Urban Development Corporation - HUDC

Arch. Mai Asfour - HUDC

Mr. Khalid Qtaishat - HUDC

Eng Samer Rshaidat - HUDC

Ms Nariman Daradkeh - HUDC

Mr. Ahmad Arabeyyat - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Shefa Suhaiba - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Brigadier Abdallah Abdallat - Public Security

Mr. Amer Jaafreh - Ministry of Interior Affairs

Mr. Ali Mayas - Ministry of Interior Affairs

Mr. Kamal Awamleh - Chairman – Jordan Housing Investors Association

Mr. Mohammad Abu Affifeh - Jordanian Engineering Association

Mr. Fayez Jaghbeer - Jordanian Contractors Association

Mr. Ahmad Amayra - Ministry of Tourism

Eng Rula Sabaileh - Amman Greater Municipality

Mr. Hassan Huseini - Jordan News Agency

Assisting Committees

Administrative sub-committee

Eng Samer Rshaidat
Mr. Ahmad Arabeyyat
Ms Shefa Suhaiba
Mr. Moh'd Kreishan
Mr. Hussein Faouri

Scientific-technical sub-committee

Mr. Kamal Awamleh
Mr. Sulaiman Hassanat
Mr. Hani Nsour
Ms Hala Jwainat

Security sub committee

Brigadier Abdallah Abdallat
Mr. Khaldoun Qoraan
Mr. Mazen Daifallah

Media

Mr. Hassan Huseini
Mr. Khalid Qtaishat
Ms Basema Al Saoub
Mr. Aref Abu Saleem
Ms Nariman Daradkeh

Drafting committee for the Implementation Plan and Amman Declaration

Coordinator: Dr. Markandey Rai

UN-Habitat

Dr. Guenter Karl
Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa
Mr. Masayaki Yokota

Member Countries

Mr. Babak Pirouz, **Islamic Republic of Iran**

Host Country

Suleiman Hasanat
Hala Jwainat

Secretariat

Dr. P. Jayapal
Mr. Rajesh Goel



THE 4TH APMCHUD PARTICIPANTS



Delegates

No.	Name	Job Title	Country
1	HE. Ali Nikzad	Minister	Iran
2	HE. Aboufazel Somelou	Deputy Minister	Iran
3	HE. Jamshid Noursalehi	Deputy Minister	Iran
4	HE. Majid Kianpour	Deputy Minister and MD of UDRO	Iran
5	HE. Alireza Tabesh	President of HFIR	Iran
6	HE. Mustafa Musleh Zad	Ambassador in Jordan	Iran
7	Mr. Seyed Hamid Alavi Samarein	Advisor to Minister	Iran
8	Mr. Mohammad Aeeini	Board Member, UDRO	Iran
9	Mr. Azizollah Mahdian	Deputy for Rural housing & Reconstruction	Iran
10	Mr. Ali Chegeni	DG for Planning and Housing Economy	Iran
11	Mr. Majid Rousta	Secretary of RSUWG	Iran
12	Mr. Majid Joodi	DG for Reconstruction Office	Iran
13	Mr. Farzin Fardanesh	Member of Scientific Board, RSUWG	Iran
14	Mr. Sadegh Sadeghpour Aghdam	Coordinator, Habitat National Committee	Iran
15	Mr. Babak Pirouz	Advisor to RSUWG	Iran
16	Mr. Sina Saemian	Advisor	Iran
17	Mr. Ebrahim Jamshidi	Private Secretary of the Minister	Iran
18	Mr. Abolghasem mohammad	Embassy in Jordan	Iran
19	Mr. Majed Salmani	Embassy in Jordan	Iran
20	HE. Kwon, Do Youp	Minister	Republic of Korea
21	Mr. Kim Yun-Ho	Secretary to the Minister	Republic of Korea
22	Mr. Seo, Joo Eun	Interpreter	Republic of Korea
23	Mr. Kim, Il Pyeong	Director General for Urban Policy	Republic of Korea
24	Mr. Kwon, Hyuck Jin	Director for Housing Construction & Supply Div.	Republic of Korea
25	Mr. Hong Hyungpyo	Project Administrator	Republic of Korea
26	Mr. Kim, Yonggu N	Deputy Director	Republic of Korea

No.	Name	Job Title	Country
27	Mr. Soong Chull Shin	Vice President	Republic of Korea
28	Mr. Hur Kyeong Shin	Head of Division, MENA	Republic of Korea
29	Mr. Kim Seungw On	ASSISTANT MANAGER	Republic of Korea
30	Mr. Kim, Min-Tae	Deputy Director	Republic of Korea
31	Mr. Lee, Ho Sung	Assistant Deputy Director	Republic of Korea
32	Mr. Kim, Jaecheo L	Associate Research Fellow	Republic of Korea
33	Mr. Son, Young Hoon	Manager	Republic of Korea
34	Mr. Park Young Lae	Dept. Manager	Republic of Korea
35	Mr. Kim Ki Tae	Team manager	Republic of Korea
36	Mr. Kim Hyun Chung	CEO. Vice Chairman	Republic of Korea
37	Mr. Jeon Byung Chul	Vice President	Republic of Korea
38	Mr. Cho Seong-Ho		Republic of Korea
39	HE. Shin, Hyun-Suk		Republic of Korea
40	Mr. Koli Bola	Director of Housing	FIJI
41	Mrs. Taina Tagicakibau	Permanent Secretary for Local Government	FIJI
42	HE. Manu'alesagalala Enokati Posaka	Minister of works, transport and infrastructure	Independent State of Samoa
43	Mr. Taputoa Titimaea	Managing Director, Samo water authority	independent state of Samoa
44	HE. Sunu Soemarno	Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Kenya	Republic of Indonesia
45	Mr. Ir. Sri Hartoyo	Deputy of Housing Finance, Ministry of Housing	Republic of Indonesia
46	Mr. Ir. Ismanto, M.Sc.	Expert Staff to the Minister of Public Works	Republic of Indonesia
47	Mr. Prof. Dr. Ir. Danang Parikesit, M.Sc.	Special Staff to the Minister of Public Works	Republic of Indonesia
48	Mr. Ir. Dadan Krisnandar	Secretary of Directorate General of Human Settlement, Ministry of Public Works	Republic of Indonesia
49	Mr. Ir. Amwazi Idrus, M.Sc.	Director of Housing Development, Ministry of Public Works	Republic of Indonesia
50	Mr. Dr. Ir. Anita Firmanti Eko Susetyowati, MT.	Director of RCCEHUD	Republic of Indonesia
51	Mr. Dr. Lana Winayanti, MCP*	Assistant Deputy of Housing Finance Evaluation, Ministry of Housing	Republic of Indonesia
52	Mr. Ir. Deddy Koespramoedyo, M.Sc.	Director of Urban and Land Planning, N. Development Planning Agency	Republic of Indonesia
53	Mr. Devi Purwanti	Deputy Director of Economic and Environment Development, MFA	Republic of Indonesia
54	Mr. Ir. Joerni Makmoerniati, M.Sc.	Deputy Director for Development of New Settlement, MPW	Republic of Indonesia

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55	Mr. Ir. Hadi Sucahyono, MSc, PhD.	Deputy Director of Policy and Strategy, MPW	Republic of Indonesia
56	Mr. Ir. Arvi Argyantoro, MA.	Secretary of RC-CEHUD	Republic of Indonesia
57	Mr. Ir. Johnny F.S. Subrata, MA.	Manager of RC-CEHUD	Republic of Indonesia
58	Mr. Ir. Siti Bellafolijani Adimiharja, M. Eng.	Head of Program and Policy Division, BPPSPAM, MPW	Republic of Indonesia
59	Mr. Ir. Nyoman Shuida, M. Si	Assistant Deputy of Housing and Settlement, Coordinating Ministry of Social Welfare	Republic of Indonesia
60	Mr. Mr. Zainal I. Nampira	Deputy Director of Water and Basic Sanitation, Ministry of Health	Republic of Indonesia
61	Mr. Ir. Firman Mulia Hutapea, MUM.	Deputy Director for City Development, MPW	Republic of Indonesia
62	Mr. Ms. Sri Murni E. K, S. Kom, MM.	Deputy Director of Data and Information, MPW	Republic of Indonesia
63	Mr. Ms. Meike Kencanawulan, MDM.	Head of Planning Section, Directorate of Water Development, MPW	Republic of Indonesia
64	Mr. Ms. Airyn Saputri Harahap, ST, MSc.	Head of Regional IIB, Directorate of Housing Development, MPW	Republic of Indonesia
65	Mr. Arief Hidayat		Republic of Indonesia
66	Mr. Riando Sembiring		Republic of Indonesia
67	Mr. M. Jalil		Republic of Indonesia
68	Mr. Hendi Syah Madi		Republic of Indonesia
69	Mr. Tito Buoiaiko		Republic of Indonesia
70	HE. Abdul Mannan Khan	State Minister for Housing & Public Works	Republic of Bangladesh
71	Mrs. Seyda Hasina Sultana	Spouse of his Excellency the state minister of Bangladesh	Republic of Bangladesh
72	HE. M. Fazlul Karim	Ambassador of Bangladesh to Jordan	Republic of Bangladesh
73	Mr. Toufiq Islam Shatil	First secretary ,embassy of Bangladesh in Amman	Republic of Bangladesh
74	Mr. Md. Ashraful Islam	Assistant Director/Capital Development Authority	Republic of Bangladesh
75	HE. Abdalla Ziyad	Minister of Housing and Infrastructure	Maldives
76	Mr Mohamed Faiz	Deputy minister	Maldives
77	HE. Dr. Joan Clos	Executive Director /UN-Habitat	UN HABITAT
78	Mr. Markandey Rai	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
79	Mr. Tarek EL-Sheik	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
80	Ms. Tarek Osseiran	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat

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82	Ms. Nour Amasha	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
83	Ms. Maza Yuki Yokoti	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
84	Mr. Fiona Mccluney	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
85	Ms. Moneer Saadat	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
86	Mr. Diana Naghwai	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
87	Mr. Günter Karl	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
88	Mr. Florence Bunei	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
89	Mr. Kulwant Singh	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
90	Mr. Youshi Fukasawa	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
91	Mr. Mostafa Madbouly	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
92	Mr. Rostanza Farina	UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
93	HE. Wimal Weerawansa	Minister of Construction, Services, Housing & Common Amenities	Sri Lanka
94	Mr. Pradeep Wijesekara	Coordinating Secretary to the Hon. Minister	Sri Lanka
95	Mr. Prashantha Dias	Consultant to the Hon. Minister	Sri Lanka
96	Mr. P.G. Jothipala	Chairman, Urban Settlement Development Authority	Sri Lanka
97	Mr. PHL. Wimalasiri Perera	General secretary of ministry of construction and engineering housing	Sri Lanka
98	HE. Mohammad Sahib AL-Darragi	Minister of Construction & Housing	Iraq
99	Mr. Eaan Salloomi Alwan Alsumaily		Iraq
100	Mr. Khalid Hussain Mohammed AL-Rayati		Iraq
101	Mr. Tahseen Alwan Eina	Deputy head of Iraqi Mission	Iraq
102	Mr. Hassan Mehzen Haidri	Second Secretary	Iraq
103	Mr. Zuhair Riad	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Iraq
104	Mr. Jalil Banis Sherhan	Media	Iraq
105	Mr. Abdullah Ajaj AL-Kasbi	Assistant director housing	Qatar
106	Mr. Naser Mhana AL- Ramel	Senior Director of Housing	Qatar
107	HE. Ajay Maken	Minister of housing and urban poverty alleviation	India
108	Mr. Amiya Chandra	Private Secretary of the Minister	India
109	HE. Radha Ranjan Dash	Indian Ambassador at Jordan	India

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110	Mr. Susheel Kumar	Joint secretary, Ministry of land and Chief Coordinator APMCHUD	India
111	Mr. P. Jayapal	Executive Director Of HUDCO	India
112	Mrs. Manju Safaya	Executive Director Of HUDCO	India
113	Mr. Alok Joshi	General Manager	India
114	Mr. Rajesh Goel	General Manager	India
115	Mr. Shanuj Gupta	Deputy General Manager	India
116	Mrs. Kamlesh Padmanathan	Assistant Of General Manager	India
117	Mr. Raj Vikash Verma	CMD ,APUHF & NHB	India
118	Mr. Vishal Goyal	Assistant General Manager	India
119	Mr. Liu Zengxian	Political consultant at the embassy	China
120	Mrs. Zhao Jin	Second secretary at the embassy	China
121	Mr. Subhi Yusef AL-Mula	General Manager	Kuwait
122	Mr. Hadi Mohammad AL-Shalahi	Senior Director of minister office	Kuwait
123	Mr. Abid AL-Muhsin AL-Banai	Resident engineer	Kuwait
124	Mr. Anwar Abdullah AL-Alelah	Civil engineer	Kuwait
125	HE. Saif Bin Mohammad AL-Shabibi	Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman	Sultanate of Oman
126	Mr. Hamad Bin Ali AL-Nazwani	Housing director for Internal Governance	Sultanate of Oman
127	Mr. Ali Bin Sa'eed AL-Jaradi	Senior Coordinator /HE Office	Sultanate of Oman
128	Mr. Sultan AL-Rashidi	Project manager at the ministry	Sultanate of Oman
129	Mr. Haji Muhammad Lutfi Bin Abdullah	Permanent Secretary(Administration & Finance)	Brunei Darssalam
130	Mr. Shahron Bin Haji Suhaimi	Act. Commissioner of Town and Country Planning	Brunei Darssalam
131	Ms. Haja Dayang Aisha Binti Haji Abd Majid	Deputy Director Of Housing Development	Brunei Darssalam
132	Ms. Dayang Sarimah Binti Awang	Senior Executive Officer	Brunei Darssalam
133	Mr. Ballobh Kritayanavaj	Senior Vice President, Government Housing Bank	Thailand
134	Mrs. Sukumaporn Jongpukdee	Senior Architect National Housing Authority	Thailand
135	Mrs. Khanitta Kolaka	Deputy Director ,Technical Cooperation Division,National Housing Authority	Thailand
136	HE. Dato Abd ELMalek Abd ALAzziz	Ambassador in Jordan	Malaysia
137	Mr. Mohammed Haress Bin Ali	Embassy	Malaysia
138	Mrs Yasmeen		Pakistan

Participants from Jordan

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Ms Maimouneh Tayar	Mr Hussein Etoum
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NEW DELHI DECLARATION



First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

The Delhi Declaration on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APM-CHUD)

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meeting in New Delhi, India, on 15th – 16th December 2006, to consider the challenge of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

Recognizing the urgency of the global shelter challenge as emphasized in paragraph 56(m) of the World Summit 2005 outcome document, on the need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility;

Welcoming with satisfaction the recognition of the shelter challenge at the same level as water, energy, health and biodiversity in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) declaration and subsequent the focus by the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) on water, sanitation and human settlement, as the first entry point in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and delivering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul in 1996 and the Habitat Agenda which addressed the two themes of equal global importance: “Adequate shelter for all” and “Sustainable human settlements development”;

Recalling further the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which recognized that the process of urbanization is intrinsic to economic and social development;

Encouraged by the successes as well as the catalytic roles other Ministerial bodies have played in their respective regions;

Noting that the Asian-Pacific Region is emerging as a major contributor to the global urban transition, holding 61 per cent of the global population and 43% of the world urban population;

Noting also that this rapid urbanization is an irreversible process that poses challenges far beyond the management capacity of governments, local authorities and other institutions, but also offers opportunities that need to be harnessed;

Aware that the region is gradually growing into a power-house of the world economy accounting for over half of the world’s growth since 2001, much of which being domestically driven;

Cognizant of the fact that poverty in terms of low income; poor health and education, low access to basic services, deprivation in knowledge and communications, is widespread in the Region;

Cognizant also that a sizeable segment of urban population in the Region is living in slums;

Cognizant further that the region has one of the poorest coverage in terms of sanitation among all regions;

Conscious of the linkages and the interdependencies between rural and urban areas and the importance of balanced territorial development strategies to promote synergies between towns, cities and their rural hinterlands;

Realizing that sustainable housing and urban development has a crucial bearing on the quality of life of all people in terms of their economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being;

Aware of the fact that the growing urban poverty and its increasing incidence among women require gender sensitive approaches to sustainable urban development;

Recognizing that the rich diversity in culture, tradition, language, religion and civilization in our region is the collective strength which can be used for constructive partnership for exchange and for the achievement of the common goal of sustainable housing and urban development;

Recognizing further our common pursuit of social development which aims at social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality within and among countries and their implications for human settlement development;

Noting that political will, decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of inclusive processes of decision making are fundamental to addressing the housing and urbanization challenges in the Asia and Pacific Region;

Noting further the close linkage between rural and urban areas, wherein the need to promote urban amenities in rural areas is critical for balanced development;

Noting also the special circumstances of Pacific island nations and small island states that require a different perspective in urban management and planning;

Cognizant of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Sustainable Urbanization in Asia-Pacific:

1. **Express** profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for the efforts made in convening and hosting this inaugural conference leading to the launch of the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD);
2. **Commend** the Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) for her efforts in facilitating and jointly convening this conference with Government of India;
3. **Appreciate** the contribution of participating governments and all other co-operating Partners to make this conference productive and successful;
4. **Appreciate further** the contribution of participating governments and all other co-operating Partners, including the United Nations Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

5. Commend further the partnership between UN-HABITAT and Asian Development Bank to bring significant new investments in Water and Sanitation together to the urban poor in the Asia - Pacific region to support the achievement of the MDGs;
6. Appreciate also the commendable efforts made by the participating institutions that contributed effectively to the deliberations of this Ministerial Conference;
7. Decide to establish the Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) as the consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Housing and Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific Region;
8. Decide that APMCHUD will, inter alia, and as guided by the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in Asia-Pacific:
 - Serve as a forum and network to discuss the urban challenge at the continental level and regional level as a basis for national, provincial and local level strategies and policies and as a focus for the discussion of the habitat agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets;
 - Encourage and promote the strengthening of good urban governance in Asia - Pacific and serve as

a platform for advocacy of inclusive urban governance;

- Enhance the role of gender in local government management for the development process, to be achieved by providing bigger role for women in local governance, particularly in areas related to slum eradication programmes;
- Champion and Support Innovative Housing, Urban Development and Land Management Practices in Asia-Pacific;
- Promote development of appropriate housing and low-cost construction technology for rural and urban housing;
- Facilitate south-south and international exchanges of expertise, research, experience and best practices in human settlements among private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the region;
- Develop a better understanding of urban land dynamics that can lead to improved land tenure and to the growth of urban land markets in Asia-Pacific;
- Provide and promote a supportive environment for informal sector activities, including street vending, within national regulatory framework;
- Support relief and rehabilitation of shelter and human settlements development in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- Urge development partners and multi-lateral agencies to assist

- Asia-Pacific countries on financing housing and urban infrastructure development;
- Promote capacity building efforts and encourage strong ties between research institutions to better understand the economic, legal and financial importance of housing urban development and urban land in Asia-Pacific;
 - Encourage the collection and sharing of data and information that can improve the planning and management of urban development;
 - Promote the institutionalization of a culture for urban planning including the preparation of urban strategic plans at both national and local levels;
 - Encourage the mobilization of domestic financial resources for housing and urban development and promote the necessary partnership for attainment of this objective;
 - Mainstream urban and other issues dealing with human settlements in the macro-economic frameworks and national budgets of Asia-Pacific governments;
 - Provide a focal point to link relevant aspects of regional strategic initiatives as well as international processes and undertakings consistent with the agenda for sustainable urbanization;
 - Encourage partnerships with private sector for shelter , urban infrastructure and services ;
 - Undertake all other functions that will lead to the realization of the goals of the enhanced framework of implementation for housing and human settlements in Asia-Pacific adopted by this conference;
 - Explore possibilities of establishing a regional fund in the context of housing finance for the poor;
 - Encourage fast-track implementation of water and sanitation programmes to achieve the MDG's specific targets;
 - Promote broad-based participation, taking into account the issues related to youth, women, disabled, and vulnerable groups;
 - Promote and encourage policies and programmes that are people-centric and community-based;
 - Promote a sense of urban citizenship through fostering civic responsibilities.
 - Address the negative impact of natural disasters and conflicts and the importance of social peace and harmony on the living conditions in towns and cities; and,
 - Promote integrated and sustainable rural and urban development to address the problems of urbanization.
9. **Decide** further that APMCHUD will establish links with other inter-ministerial conferences working on issues related to the Habitat Agenda, including, but not limited to, matters concerning finance, water supply and sanitation, local government, land and infrastructure;

10. **Resolve** that APMCHUD may initially be composed of the following organs:
 - The Biennial Ministerial Conference,
 - The Bureau, and
 - The Secretariat
11. **Resolve also** that the Biennial Ministerial Conference shall be composed of Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and shall normally meet after every two years to consult and review progress on the promotion of sustainable development of Human settlements in Asia-Pacific;
12. **Decide** that the host and the Chair of this inaugural conference, India, shall be the first Chair of the Bureau and shall serve until the next biennial conference;
13. **Confirm** that the Bureau established at this inaugural conference shall serve as the first Bureau of the Asia - Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) with its members being Ministers representing:
 - South Asia, represented by Republic of India as Chair of the Bureau, and Islamic Republic of Iran;
 - South East Asia: represented by Malaysia, and also as the Rapporteur;
 - East Asia: represented by Peoples Republic of China;
 - North and Central Asia: represented by Azerbaijan;
 - Western Asia: represented by Jordan;
 - Pacific and Oceania: represented by Papua New-Guinea;
14. **Decide** that the Bureau shall be elected by the Biennial Conference of Ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and shall hold office until the next conference;
15. **Request** the Bureau to convene within four months to identify the modalities of establishing the Secretariat and other organs. In the meantime, an interim Secretariat may be established in India as soon as possible;
16. **Request further** that upon finalization of the modalities of establishment of the Secretariat and other organs, the same may be put as an Appendix to this Declaration;
17. **Resolve** that APMCHUD meets every two years, preferably three months before the sessions of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT;
18. **Request** the Asia - Pacific countries and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT to assist the Bureau in its efforts to establish the Secretariat;
19. **Call upon** all co-operating partners, including ASEAN, SAARC, Pacific Islands Forum, ECO, other relevant UN agencies, the Asian Development Bank, and donors, to support APMCHUD efforts in the implementation of the measures outlined in this Declaration;
20. **Request** the Asia-Pacific countries to mainstream issues of housing and urban development in countries by establishing Coordinating Committees for the sector, and giving a high prominence to the challenges of sustainable urbanization;

21. **Recommend** that the member countries of the Asia - Pacific assist the United Nations in its current efforts to revive the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as a mechanism for promoting slum upgrading and other pro-poor housing and infrastructure finance;
22. **Request** the Bureau of APMCHUD to inform the relevant regional, international and UN agencies and programmes on the creation of APMCHUD;
23. **Commit** ourselves to apprise our respective Heads of States and Governments on the outcome of this conference and take appropriate actions to implement this declaration
24. **Welcome** the offer by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the next Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development at a date to be communicated later.



THE TEHRAN DECLARATION

Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meeting in Tehran, Iran, on 12–14 May 2008, to consider the challenges of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific;

Expressing our appreciation and gratitude to the government of India, and especially the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, for the great effort and work by the APMCHUD Permanent Secretariat and as the first chair of the Bureau and on the progress made in implementing the New Delhi declaration, and to UN-HABITAT for its continued support to the Conference and its work in the region;

Also expressing our sincere gratitude to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the second Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development and our appreciation to the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their warm hospitality;

Recognizing the challenges of sustainable urban development and growth in the region namely, continued slum formation, rapid and massive urbanization, inequity and social exclusion and the need to maintain the cultural, historical and religious identity of the region;

Further recognizing the role of cities and other human settlements in the development of the region and the pressures that they face as they will absorb all population growth over the next decades;

Acknowledging the uniqueness of the region as one of the cradles of civilization, its rich metropolitan history and tradition in urban planning and architecture, its strategic and growing economic role, and its vast technical and intellectual resources and expertise, all of which should be mobilized to address the challenges of sustainable urbanization;

Further acknowledging the need for increasing regional cooperation, exchange of information and national experiences, dissemination of best practices and for developing joint activities and programmes for implementing the action plan annexed to this declaration;

Cognizant of the current trends and opportunities in the region including the numerous innovative urban development programmes, the massive investments in infrastructure and the growing prominence of cities as engines of growth;

1. **Invite** our leaders attending the forthcoming high-level segment of to adopt, as a standing item of the annual ministerial review (AMR) the cross-cutting issue of sustainable urbanization;

2. **Call upon** the next session of the World Urban Forum to advance actions to promote sustainable and harmonious urbanization, with an emphasis on the reduction of urban poverty and the preservation of architectural heritage.
3. **Agree** to reinforce APMCHUD's structure and to promote more vigorously regional cooperation among its members building on the foundations laid by its first two sessions;
4. **Request** the current chair of APMCHUD to ensure the implementation of this declaration and the related action plan in collaboration with the other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat and look forward to receiving regular updates on the same;
5. **Call** upon all co-operating partners and international agencies to support APMCHUD's efforts in the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the action plan annexed to this declaration;
6. **Specifically invite** all governments of the region to express their solidarity vis-à-vis countries facing post-disaster situations through adequate support to the building of national reconstruction capacities;
7. **Endorse** the composition of the second Bureau of APMCHUD with its members being Ministers representing:
 - Armenia
 - Peoples Republic of China
 - Republic of India
 - Indonesia
 - The Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 - Qatar
8. **Agree** that the Chairperson of the previous Bureau will remain a member of the Bureau in order to ensure continuity of its work;
9. **Welcome** the offer by the Government of Indonesia to host the next Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development in 2010;
10. **Commit** ourselves to apprise our respective Heads of States and Governments on the outcome of this conference and to take appropriate action to implement the initiatives outlined in the action plan annexed to this declaration.

Adopted in Tehran on 14 May 2008



THE SOLO DECLARATION

Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

We, the Asia-Pacific Ministers responsible for housing and urban development, meet in Solo, Indonesia, on 22 – 24 June 2010, to address the challenges of housing and urbanization in Asia and the Pacific:

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the excellent arrangements of the Third Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) and our appreciation to the people of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm hospitality,

Announce the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) in New Delhi and express our appreciation for its efforts towards the progress made in implementing the Delhi Declaration and Tehran Declaration, and to UN-HABITAT for its continued support to the Conference and its works in the region,

Express our sincere gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Second APMCHUD, and for its serious and perseverant chairmanship in the APMCHUD bureau,

Recognize the importance of the Delhi Declaration and Tehran Declaration,

Also recognize the importance of the Pacific Urban Agenda as adopted at the South Pacific Forum Countries in 2007,

Express concerns on the impacts of economic crisis and climate change towards the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the possibility of significantly harming MDGs commitment indicators in some countries, and the need for additional efforts,

Express concern about the significant humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, in which poses extraordinary challenges associated with the rehabilitation of destroyed housing, property and infrastructure, in addition to the continued deterioration in the human settlements and the housing conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the need to enable rapid recovery and reconstruction alongside humanitarian interventions, including concerted efforts for the smooth flow of building materials in accordance with guidelines agreed upon by all parties,

Recognize the important role of local stakeholders, including the poor and vulnerable groups with due attention to the needs of women and children in achieving sustainable urbanization, including addressing the challenges posed by climate change and the economic crisis; and the need to increase stakeholder capacity to support the process of sustainable urbanization,

Realize the challenges of cities and human settlements in sustainable development and the growing need for urban-led development, which includes comprehensive strategies for rural-urban linkages and focus on local potentials and community aspirations, as well as promoting energy efficient development through the diversification of energy resources, including the peaceful use of nuclear energy towards sustainable urban development,

Take note the importance to strengthen cooperation between member countries in developing disaster prevention mechanism as well as emergency, reconstruction and recovery of areas damaged by disasters and extreme climate-change related events,

Recognize that cities around the Asia-Pacific region rely on the knowledge of their citizens, their institutions and their firms and enterprises to support sustainable development and there is already a wealth of development experience and knowledge, of which needs to be captured, share and disseminated more effectively for the benefit of our partners in development.

Cognizant of the current challenges and opportunities in the region:

1. *Acknowledge* the need to develop policies and strategies to empower communities for sustainable urbanization;
2. *Agree* to develop database and information systems; knowledge, innovation and learning networks between cities and countries in order to provide and serve local needs to support sustainable urbanization;
3. *Agree to promote* the utilization of the capacity of the Regional Centre for Knowledge and Learning Network for Community Empowerment in Housing and Urban Development at existing centers in Indonesia and encourage other countries to take similar initiatives in order to strengthen APMCHUD's role as hub for knowledge in sustainable urbanization;
4. *Agree* to increase and accelerate capacity of stakeholders for integrated, participatory and inclusive planning by developing cooperation on tools and instruments for planning and governance to achieve sustainable urbanization;
5. *Agree* to strengthen poverty alleviation programmes in the urban system, especially facilitating access of the poor to the basic infrastructure provision, social and economic resources, through community empowerment and improved security of tenure;
6. *Invite* Governments to promote indicators on sustainable development for water supply and sanitation, housing, urban services, suitable with the local conditions; and urge governments to create an enabling environment through policies and actions to achieve sustainable urbanization;
7. *Urge* the Asia Pacific Community to minimize wars and conflicts in the region and make cities peaceful and livable places for future generations;
8. *Recommend* to incorporate the impacts of climate change in spatial planning at the macro and micro levels;

9. *Take note* on the outcome of the Fifth World Urban Forum and call upon the next World Urban Forum to promote sustainable and harmonious urbanization, with an emphasis to cope with the negative impact of economic crisis and climate change;
10. *Agree* to analyze various policies adopted by planners to address the challenges of housing and urbanization which could lead to possible regional cooperation mechanism;
11. *Adopt* the Solo Implementation Plan resulting from the five Working Groups as attached;
12. *Agree* on the continuation of the activities of the five Working Groups, the Secretariat of which to be hosted by volunteer member countries. The five working group comprise of as follows:
 - WG1 Urban and Rural Planning and Management
 - WG2 Upgrading of Slum and Informal Settlements
 - WG3 Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation
 - WG4 Financing Sustainable Housing
 - WG5 Urban Development with a focus on Natural Disasters
13. *Endorse* the composition of the 3rd Bureau of APMCHUD with its members being Ministers representing:
 - a. Republic of Indonesia
 - b. Islamic Republic of Iran
 - c. Republic of the Fiji Islands
 - d. Republic of India
 - e. Republic of Iraq
 - f. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - g. Republic of Korea
 - h. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
14. *Request* the current chair of APMCHUD to ensure the implementation of this declaration in collaboration with other members of the Bureau, the APMCHUD Secretariat and the UN-Habitat Secretariat and look forward to receiving regular updates.
15. *Welcome* the offer by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host the 4th Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in 2012.

Adopted in Solo on 24 June, 2010.



THE 24TH GOVERNING COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution on youth and sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling with appreciation paragraph 24 of the Rio +20 outcome document “The Future We Want” which expresses deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and notes the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all levels,

Recalling also the resolution on youth and human settlements of the Governing Council 20/1 which urges governments to include young people in their national delegations to the Governing Council and to the World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Further recalling the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008-2013 and the Work Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme 2012-2013 which elaborated on mainstreaming youth in the normative and operational programme,

Recognizing that in absolute numbers, there are more people under the age of 25 today than ever before, totalling nearly 3 billion or half of the total population, and noting that

positioning young people at the centre of urban development strategies is critical to solving the problems of human settlements in developing countries,

Taking cognizance of the dynamic potential of youth in terms of their demographic dominance in our cities, their potential role in socio-economic development, their increasing engagement in the governance of our communities, cities and nations, and also their critical importance in sustainable development,

Welcoming the Secretary General’s Five-Year Action Agenda in which youth is recognized as one of the top priorities for the United Nations system and his appointment of the Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Youth, the highest ranking youth position ever appointed within the United Nations system,

Taking cognizance of the challenges of unemployment, alienation, unequal access to basic services and to opportunities, still undermining the potential of youths in many parts of the world, particularly girls and young women and those in urban centres,

Acknowledging the importance for youth of the utilization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) at the local, national and international levels to improve their participation in governance at all levels, provide livelihoods and foster transparency and accountability,

Welcoming UN-Habitat's ground breaking research in the area of youth such as the State of the Urban Youth 2012/2013 Report which recommends a better match between education skills and labour market needs through vocational training and the participation of the private sector; and the Global Youth-led Development report series which highlight best practices in youth-led development drawn from youth agencies funded by the Urban Youth Fund,

Considering the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations bodies such as UNESCO and UNICEF and partners through the Inter Agency Network on Youth Development, in which UN-Habitat was co-chair, in strengthening the youth agenda within the United Nations system and globally,

Recognizing the Government of Brazil's hosting of the High Level Panel on Youth at Rio +20, the final declaration of which supports the ongoing work on UN-Habitat and the Youth 21 initiative in developing processes to better engage youth within the United Nations system,

Noting the Final Declaration of the XVI Ibero-American Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth which recognized the importance that participants accorded to the Youth 21 initiative and the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Youth Issues,

Noting with appreciation the World Youth Conference which took place in Mexico in August 2010,

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka to host, in 2014, a world conference on youth in Colombo, with a focus on the participation and involvement of youth in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the Amman Declaration and Amman Implementation Plan adopted unanimously by the Ministers of Asia Pacific Region participating in the 4th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) at Amman, Jordan, 10-12 December 2012 whose overall theme was youth, ICT and Sustainable Urban Development,

1. *Invites* the member states to undertake capacity building at the institutional level to harness the potential and the abilities of youth to positively effect change within their countries and communities;
2. *Invites* member states to develop National Urban Policies, where appropriate, with the full participation of youth at all stages to promote youth participation of youth, and also to involve youth in decision making at national and sub-national levels, and in volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development;
3. *Emphasises* the importance of gender equality, encourages gender mainstreaming in programmes related to youth, and further encourages initiatives intended to empower young women and men;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth with the aim of enhancing the involvement of young people in sustainable urban development, including the Global Land Tool Network and in keeping with the work programme and budget;
5. *Also Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely, within UN-Habitat's mandate, with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth, in the fulfilment of the Envoy's work plan (EU) which states "Increase youth accessibility (including marginalized youth), and young women and girls to the United Nations through promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation, at national, regional and international levels";
6. *Invites* governments to make financial contributions to strengthen UN-Habitat's youth programmes;
7. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to review the programme's Strategy on Enhancing the Engagement of Youth within UN-Habitat and to allocate adequate resources for the mainstreaming of youth within UN-Habitat's work programme and budget;
8. *Invites* the Executive Director to work with the Government of Sri Lanka for the preparation for the World Conference on Youth in 2014, especially with youth participation and technical support;
9. *Further Encourages* the Executive Director to work with member states and multilateral institutions actively working in the Latin American region to enhance the youth engagement in governance and to increase the work on youth entrepreneurship in the region leading up to the World Urban Forum 7, in Medellin, Colombia;
10. *Invites* member states to adequately reflect youth in their national budgets and programmes;
11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution in its twenty-fifth session in 2015.



The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) was established through resolutions 20/2 and 19/3 of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat to convene the regional ministers conferences on regular basis to understand and to have a common position on the urban challenges of the 21st century; to raise the profile through fostering partnership among the countries and report to the Governing Council on the progress made. APMCHUD is an inter-governmental body of ministers responsible for housing and human settlements in Asia Pacific region. UN-Habitat is promoting this forum for the speedy implementation of the Habitat Agenda through sustainable housing and urban development. The first conference was held in 2006 in New Delhi, India, the subsequent conferences were held in 2008 in Tehran, IR Iran, in 2010 in Solo, Indonesia and 2012 in H.K. Jordan.

The Asia-Pacific region has more than half of its population composed of young people. The region is experiencing quite a number of positive developments but equally experiences challenges amongst which unemployment, poverty and increased population in slums. These issues need to be addressed urgently. The conference topic: 'Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development' was therefore timely and most strategic. Youth want recognition, meaningful participation and involvement in decision making processes and thus own and sustain all the development projects in their own locality. IT is becoming one of the key tools for connection, and there should be a link on how ICT companies under the public-private partnerships can develop modalities and take more social cooperate responsibilities in addressing the menace of unemployment. Youth are positive human power and not as a problem.

This 4th APMCHUD conference debated and came out with a concrete Implementation Plan for execution through specific projects to address these challenges in the region. UN-Habitat is committed to assist in developing and execution of the projects in the interested countries.

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