



PRESS RELEASE

UN-HABITAT, COLOMBIA OFFICIALS OPEN WORLD URBAN FORUM EXHIBITION AS REGISTRATION NUMBERS CONTINUE TO CLIMB

Medellin, 5 April 2014: UN Under-Secretary-General and UN-Habitat Executive Director, Dr Joan Clos, Colombian Minister for Housing, City and Territory, Luis Felipe Henao Cardona, and the Mayor of Medellín, Aníbal Gaviria have officially opened the public exhibition at the Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum.

Speaking at the inaugural press conference, Dr Clos spoke about the challenges that the world faces as its urban population continues to grow and how Medellín had already achieved a great deal in improving the lives of its inhabitants.

“At the current rates of urban growth, in the next 30 years we could double the urbanization of the past 10,000 years...” he said. “[For this reason] we want a realistic world urban forum, one that addresses reality, in a real city that has real challenges and is facing them.”

“There can be no sustainable development if urbanization is not sustainable,” he said.

The Minister for Housing, City and Territory, Felipe Henao Cardona, said “Medellín is an example of a city in transformation and regeneration”. He went on to say that it could be seen as a role model to other cities in the region and the world.

Also speaking at the press conference, Mayor of Medellín, Aníbal Gaviria said he was proud that Medellín was hosting the Forum and hoped that it would be one of the most successful World Urban Forums to date. He also announced that the number of accredited visitors had reached 10,000 by the close of the day.

Nearly 25,000 national and international participants registered for the forum before online registration closed three weeks ago. This represents a record number of registrations for the open Forum.

For more information, or to request an interview, please contact:

***Ana Moreno, Spokesperson, UN-Habitat, +254 702 116 120,
ana.moreno@unhabitat.org***

***Jeanette Elsworth (English), Head of Press and Media, UN-Habitat, +57 319
325 3385, jeanette.elsworth@unhabitat.org***

***Alessandra Pirera (Español), Colombia Press Officer, UN-Habitat, +573 315
563 8234, alessandra.pirera@unhabitat.org***





PRESS RELEASE

