



BUSINESS ASSEMBLY WUF 7 CONCEPT NOTE

ACCELERATING ACTION TO SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

Objectives of the Assembly

This event will bring together business leaders, private sector partners of UN-Habitat, representatives of the world's leading corporate social responsibility business networks, and United Nations key stakeholders to commit to inclusive and sustainable planning for better cities.

The Assembly will increase the business sector's involvement in sharing the global development agenda in order to create a representative agenda for a sustainable future.

The event will increase the engagement of the business community in preparation towards Habitat III in 2016 by fostering understanding of its significance, as well as by establishing a clear roadmap and milestones.

Participants will leave the Assembly better prepared for Habitat III and with more concrete plans for involvement and a better understanding of what their actions and participation in the Habitat III process will entail.

Introduction of the topic

Today there is a global shift towards a truly urban world, in which urbanization has become the most powerful engine for development, and where cities and urban equity matters more than ever, we will look to find solutions to urgent issues.

In order to respond to today's unprecedented urban challenges and opportunities, UN-Habitat is calling on the business community to bring change and to commitment to urban equity. In order to achieve a unified goal and to accomplish the changes needed, all sectors of society, and all organizations must be represented. The business community has enormous potential to influence and to improve global urban spaces, and creating dialogue among this group is key for creating consensus on issues that will shape the decisions and dialogue of Habitat III.

This event will ask that the business community further commit itself to facilitate positive change and sustainable innovations in urban areas, not only through solutions and innovations, but also by generating momentum and progress toward the Habitat III conference and the Post-2015 Agenda.

Linkages with Post-2015 Development Agenda and Habitat III

This event will identify and accelerate the business community's commitments to both the Post-2015 agenda and the Habitat III conference. Business leaders will declare their commitment towards advancing sustainable cities in the Post-2015 agenda and towards Habitat III.

This Assembly constitutes a new opportunity to unite all partners around a common objective in order to accelerate commitments to sustainable urbanization and negotiate a New Global Urban Agenda.

The corporate world is called to play a key role in shaping the global development agenda that will support a sustainable future. The Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum is the first major milestone to initiate the process towards commitment and action. During this Assembly, UN-Habitat will call on the business community to engage in the preparation of the Habitat III.

Key interrogatives

- How can the corporate world position itself as an agent of sustainable change?
- How can the private sector play a transformative role to support development goals addressing urban sustainability?
- How can the corporate world join hands with the United Nations and the development community to accelerate actions towards sustainable urbanization?