



3 October 2011

Celebrated on the first Monday of October, on [World Habitat Day](#) we reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all, to adequate shelter. The Day also intends to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

This year's theme ***Cities and Climate Change*** was chosen because climate change is fast becoming the preeminent development challenge of the 21st century. Indeed, no-one today can really foresee the predicament in which a town or city will find itself in 10, 20 or 30 years time. In this new urban era with most of humanity now living in towns and cities, we must bear in mind that the greatest impacts of disasters resulting from climate change begin and end in cities. Cities too have a great influence on climate change.

The effects of urbanization and climate change are converging in dangerous ways. The results of this convergence threaten to have unprecedented negative impacts on quality of life, and economic and social stability. However, alongside these threats is an equally compelling set of opportunities. Although urban areas, with their high concentration of population, industries and infrastructure, are likely to face the most severe impacts of climate change, urbanization will also offer many opportunities to develop cohesive mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with climate change. The populations, enterprises and authorities of urban centres will be fundamental players in developing these strategies.

The [Global Celebration](#) will be hosted by the Government of Mexico

World Habitat Day provides an excellent opportunity to highlight key human settlements issues. In 2010, over 240 activities in 79 countries were organized to advocate for better lives in towns and cities.

This year, [UN-Habitat](#) is again calling on partners in central government, local government, civil society, the private sector and the media to take part in organizing activities to raise awareness and stimulate debate sustainable urbanization, and the important theme, Cities and Climate Change.

Additional Resources:

- [UN-Habitat Website](#) 



- [Report: Cities and Climate Change — Global Report on Human Settlements 2011](#)
- [The Secretary General message on World Habitat day, 3 October 2011](#)
- [UN-HABITAT World Habitat Day Message](#)
- [UN-HABITAT Brochure](#)
- [UN General Assembly Special Session, 6-8 June 2001, UN Headquarters, New York](#)
- [UN Conference on Human Settlements \(HABITAT II\), 3-14 June 1996, Istanbul, Turkey](#)
- [Global report on human settlements, cities and climate change:\(abridged version in 6 languages\)](#)

Further Documents

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