



31 October 2014 – Urban areas are expanding everywhere in the world, over half of the world's population now living in cities. The trend is most striking in the developing world, as the numbers of the developing world's population living in urban areas have expanded almost twice as fast as the total population growth.

Because of inadequate and unsustainable infrastructure, the expansion of cities is currently contributing to global challenges such as high levels of poverty, unemployment and environmental problems. It is therefore crucial to change course and lead urbanization towards a more sustainable path – which we highlight on the first ever International [World Cities Day](#) (WCD) on 31 October.



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