

Cities Alliance Wire No. 1 (November 2000)

Working together for prosperous cities without slums

Highlights:

Introductory Notes

This is the first issue of our newsletter which we plan to publish monthly on the Cities Alliance website. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a forum for Alliance partners to exchange news and views regarding our collective efforts to reduce urban poverty. Since this is your newsletter we need your regular inputs - suggestions, short articles, view point essays, announcements of upcoming events, etc. The newsletter is edited by Karen Burke, Program Assistant for the Cities Alliance Secretariat, and published by our Web Master, [Sarah Won](#). Your contributions should be sent by email to [Chii Akporji](#).

The Millennium Summit Pledges to Achieve the Goals of **Cities Without Slums** Action Plan

The 150 Heads of State and Government who attended the Millennium Summit in early September at the United Nations pledged to achieve the target of the Cities Alliance *Cities Without Slums* action plan, and incorporated their commitment in the Millennium Summit Declaration. Paragraph 19 of the Declaration, in the section on development which adopts specific goals for poverty reduction, reads as follows: "We resolve further: (...) by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the Cities Without Slums initiative."

The U.N. Secretary-General had previously noted in his report to the Millennium Summit entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" (paras 134 to 138) that "the World Bank and the United Nations have joined forces to respond to this challenge, by building a global alliance of cities and their development partners" (the Cities Alliance), and by launching the Cities Without Slums action plan. The Secretary-General expressed his strong support of the action plan, asking all UN Member States to act on it.

The commitment made by the Heads of State and Government of the members of the Cities Alliance to the *Cities Without Slums* action plan adds their powerful backing to achieve the goals and investment targets of the plan.

U. N. Champions **Cities Without Slums** Initiative

In its concluding ceremonies, United Nations Millennium Summit delegates resolved to target slum upgrading as a priority development goal and pledged to spare no effort in supporting the *Cities Without Slums* initiative.

As the unprecedented United Nations Millennium Summit drew to a close late Friday night at UN headquarters in New York, world leaders adopted a visionary [declaration](#) on the organization's future.

The three-day summit brought together the largest gathering of world leaders in history, including 100 heads of state and 47 heads of government, who committed to supporting the United Nations, "the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation, and development."

"By the end of the closing speeches, the Millennium Forum, the four roundtables, the speeches of the Secretary-General and the co-chairs, there was a real sense of spirit, convergence and possibility in the room," said the World's Bank's Deputy Representative to the United Nations Clare Fleming. "All in all, especially in the context of

the side events and the truly excellent roundtables, I felt privileged to be part of such a momentous event."

The declaration identifies six core values essential to international relations: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility.

In addition to setting out measures related to peace and disarmament, the drug problem and transnational crime, the declaration's longest section is devoted to development, with goals for poverty reduction, universal primary education, reduction of maternal mortality, halting the spread of AIDS, and improving the lives of slum dwellers.

Among the resolution's agreed upon goals:

- halving poverty by 2015;
- universal primary education and equal access to all levels of education for girls and boys by 2015;
- reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters and child mortality by two-thirds by 2015;
- halting and beginning to reverse HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases by 2015;
- improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;
- making every effort to ensure entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

The declaration also referred specifically to the needs of Africa: "We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy."

During the Summit and its side meetings, reports Fleming, calls were made by some heads of state for reform of the IMF and the World Trade Organization and, to a lesser extent, the World Bank. Proposals were also made around debt relief including an "X-ray of Indebtedness"—identification of specifics of debtors and creditors—as well as a mediation process between creditors and debtors.

In an extraordinary session of the Security Council during the Summit, the five permanent and 10 rotating members voted unanimously on Friday to strengthen UN peacekeeping operations.

Read the [final UN resolutions](#).

Helpful links: For more on the Millennium Summit, go to <http://www.un.org/millennium/>.

video [Video clip on the Millennium Declaration, narrated by Harry Belafonte. \(Courtesy of UN Works\)](#)

Public Awareness in New York on Goals of *Cities Without Slums*

During the run up to the Millennium Summit the target of the *Cities Without Slums* action plan was prominently featured in New York City. Working with the UN's Department of Public Information Young & Rubicam created a [citywide](#) advertising campaign for the Millennium Summit to alert New Yorkers to the goals of the Summit. According to the UN's Department of Public Information the ads featuring the target of reducing slums appeared in around 40 percent of NYC subway cars, on bus shelters and telephone kiosks throughout the city, as well as on subway maps distributed in tourist information centers and city attractions. During the Millennium Summit CNN (Richard Roth) did a spot which included the *Cities Without Slums* action plan and Mark Hildebrand, Manager of the Cities Alliance Secretariat. The *Cities Without Slums* goal was also included in the video news release, narrated by Harry Belafonte, which was aired nationwide by network broadcasters.

New Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) appointed by the U.N. Secretary-General

The U.N. Secretary-General appointed Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on 31 July 2000. She has already taken up her new responsibilities in Nairobi. As Executive Director of Habitat and in accordance to the Charter of the Cities Alliance, Ms. Tibaijuka is also the Co-Chair of the Cities Alliance Consultative Group.

A Tanzanian national, Ms. Tibaijuka was until recently Special Coordinator for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries in UNCTAD. As founding chairperson of more than one advocacy organization within the United Republic of Tanzania, Ms. Tibaijuka is well known for her dedication to promoting women's rights, particularly the right to education, land and inheritance. She is an economist who has undertaken extensive research on issues ranging from agriculture and rural development to welfare economics and aid policy.

Cities Alliance Membership Expands As More Pledges Received

Since the inaugural meeting of the Cities Alliance Consultative Group last December, four additional governments have pledged their support, and the Cities Alliance membership now includes 10 countries (all of the G7, plus the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden). More than \$15 million has been pledged to-date, and the Alliance's membership is also likely to continue to expand with Denmark, Finland, and Spain, along with ADB, UNDP, ILO and UNICEF active as associate members.

The Cities Alliance Co-Sponsors City Development Strategy Conference

The Cities Alliance is assisting cities with their long-term growth and sustainability by providing support for the development and refinement of their City Development Strategies (CDS). On July 11 and 12, 2000, the Cities Alliance co-sponsored the [Asian City Development Strategies Fukuoka Conference 2000](#), in Fukuoka, Japan in which 23 cities gathered for a progress-reporting conference on CDS implementation.

The Asian City Development Strategies Conference 2000, was sponsored by the World Bank, Habitat, the Cities Alliance, the Ministry of Construction of Japan (MOC), Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture, and the Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) It was the second Asian CDS conference following up the Tokyo Conference 1999. This year's meeting was built around the implementation of the CDS in "urbanizing and decentralizing" Asia.

Meetings

Upcoming Public Policy Forum and Consultative Group Meeting to be held in Rome, November 29 - December 1, 2000

The second Public Policy Forum, scheduled to take place on November 29, in Rome, will focus on the theme: "Local Partnerships: Moving to Scale". Forum participants will analyze partnerships between community-based organizations and local authorities and the ways in which these entities may be structured to view the poor as key actors, rather than recipients. The Forum will also illustrate lessons on how these local partnerships can be supported and replicated. Following the Public Policy Forum, the Consultative Group members will meet for one and a half days on November 29 to December 1, 2000, at the same venue, to approve the 2001 Work Program of the Cities Alliance.

Other News

WACLAC Newsletter Features Cities Alliance Consultative Group Meeting

The July issue of the WACLAC newsletter presented a detailed report of the June 2000, Consultative Group

meeting that was held in Montreal, Canada. To view the article in its entirety, please go to:
<http://www.waclac.org/newsletter/docs/waclac-2-july.pdf>

[Archives](#)

The CA Wire newsletter is published by the Cities Alliance Secretariat. .
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