

Nairobi, September 28, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to invite you to the 2015 Urban October celebrations. Since 2014, UN-Habitat has designated the entire month of October as Urban October, starting with the celebration of the World Habitat Day on the first Monday of October and finishing with the World Cities Day on 31 October. During the whole month, we reflect on a wide range of urban issues with our partners and share knowledge and experiences in making our cities better. Urban October is the overarching platform where partners can converge and debate on urban issues, building up to the United Nations campaign Time for Global Action on the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III).

Urban October 2015 will consist of two main events organized by UN-Habitat: the World Habitat Day and the World Cities Day, as well as several city, national and regional level events organized by our partners around the world.

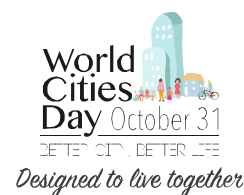
This year, World Habitat Day will be commemorated on Monday 5 October 2015 under the theme *Public Spaces for All*. This theme was selected to highlight the importance of streets and public spaces in urban areas, towns and cities.

The World Cities Day will be celebrated on 31 October. The aim of this day is to attract the international community's attention to urbanization as a central issue for development and to encourage cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing urban challenges towards sustainable development.

We are pleased to inform you of a celebration of World Cities Day 2015 in Milan, Italy under the theme *Designed to live together*. Organized under the framework of the 2015 World Expo which runs from 1 May to 31 October, World Cities Day will mark the end of the 2015 World Expo.

Through your partnership and support in raising awareness of events held over the years, we have kept the discussion on sustainable urbanization alive. With your support last year, the first Urban October recorded more than 120 activities organized by partners around the world throughout the month of October.

Urban October 2015 is of great significance to UN-Habitat and its partners, as it takes place a month after adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals where particular attention to the Habitat Agenda is highlighted under *Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*. This Urban October will also mark one year to the Habitat III conference to be held in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.



We would like to invite you to join us in making Urban October a month where issues of sustainable urban development will be at the forefront of the global agenda, by organizing events and activities in your cities and raise awareness on the challenges that we need to address to improve human settlements worldwide.

We encourage you to visit our website www.unhabitat.org where we have dedicated pages for the two main events and for more information and ideas on how you can engage your networks in this special month of celebrations. We also encourage you to participate in the Urban October Design Competition and host an Urban Nights event in a public space close to you. Further, we encourage you to share the enclosed Urban October Guidelines with your network, and follow the World Habitat Day on our social media channels under the hashtag #habitatday, as well as the World Cities Day under the hashtag #citiesday. Special email addresses have been set up so that we can quickly respond to your queries. For World Habitat Day please contact whd@unhabitat.org, and World Cities Day wcd@unhabitat.org.

We look forward to you celebrating Urban October with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Clos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos

UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Enclosed:

Urban October 2015 Guidelines