



The Millennium Development Goals and the City

World Habitat Day 2005

Monday 3 October 2005, World Forum Convention Center, The Hague

In 2000 the United Nations defined the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): eight goals to reduce poverty, hunger, diseases and inequality in the world within fifteen to twenty years. But five years later not much progress has been made. Enough reason for intensification of campaigns to raise people's involvement in achieving the MDGs.

Like UN Habitat, the Dutch Habitat Platform uses World Habitat Day 2005 to ask attention for the seventh Millennium Development Goal: halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (MDG 7). In short, achieving a sustainable living environment.

World Habitat Day 2005 pays attention to projects, processes, organisations, partnerships and other actors that contribute to achieving MDG 7. At the interactive *Marketplace Habitat* we will try to find links and make matches between organisations that present themselves at the Marketplace. At the so-called *Habitat Platform* national and international guests and participants will discuss continuously about current issues and inspiring case studies. In a parallel programme partners of the Dutch Habitat Platform will explain how MDG 7-projects are implemented, what the results are and what we can learn from the outcomes.

World Habitat Day 2005 has an open and interactive set up. Participants will be offered an opportunity to meet interesting people, participate in lively discussions, and exchange knowledge and information. The Dutch Habitat Platform cordially invites you to come to World Habitat Day 2005. This brochure provides you with necessary information on the programme and registration. We hope to see you in The Hague on 3 October 2005!

Programme

Below you will find information on the main parts of the programme of World Habitat Day 2005. In the coming weeks you may visit the websites of the Congres- en Studiecentrum VNG (www.cs-vng.nl) or the Dutch Habitat Platform (www.habitatplatform.nl) for the most recent information on the programme. A week before World Habitat Day 2005 you will receive a detailed programme overview as part of the confirmation of your participation.

Ruben Maes will be the moderator on World Habitat Day 2005. Most discussions and sessions will be in Dutch, some are in English.

10.15 to 17.00

Marketplace Habitat

Marketplace Habitat is the centre of activity on World Habitat Day 2005. Marketplace Habitat is an interactive fair where some twenty Dutch organisations that work on achieving MDG 7 present themselves, contact each other, and exchange knowledge. As *matchmaker* the Dutch Habitat Platform will be searching for links for cooperation and partnerships between the organisations and participants present.

11.00 to 16.00

The *Habitat Platform*

Marketplace Habitat is a place for discussion as well. At the *Habitat Platform* national and international organisations and persons exchange views and thoughts on interesting, current and inspiring subjects and case studies and will try to find links for cooperation and partnerships. The dynamics on the Marketplace Habitat will bring forward subjects to be discussed on the *Habitat Platform*, but several subjects will be prepared beforehand as well:

- the forced evictions of dwellers and demolition of informal settlements in Zimbabwe and Malawi, and
- the role of architects in achieving MDG 7, further to a call made by UN Habitat for architects to contribute to the improvement of living conditions in slums.

Of course the matches made at the Marketplace Habitat will be highlighted at the *Habitat Platform*.

11.00 to 12.00

Opening and opening discussion

Minister Sybilla Dekker of the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, together with Mr Hans van der Sluijs (chairman of the Dutch Habitat Platform), will officially open World Habitat Day 2005. In the following round table discussion, the focus will be on UN Habitat's *Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative*. Partners in this MDG 7-project (like UN Habitat) present the starting points and challenges of the initiative. These will be discussed with guests that are not directly involved in the project but do have their own opinions on the subject.

12.00 to 15.00

Parallel programme

Participants who want to know more about specific MDG 7 projects can join in a parallel programme of presentations, workshops and flash courses. Partners of the Dutch Habitat Platform explain how projects are implemented, what the results are and what can be learned from the outcomes. The content of three of the six parallel sessions are shortly described below:

- WASTE presents the recommendations on sustainable sanitary systems, based on the outcomes of the project *At the end of the pipe*.
- Cordaid asks attention for minority groups (handicapped, HIV/AIDS patients, and Roma) in MDG 7 projects.
- The University of Amsterdam explores the opportunities that geographical information systems (GIS) offer for research and policy making in the field of MDG 7.

World Habitat Day 2005 also screens a variety of movies related to MDGs and MDG 7 particularly. These are produced by Baobabconnections.org, WASTE and EMF Films.

15.00 to 16.00

Closing discussion

The closing discussion brings together 3 mayors in a 'mayors forum'. The Dutch Habitat Platform has invited the mayors of The Hague, Maarsse and Alphen aan den Rijn to discuss about the role of mayors, municipalities and city twinnings in the campaigns to raise awareness on the MDGs and achieving these goals.

Registration, lunch and drinks

From 10.15 you are welcome in the World Forum Convention Center (previously 'Nederlands Congres Centrum') for registration and a cup of coffee or tea. From 12.00 to 14.00 lunch will be served. Following the 'mayors forum' and until 17.00, you can enjoy a drink and chat with guests, participants and organisations.

Habitat Platform and World Habitat Day

As knowledge intermediary, the Dutch Habitat Platform contributes to achieving Millennium Development Goal 7: attaining a sustainable living environment. To do so, the Dutch Habitat Platform supports Dutch organisations that work on the improvement of living conditions of slum residents, and the increase of access to safe drinking water and sanitary facilities in Sub Sahara Africa (specially South Africa) and Central and Eastern Europe.

Every year on the first Monday in October, the Dutch Habitat Platform organises a conference on the occasion of World Habitat Day. This day, officially marked by the United Nations, is observed around the world and pays attention to a specific aspect of the human housing and living environment.

World Habitat Day 2005 is made financially possible by the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the NCDO.



Date and location

World Habitat Day 2005 is on Monday 3 October 2005, from 10.15 to 17.00 uur in the World Forum Convention Center, Churchillplein 10, The Hague.

Participants

World Habitat Day 2005 is open to a wide audience that is interested in the subject professionally or personally. The Dutch Habitat Platform expects participants from development organisations, governmental organisations, housing Institutions, civil society, universities, and companies.

Costs

Participating in World Habitat Day 2005 is *free*. Registration is however necessary.

Registration

One can register on the website of the Congres- en Studiecentrum VNG (www.cs-vng.nl). In case you do not have internet, please contact the Congres- en Studiecentrum VNG at 070-3738458 to request a registration form. A week before World Habitat Day 2005 you will receive a confirmation and more detailed information.

Information

In the coming weeks you may visit the websites of the Congres- en Studiecentrum VNG (www.cs-vng.nl) or the Dutch Habitat Platform (www.habitatplatform.nl) for the most recent information on the programme. For all other enquiries, please contact:

Congres- en Studiecentrum VNG
P.O. Box 30435
2500 GK The Hague
tel. 070-3738458
fax 070-3738734
e-mail cs@vng.nl
www.cs-vng.nl