

Nairobi, May 19, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

In a tradition dating back to 1985, the United Nations every year celebrates World Habitat Day on the first Monday in October, to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to alert the world to its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

I am delighted to announce that the city of Shanghai in China has been designated to spearhead the 2010 Global Observance of World Habitat Day on Monday 4 October.

For this year's celebrations, the United Nations chose the same theme as that of the Shanghai World Expo 2010, *Better City, Better Life* to highlight our collective vision of a sustainable urban world that harnesses the potential and possibilities, mitigates inequalities and disparities, and provides a home for people of all cultures and ages, both rich and poor.

The Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be hosted by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development and the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Urban and Rural Construction and Transport. The celebration will be a major concluding highlight on the theme of the Expo, where the United Nations has its own pavilion.

World Habitat Day in Shanghai will be closely linked to a special meeting on the Livable City in a Harmonious Society hosted by the city of Hangzhou and co-sponsored by the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and UN-HABITAT. It is one of six major such discussions on key urban topics including sustainability, urban development, the environment, economy, cultural heritage, science and innovation.

Once again, presentation of the Scroll of Honour awards by UN-HABITAT, and the World Habitat Awards by the Building and Social Housing Foundation will be the highlight of the Global Observance. The Scroll of Honour was launched in 1989 and since then, more than 160 recipients have been honoured. The most prestigious human settlements award in the world, its aim is to acknowledge outstanding contributions towards improving human settlements and sustainable urban development. We invite you to **nominate candidates for the Scroll of Honour by 31 July 2010**. Guidelines can be found at www.unhabitat.org/whd.

I am pleased to report that last year around 115 events commemorating World Habitat Day were held around the world, as you will see from the attached brochure. I would like to thank you for this support and invite you again to celebrate World Habitat Day with us this year to raise awareness of the challenges that we need to address to improve human settlements worldwide. We hope you will find the attached guidelines on organizing country and city level activities useful.

We kindly ask you **to nominate a World Habitat Day representative** with whom we can liaise to support your celebrations. A special e-mail address whd@unhabitat.org has been set up so that we can respond quickly to any queries.

We look forward to you celebrating this important event with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Tibaijuka', written in a cursive style.

Anna Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director