



World Urban Forum 4

第四届世界城市论坛

03-06 November 2008 Nanjing, China

HARMONIOUS URBANIZATION



## **BACKGROUND:**

During its 21<sup>st</sup> Session in April 2007, the UN-HABITAT Governing Council adopted a landmark resolution that called for the Executive Director to establish a special Fund to help young people living in poverty. Through the new Opportunities Fund, UN-HABITAT intends to partner with youth to advance its core mandate of sustainable urban development as well as the Millennium Development Goals and their youth-related targets.

UN-HABITAT is supporting youth, and working with them to meet the challenges they face. Through the Fund, the agency is addressing rampant youth unemployment, barriers to entrepreneurship and lack of appropriate training and education. The Fund will support youth-led initiatives in the following areas:

- Piloting innovative approaches to employment, good governance, adequate shelter and secure tenure, with particular emphasis on youth.



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- In collaboration with the private sector and other UN agencies, facilitating vocational training and credit mechanisms to promote youth entrepreneurship and employment for young men and women.
- Strengthening youth-related policies and building capacities of governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to address youth needs and issues.
- Supporting information and communication-oriented networks.
- Boosting knowledge about local, youth-led initiatives around the world by gathering information and sharing best practices.
- Promoting gender mainstreaming in all activities of urban youth.

UN-HABITAT has established a five-member internal steering committee that will serve as the decision making body for the Fund. An International Advisory Board (IAB) will advise the steering committee. The Youth Forum of the World Urban Forum will act as an Advisory General Assembly (AGA) to the Fund.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

The Partnerships and Youth Section of UN-HABITAT will manage the operations of the Fund, with calls for proposals and results announced annually. UN-HABITAT will issue the first call for proposals in early 2009, and the first awards will be announced at the Governing Council meeting in April 2009.

Initiatives that the Opportunities Fund may support could be action-oriented, focused on connecting local practice to change in policy, or be solely policy oriented. Examples include:

- Action oriented: In Bangladesh a youth group is working with ship-wrecking companies to improve the working conditions of the mostly young employees;
- Translating practice into policy: In Nairobi, Korogocho slum youth held the city council responsible and accountable for the services they were supposed to be providing and took their concerns to their Member of Parliament;
- Policy oriented: Numerous youth groups are attempting to influence policy but need empowerment and assistance in articulate their issues.

In order to be considered for support, the organization/group must meet the following criteria:

- Legally registered by the relevant national or local authority.
- Youth-led (age 15 and 24) and must demonstrate youth participation in the organization's management and governance structures.
- Demonstrate adherence to youth-led development principles.
- Have a track record of a previous project(s) implemented.



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- Have a good governance structure.
- Have a bank account.
- Not be “owned” by individuals, families, private trusts etc.
- Not be affiliated to political parties or practice religious evangelization.
- A local body of national organization must have approval from the national organization.
- Government institutions, bodies at national or local level cannot apply for support except through partnership with national or local youth-led, nongovernmental organizations. In such cases, the organization will forward the application and administer the resources.
- International non-governmental organizations are also eligible for support.
- UN-organizations or institutions related to the UN cannot apply.