THE 4ᵀᴴ ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)

YOUTH AND IT IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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THE 4TH ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD)

AMMAN, JORDAN
10TH - 12TH DECEMBER, 2012

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Back cover: Jordanian ancient city of Petra

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMMY	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth
AMR	Annual Ministerial Review
APMCHUD	Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development
APUHF	Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BPPSPAM	Badan Pendukung Pengembangan Sistem Penyediaan Air Minum
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMD	Chief Managing Director
CSD	Commission for Sustainable Development
DG	Director General
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
HK	Hashemite Kingdom
HFIR	Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution
HPC	Higher Population Council
HUDCO	Housing and Urban Development Cooperation
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTD	International Conference on Trade and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
InSTEDD	Innovative Support to Emergencies Disease and Disasters
IT	Information Technology
JNWC	Jordan National Commission for Women
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
KIBS	Knowledge-intensive Business Services
MD	Managing Director
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MFA	Minister of Foreign Affairs
MLTM	Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
MPW	Minister of Public Works
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Services Companies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHB	National Housing Bank
NWG	New Working Group
PPPs	Public Private Partners
RC-CEHUD	Regional Center for Community Empowerment of Housing and Urban
RSUWG	Regional Slum Upgrading Working Group
SAARC	South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UDRO	Urban Development and Revitalization Organization
UN	United Nations
UN ICT	United Nations Information and Communication Technology
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IPRED	International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disaster
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VOTY	Voice of the Youth
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WUF	World Urban Forum
YLD	Youth Led Development

FOREWORD

We live in a rapidly changing world, and one of the principal forces driving that pace of change is the continuing information and telecommunications revolution. This transformation is not just changing our economies and cultures, but is also changing the face, shape, size and functions of cities world-wide. Even if we do not yet quite know the exact shape of things to come, we all share a collective and instinctive feeling that this future will be radically different from the world we know today, and that it will certainly be much more urban than in the past. It is for this reason that the theme of the 4th meeting *"Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development"* is very important, particularly to the Ministers tasked with Housing and Urban Development.

It is quite clear that today's generation of young people, at 1.2 billion, is the largest the world has ever known. An overwhelming majority of this number live in developing countries. This demographic phenomenon offers an unprecedented opportunity for innovation and development. Yet, too many young people, some of whom are highly educated, have inadequate, unchallenging or no job opportunities. A large number of youth have no immediate prospects and are increasingly getting discouraged; even becoming distrustful of existing institutions and leaders. Economically empowered youth can greatly contribute to good governance and democracy. Through empowerment, many youth can access opportunities that will improve their living standards, get involved in decision making and thus play a key role towards achieving Millennium Development Goals 7 and 8

If these issues are not addressed urgently, the social pressures associated with the Arab Spring phenomenon may be replicated in many more countries. The host country of the 4th Conference, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, being aware of this situation, has decided to address it in a timely manner, hence the choice of the topic for this conference: *Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development.*

Stressing the importance of youth issues, the UN Secretary-General has made working with and for young people a priority of his five-year

action agenda. This is clear from his call to the United Nations system to deepen and scale up the youth focus of existing programmes, with particular attention to employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, as well as to education, including on reproductive health. The youth want recognition. They demand meaningful employment and closer engagement in the governance and decision making processes of their respective cities and countries. Youth exclusion and deepening alienation have negative implications for cities. Both experience and research have shown that excluding a large swathe of the healthy population from production and services does little to advance sustainable development. Youth should be fos-

The perception of the youth as a group peripheral to the national discourse tends to obscure their potential contribution, particularly their energy, innovative potential and skills.

Youth should be seen as positive human power and not as a problem. Youth with the right skills and knowledge in ICT constitute a particularly potent asset for countries and cities.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their hospitality and warm reception, for successfully delivering the conference which committed to implement the Amman Declaration and sponsor a resolution which was adopted in the twenty-third 24th Governing Council in