



26 October 2015

Dear Mayor,

This Saturday 31 October we celebrate World Cities Day.

It is the second global celebration since December 2013 when the General Assembly of the United Nations designated the last day of October as the World Cities Day. The aim of the 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.

The theme of this year is *Designed to live together*. The United Nations has selected this theme to remind us about the critical role that urbanization plays in our everyday lives and to celebrate the positive impact that well-managed urbanization can have on economic, social and environmental development. Sustainable Urban Design, how we share common spaces, reducing greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience, food security, ensuring basic services such as water and sanitation and designing safe public streets and spaces for all to share, is crucial not only for city-dwellers but also for providing solutions to some of the key aspects of sustainable development.

This year's World Cities Day is of great significance to the United Nations and its partners, as it takes place a month after adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals where particular attention to the urban agenda is highlighted under *Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*. World Cities Day 2015 will also mark one year to the Habitat III Conference to be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

In the framework of the collaboration of the *Global Taskforce* to ensure the participation of local and regional governments in the process, we wish to encourage you to join the celebration by promoting a global message on "Local Governments Moving towards the New Urban Agenda" on the World Cities Day 2015.

For its easy distribution, we are enclosing a visual of the World Cities Day message that can be posted on your official websites and social media during this week. In addition, we also encourage you to address it as a statement in public appearances scheduled by Saturday 31 October.

Share the message with all citizens and make it yours.

We look forward to celebrating the World Cities Day.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Joan Clos,
Executive Director of
UN-Habitat and
Secretary-General of
Habitat III



Mr Kadir Topbaş,
Mayor of Istanbul
President of UCLG and
Chair of United Nations
Advisory Committee of
Local Authorities (UNACLA)