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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***KUALA LUMPUR TO HOST WORLD URBAN FORUM IN 2018***

The capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, will host the ninth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF) in 2018. UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has announced the decision on Monday 3 November as the culmination of a six months bid process.

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN-Habitat Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos, has communicated directly the decision to the Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government of Malaysia, Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, during the Fifth Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development that is being held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 3 to 5 November 2014.

Dr. Joan Clos said after the bilateral meeting held with the Minister that in addition to its excellent bid, Kuala Lumpur is “bringing back the WUF to Asia continent that has just host the Forum once in 2008 in Nanjing, China, but it is where more than half of the world’s urban population lives. This region has accounted for about 65 per cent of the demographic expansion of all urban areas across the world since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” Clos extended his “congratulations to the city of Kuala Lumpur and

the Government of Malaysia for its commitment towards sustainable urban development bidding for hosting the Forum and the thousands of stakeholders that meet every two years to share practices and knowledge on how cities are built, planned and managed”.

WUF9 will be the first Forum to be held after the Post 2015 Development Agenda Process and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III in 2016, which is a global legislative conference organized every 20 years to review and define the urban agenda and pave way for UN-Habitat’s vision towards a better urban future.

The selection process for WUF9 started in May 2014 with a call for expression of interest. Those cities interested received a bid questionnaire that was mandatory to submit before 15 September. The decision on the host city was taken last Friday 31 October 2014, same day that it was celebrated the World Cities Day for the first time.

## **Background**

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is a non-legislative technical forum convened by UN-Habitat, hosted in a different city every two years. It has become one of the major international events for exchanging views and experience on urban challenges. The objectives and mode of work of WUF were adopted during the First session of the Forum which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 April to 3 May 2002. The Second session took place in Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September 2004; the Third in Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 June 2006; the Fourth session in Nanjing, China, 3-6 November 2008, the Fifth session in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22-26 March 2010, the Sixth session in Naples, Italy, 1-7 September 2012 and the Seventh session in Medellín, Colombia, from 5-11 April 2014.

The participation in the Forum has seen an increase over the last years and steadied at around 22,000 attendees from all over the world in WUF7.

The Forum gathers a wide range of experts from every walk of life. Participants at the Forum include, but are not limited to, national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, professionals, research institutions and academies, professionals, private sector, development finance institutions, foundations, media and United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

The main goals of the World Urban Forum are:

- Advocate for and raise awareness on Sustainable Urbanization Development
- Advance the collective knowledge on sustainable urbanization through inclusive open debates, exchange of experiences and best practices
- Further coordination and cooperation within and between different constituencies towards the advancement and implementation of the Habitat Agenda

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*Kementerian Kesejahteraan Bandar, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) diterajui oleh YB Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan. Di bawah Kementerian ini terdapat sembilan (9) Jabatan iaitu Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa Semenanjung Malaysia, Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia, Jabatan Perumahan Negara, Jabatan Kerajaan Tempatan, Jabatan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal Negara, Jabatan Landskap Negara, Tribunal Perumahan dan Pengurusan Strata, Institut Latihan Kesejahteraan Bandar Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan dan Perbadanan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal dan Pembersihan Awam.*

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