



To whom it may concern:

We are writing to you to ask for your cooperation in a new and important global survey, a survey that relies heavily on active collaboration at the global scale.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat)—in collaboration with New York University (NYU) Stern Urbanization Project and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy—is conducting this survey in a new global sample of 200 cities. It must be completed by April 2016, in preparation for Habitat III, the global conference on Human Settlements, now scheduled for October 2016.

The survey—which will be administered in local languages both by telephone and over the internet—focuses on two critical issues facing cities the world over at the present time: (1) the rules and regulations governing the development of new residential land and housing and their enforcement; and (2) the affordability and access to jobs of housing units and residential plots.

The survey is part of a larger effort to monitor the state of the world's cities in a more scientific manner, so as to enable municipal and national governments, as well as civic groups and international organizations, to engage more effectively in evidence-based planning and policy-making. Other parts of our global monitoring effort focus on a new *Atlas of Urban Expansion*, mapping the expansion of all cities in the sample between 1990, 2000, and 2013; and on measuring the quality of the urban fabric in these cities. The global sample of 200 cities is a representative sample of the 4,000+ cities and metropolitan areas that had 100,000 people or more in 2010.

Your collaboration in this study—whether in answering questions or in connecting our surveyors with potential informants—will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director
UN Habitat

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Dr. Shlomo Angel
Survey Leader, NYU Stern
Urbanization Project

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Dr. George McCarthy
President, Lincoln Institute
of Land Policy