This issue of the World Resources Report (WRR) Update covers progress to date and plans for the WRR. It provides an update on the working papers, and it outlines our plans for engagement with WRI country offices in a series of city-level case studies. Finally, it summarizes our stakeholder engagement activities, including our pre-Habitat III event in Quito.

The first installment of the WRR launches

The first installment of the World Resources Report was launched in October at Habitat III in Quito. During this period, the authors worked with internal and external communications experts. The framing paper’s key messages about importance of equitable access to core services and the need for broader urban transformation were picked up by several news media outlets, including Reuters, New York Times, Malaysian Star, Reuters Africa and Citiscope.

Seeking feedback on www.citiesforall.org

Just before the launch of the first installment, the WRR website was launched. The website highlights both published and ongoing WRR research. It includes video recordings of our WRR research seminars and interviews with the seminar speakers. Eventually, we aim to have all seminars and working papers posted on the website. Please visit the website (www.citiesforall.org) and send suggestions for improving usability to Adna Karabegovic at adna.karabegovic@wri.org.

Progress on working papers

This past quarter, the lead authors of the working papers continued to conduct research and write on housing, energy, transportation and water risk. During this period, the energy paper and housing paper were internally and externally reviewed. These papers will be released in the coming months. The transportation, urban expansion and water risk working papers are currently at different stages of the research and writing.

Plans for case studies of urban transformation

We have started to identify cities and lead authors for the city-level case studies on urban transformation. The lead authors will have a strong background in the city under study and will have a track record of publishing about urban issues in the respective national context. Lead authors will be assisted by a team of local researchers that will collect and analyze supporting primary and secondary data for each chosen city. For selected cities in India
and Brazil, we will seek the help of our International Offices to support the data collection efforts and work closely with the lead authors.

**Our pre-Habitat III event in Quito**

On the eve of the historic UN Habitat III summit, our event, *Towards a More Equal City: Mobilizing for Post-Quito Implementation*, brought a wide range of urban leaders and experts together to focus on the opportunities and challenges of turning the New Urban Agenda (NUA) into action on the ground.

The event began with a presentation of the WRR and the official launch of the WRR framing paper, followed by an opening panel of urban thought leaders, civil servants and practitioners. The event focused on how to provide more equitable access to core services.

The opening session of the pre-conference event, featuring: (left to right) Ani Dasgupta, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities; Michael Berkowitz, President, 100 Resilient Cities; Rubbina Karruna, Cities Adviser, Department for International Development (DFID); Marcio Lacerda, Mayor, Belo Horizonte; Xavier de Souza Briggs, Vice President for Economic Opportunity and Markets, Ford Foundation;

Three thematic panel discussions followed the opening session. Each panel discussion featured a presentation by WRR lead authors on housing, energy and transportation. Respectively, the lead authors were Robin King, Michael Westphal and Dario Hidalgo. Panelists represented our target geographic regions—Latin America, Asia and Africa—and included leaders from multilateral, nonprofit, private, public was well as urban activists.

**HOUSING:**
From left to right: Don Chen, Director, Equitable Development Team, Ford Foundation; Ellen Hamilton, Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank; William (Billy) Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance; Epifania Espinola Garcia, Home Based Worker Leader, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); André Veneman, Corporate Director for Sustainability & HSE, AkzoNobel; Rose Molokoane, Deputy President of Shack / Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

ENERGY:

From left to right: Michael Westphal, WRR working paper author; David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development; Martha Chen, International Coordinator, WIEGO and Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School; Arab Hoballah, Chief of Sustainable Lifestyles, Cities & Industry, Division of Technology, Industry & Economics (DTIE) (UNEP); Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director, Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank Group.
TRANSPORTATION:

From left to right: Patrick Oliva, Senior Vice President in charge of External Relations - Sustainable Mobility and Energy Transition, Michelin; Clarisse Cunha Linke, Country Director-Brazil, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy-Brasil (ITDP); Cornie Huizenga, Secretary General, SloCat; Juan Carlos Muñoz, Director of Bus Rapid Transit Center of Excellence, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile; Tania Roediger-Vorwerk, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany; Dario Hidalgo, WRR lead working paper author on transportation

Our closing panel focused on how to achieve a more equal city and featured government officials and representatives from multilateral development organizations. Panelists shared actions their countries and organizations are planning to make the New Urban Agenda a reality.
During this quarter, we continued our Cities Research Seminar Series as a platform to engage and learn from some of the most accomplished urban thought leaders and practitioners on topics of central importance to the WRR. In the last three months we have hosted three speakers:

- **Sheela Panel**, founding director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), presented about how cities can better engage the informal sector. Given that up to 70 percent of the population in rapidly growing cities is part of the informal sector, Sheela highlighted the inability of existing instruments within cities to address the needs and aspirations that people in the informal sectors often have. She proposed new scalable solutions, discussed partnerships with emerging networks and social movements of the urban poor and stressed the powerful and unique ways they have already begun to create change at local, national and global levels.

- **Mathis Wackernagel**, the thought leader who developed the concept of the Ecological Footprint and CEO of Global Footprint Network, presented about how cities need better decision making tools that consider resource availability. His presentation explored ways that cities can track their overarching performance and examined key metrics for understanding risks and turning every budget decision into an opportunity for advancing lasting environmental sustainability, well-being and poverty eradication.
• **Edgar Pieterse**, South African Research Chair in Urban Policy & Director of African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, presented about the dangers of uncritically imposing generic ideas from the international policy circuit on Africa. He cautioned that this risk was more acute with the globalization of urban development and policy prescriptions that inevitably accompany the Habitat III processes. Edgar’s research aims to confront the interconnected challenges of systemic un- and under-employment, large-scale service delivery deficits, environmental degradation, ad hoc technological investments and unresponsive governance in Africa. His presentation highlighted the diversity of Africa’s rising urbanization challenges and the need for multi-sectoral global partnerships.

• **Mark Roberts and Jon Kher Kaw**, World Bank, presented about South Asia’s struggles to cope with the pressure of population growth on land, housing, infrastructure, basic services and the environment. Their presentation covered the World Bank’s most recent flagship report, *Leveraging Urbanization in South Asia*, which focused on the market and policy failures that have exacerbated the region’s urban problems over the last decade.

**Next steps**

In the coming months, we plan to launch working papers on housing and energy. The papers on transportation and water risk will be completed and reviewed in. In 2017, we will initiate working papers on urban expansion and the informal economy as well as city-level case studies in partnership with our WRI country offices.