



GLOBAL REPORT ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 2011: CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The **Global Report on Human Settlements** is one of UN-HABITAT's two flagship report series and is prepared under a mandate from the United Nations General Assembly. The report is produced to raise awareness on human settlement issues and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world. This year the report focuses on **Cities and Climate Change**. **Durban is showcased as one of the case studies in the report within "Changing Perceptions of Climate Mitigation among Competing Priorities: The Case of Durban, South Africa".**

The 2011 report launched by UN-HABITAT says that cities are responsible for a disproportionate amount of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Rapid urbanization means that more and more people are living in urban areas. This means that not only do cities contribute disproportionately more to climate change but they are also more vulnerable to its effects than less densely populated areas. The real battle against climate change is taking place in our cities. **"Cities are responsible for the majority of our greenhouse gases. But they are also places where the greatest efficiencies can be made," said Dr Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. "This makes it imperative that we understand the form and content of our urbanization so that we can reduce our footprint and plan more sustainable and more resilient cities in the future. If we ignore this now, hundreds of millions of people will be at risk from the effects of climate change in the future."**

According to UN-HABITAT's new Global Report on Human Settlements: Cities and Climate Change, the time to address this is now. This new report shows how cities can improve the way they operate in order to respond to climate change, and provides practical strategies for strengthening their role as part of the solution. Well planned cities with efficient urban transport provision and solid adaptation and mitigation strategies can actually have less impact on climate change and provide clear economic and social opportunities for their inhabitants.

"This year's edition of the UN Habitat's Global Report on Human Settlements elucidates the relationship between urban settlements and climate change, and suggests how cities and towns that have not yet adopted climate change policies can begin to do so..... I commend this report to all concerned with improving the ability of towns and cities to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts"

From the Foreword by BAN KI MOON, Secretary General, United Nations.

Read more about the **new Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change** on <http://www.unhabitat.org/#>. Download the **Abridged Report** on <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3085>