

Shanghai Declaration on Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing



We, the participants to the International Symposium on “Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing” held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 26-30 October 2010,

Recognizing cities as engines of economic development and wealth in the past and in today's urbanizing world and recognizing their immense potential in the future to contribute to human and social welfare and the diversity of cultural expressions, tangible and intangible heritage, as well as to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Concerned by the impacts of rapid urbanization, unsustainable development and the excessive consumption of resources of cities on the ecological wellbeing of the larger region, including effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, natural resources, climate, human health, and cultural heritage,

Confident that cities and conurbations can significantly reduce their ecological footprints and that they can become engines of innovation for green, climate-friendly economies, promote climate sensitive development, demonstrate energy efficiency, and advance the use of non-fossil sources of energy, good management of natural resources, and adaptation strategies to manage the impacts of climate change, and be safeguards for cultural creativity, diversity and human and ecosystem wellbeing,

Appreciating the focus of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, on the theme "Better City, Better Life" that promoted a rich exchange of experiences of urban development and

explorations of future urban habitats, lifestyles, consumption and production patterns, and governance around the world,

Expressing gratitude to the Shanghai Advanced Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS-SARI), the Shanghai Branch of the Chinese Academy of Science and the City of Shanghai for the organization of the International Symposium on “Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing”,

Welcoming the objective of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) to build on the inspiration and outcomes of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and of this symposium to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among researchers and practitioners so as to promote a positive relationship between cities and the ecosystems of which they are a part, and to set cities on trajectories of sustainability that are energy and resource-efficient, low emission, promoters of social and economic enterprise, expressions of human creativity and cultural diversity and human wellbeing,

Recognizing that the UNESCO MAB biosphere reserves provide ecosystem services for human wellbeing and can also function as learning sites at local and regional levels to promote and enhance cooperation between the cities and the regions in which they are located,

Convinced of the need to further strengthen and support interdisciplinary and international cooperation on sustainable urban development in existing, new, and rapidly expanding cities,

- Encourage UNESCO MAB, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) to establish a joint policy relevant, research, assessment, capacity building and outreach programme to further advance the concept of sustainable urban development;
- Invite regional, national, state or provincial, and local authorities, experts and other stakeholders to promote sustainable urban futures through the UNESCO MAB, CAS and SCOPE joint programme founded on integrated approaches that consider *inter alia* local knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of urban, rural and natural systems;
- Encourage all relevant stakeholders to take the cultural heritage dimension into due consideration, including UNESCO’s Historic Urban Landscapes approach and, as appropriate, the proposed UNESCO Recommendation on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes that seeks to integrate the aims of urban heritage conservation with the goals of sustainable social and economic development;
- Urge regional, national, state or provincial, and local authorities to help address climate change, environment and pollution issues, including light pollution, through a range of resource use efficiency programmes and renewable energy production and to allocate sufficient resources to achieve the objectives of economically sustainable and environmentally sound urban development;
- Call upon the international, national, regional and local communities to make full use of UNESCO MAB biosphere reserves to enhance urban sustainability and to improve the relationships between cities and the ecosystems of which they are a part;
- Emphasize the need for raised awareness throughout civil society of the consequences of choices in lifestyle and in the design and management of the built environment and for new models of urban development that promote ecosystem and human wellbeing;

- Call on governments at all levels to integrate the safeguarding and further expansion of ecosystems in urban planning and design interventions, including enhanced provision of multi-functional green and blue areas;
- Welcome collaboration, networking and partnerships in the context of the joint programme with other relevant organisations, institutions and initiatives, as well as with urban stakeholders around the world to advance sustainable urban development and its social, cultural, scientific and technological dimensions.