The Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) is a pioneering and innovative initiative to train journalists and media professionals who are interested or involved in urban development with reference to social, economic and environmental issues facing cities in the 21st Century.

Media and communications professionals’ role is crucial to expand the level of consciousness of the wider audience. They have the opportunity to spread knowledge and share reflections on urban issues. Journalists are already the ones who chronicle life in the city, who give voice to urban changes and who describe the urban reality from different points of view. Now is the time to encourage a more proactive and substantive role of media in the development of the city, at international, national and local levels.

During this global change it is, in fact, crucial that the media features in-depth analyses of the opportunities, challenges and solutions found across the urban framework. Moreover, by managing research and interpretation tools they could become spokespersons of sustainable urban development. Finally, to train journalists and communication professionals means moving towards greater democratization, encouraging transparency and participations of those usually not involved in the debate on cities.

Practical Information

WHEN > 6 April 2016 11:00-13:00
WHERE > Ruby Hall, CSIR International Convention Centre
WHO > All journalists and media registered in the Thematic Meeting
ACCREDITATION> All journalists are required to present a press card to for accreditation
CONTACTS> habitat3media@un.org
**Programme**

**Moderator:** Simone D’Antonio, Euthropia

**11:00-11:05** Welcome by Mr. Mbulelo Tshangana, Director General of the Department of Human Settlements of the Republic of South Africa

**11:05-11:20** *The city as a story* - Why Urban Journalism by Simone D’Antonio, Euthropia

**11:20-11:35** *Habitat III as a story* - Why to report the process towards the New Urban Agenda by Mr. Neal Pierce, Citiscope Global News

**11:35-11:50** *How to report urbanization in Africa* by Mr. Mpumelelo Mkhabela, South Africa National Editors Forum Chairman

**11:50-12:00** Q&A

**12:00-12:15** Remarks by Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Human Settlements of the Republic of South Africa

**12:15-12:30** *Global trends of urbanization* - Why cities matter now more than ever by Dr. Joan Clos, UN Secretary-General of Habitat III

**12:30-13:00** Media questions to the Minister, and the UN Secretary General of Habitat III

**Site Visits**

**13:00-13:30** Travel to COSMO City MPPC for project visits

**13:30-14:00** Presentation on COSMO City

**14:00-15:30** Tour of other projects

**17:30-22:00** Dinner at Top Floor