### *PRESS RELEASE*







**Safety, discrimination and participation are the main challenges for children in cities**

*More than half of the world’s population now lives in urban centers and it is estimated that by mid-century, nearly 70% of the world’s children are set to live in urban areas.*

**Quito, October 14, 2016 -** According to a virtual survey conducted by UNICEF to 35,000 children from 65 countries, 1 of every 4 children do not feel safe in their cities, 1 of every 2 states that there are children suffering from discrimination and only 26 per cent said that their voice is heard by the authorities.

One of every 2 argues that their main safety concern is crime. And, more than 40 per cent of children stated that they felt unsafe in public transportation and walking outside their neighborhood.

“Addressing urban issues is more important than ever for the world’s children. Issues such as violence, inequality and exclusion against children in cities are not getting the attention they deserve," says Grant Leaity, UNICEF representative for Habitat III.

Thirty percent (30%) of the children who participated in the *#TuVozEnHabitat* survey stated that in their city they did not have full access to health, protection and education services.

At least 1 of every 2 children said that in their cities there are children working or begging. And almost 4 of every 10 children stated that their city is not concerned with promoting a healthy environment, controlling the emission of toxic gases, garbage recycling nor with saving energy.

Another alarming fact is that more than half of all children said that their city is not ready to face a natural disaster.

The complete results of the survey and the possible solutions to these challenges will be analyzed during the various events that UNICEF has organized within the framework of Habitat III, at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which takes place in Quito, Ecuador; from October 17 through October 20.

*It is time to listen to the views of children. Participate in the various events and join-in so that the voice of children can be heard; let’s not wait another 20 years to address this issue.*

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| **Event** | ***H-III Urban Talk*****Childhood and Inequities in Urban Development**  |
| **Date** | Tuesday, October 18, 2016  |
| **Location** | National Theater at the *"Benjamín Carrión”* Ecuadorian Cultural Center (Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana- Teatro Nacional).  |
| **Address**  | Avenida 6 de Diciembre N16-224, Quito  |
| **Time**  | 19h00 - 20h30 |
| **Speakers**  | Saskia Sassen - Professor at Columbia University Sergio Fajardo - Former Mayor of Medellin, Colombia Tri Rismaharini - Mayor of Surabaya, IndonesiaBabatunde Fashola - Minister of Energy, Labor and Housing of Nigeria  |

**About UNICEF**

At UNICEF we promote the rights and welfare of all children and adolescents in everything we do. Together with our allies, we work in 190 countries and territories to transform this commitment into practical actions that benefit all children, especially focusing our efforts on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded, worldwide. For more information on UNICEF and its work, please visit [Http://www.unicef.org/ecuador.](http://www.unicef.org/ecuador)

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For additional information please contact:

Andrea Apolo, UNICEF Communication Officer in Ecuador. aapolo@unicef.org

Adriana Gonzalez, UNICEF Communication Assistant in Ecuador. agonzalez@unicef.org