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MEDIA ADVISORY

Can the New Urban Agenda deliver sustainable urbanization? A scientific perspective on the future of cities.

20 October, 2016 9 am - 10 am

Press conference room, G/F Casa della Cultura Ecuatoriana

This press briefing will provide an independent assessment of the New Urban Agenda identifying its strengths and weaknesses and how it can be implemented. Leading urban researchers will discuss the role of science in implementing the deal and the need to ramp up research for sustainable cities. Scientists will comment on the priorities to link knowledge to policy and to effectively connect the New Urban Agenda to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The following questions will be explored:

1. What is missing from the New Urban Agenda? Is it relevant to city decision makers?
2. Is there enough science on cities? If not, what kind of science is needed?
3. How will the New Urban Agenda support the Paris Agreement and the SDGs?

Speakers:

Eugenie Birch is the Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Department of City and Regional Planning, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. She is elected chair of the World Urban Campaign.

Anni Beukes is Data Officer at Shack/Slum Dwellers International Secretariat.

Thomas Elmqvist is a professor in natural resource management at the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University

Timon McPhearson is Assistant Professor of Urban Ecology at The New School's Environmental Studies program

Anne Helene Prieur-Richard is Global Hub Director for Future Earth in Montreal, Canada

Moderator: Owen Gaffney, Director of Communications, Future Earth, Stockholm Resilience Centre

The press conference is co-organized by the International Council for Science and Future Earth.

About ICSU

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental organisation with a global membership of national scientific bodies (122 members, representing 142 countries) and international scientific unions (31 members). ICSU mobilises the knowledge and resources of the international scientific community to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. www.icsu.org

About Future Earth

Future Earth is a 10-year initiative to advance Global Sustainability Science, build capacity in this rapidly expanding area of research and provide an international research agenda to guide natural and social scientists working around the world. But it is also a platform for international engagement to ensure that knowledge is generated in partnership with society and users of science. www.futureearth.org