

CSD - 13 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM)

INTERVENTION

Human Settlements - Financing Human Settlements

Thursday, March 3 (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Conference Room 3

Delivered by Krista Will, CMHC

*The morning session will focus on developing finance institutions and financial products suitable to the financial needs of the urban poor. This session will address the recommendation in the Secretary General's human settlements report around mobilizing financial resources, and the broad sub-themes of "promoting community-based approaches to financing of infrastructure and housing"; "promoting and scaling-up micro-finance schemes"; "developing market-based financial instruments and institutions"; and "financial and technical assistance."*

Mister/Madame Chairman:

Canada supports the focus in the Secretary General's human settlements report on the need to mobilize financial resources and to build strong financial institutions to meet the needs of the urban poor. Canada, through its national housing agency - the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation - helps to facilitate home ownership by providing loan insurance to lenders, which allows Canadians to apply for mortgages with only 5% down payment.

Canada is committed to sharing this expertise with the international community. As part of its international efforts, CMHC works with governments, business partners and non-profit organizations from around the world to assist them in addressing challenges in housing finance, housing market research and housing policy. It provides advice on regulatory requirements,

The World Urban Forum, that will take place on June 19-23, 2006, will build upon Barcelona and Spain's successful hosting of the UN Habitat's second World Urban Forum in 2004, which focused on the urban dynamic and the role of culture.

The 2006 World Urban Forum is a significant event for Canada, and the international community, because it marks the 30th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which led to the creation of UN Habitat. The 1976 Conference was also hosted in Vancouver, Canada.

Canada's hosting of the World Urban Forum is a symbol of Canada's renewed relationship with UN Habitat, and its commitment to human settlement and sustainability issues. From 2005-2008, Canada is a member of the Governing Council's of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme - a role that Canada welcomes.

Canada welcomes the world to Vancouver in 2006, and looks forward to assisting UN Habitat to make this a premiere international Forum devoted to the critical issues of cities, communities, shelter and sustainability. The 2006 World Urban Forum is an opportunity to turn innovative ideas into action, create more sustainable cities, and leave a lasting legacy to 2008 World Urban Forum in China and beyond.