



commonwealth action for human settlements

Press Release - Press Release - Press Release

ComHabitat
Queens House, 16 Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 3DF
Kim Mullard – 024 7663 2802

For immediate use

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CCGHS meeting planned for Nairobi

On 6th April 2005, the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements, or CCGHS, and other agencies from the wider ComHabitat Network will meet in the wings of UN-Habitat's Governing Council to discuss the progress of ComHabitat so far, and consider plans for the future. There will also be a more general discussion about issues around human settlements in the Commonwealth.

The meeting will be attended by Ministers and representatives from other sectors and will be Chaired by the Hon. Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Local Government & Housing, Zambia. The occasion provides an opportunity for Ministers and representatives of civil society to explore issues of joint concern and to discuss ComHabitat activities and future priorities for ComHabitat and the CCGHS. This will include research, networking and advocacy activities.

During the meeting, attendees will consider two papers, both of which are available on the website – www.comhabitat.org:

- A progress report on the work of ComHabitat; and
- A paper on partnerships in water, sanitation and human settlements. Water, sanitation and human settlements are the themes of the upcoming Thirteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

If you would like more information about the April meeting, or about ComHabitat more generally, please contact Kim Mullard - kim@comhabitat.org



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Notes to the Editor:

What is ComHabitat?

ComHabitat consists of CCGHS supported in practical ways by a network of agencies from government, local government, civil society and the private sector. In May 2004 ComHabitat recruited a new Secretariat to liaise with Commonwealth networks and members; undertake research; and collate and share information. More information is available at www.comhabitat.org (please note that the website is currently being developed).

What is CCGHS?

Meetings of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements are convened by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who established the Group in 1998 to:

- Provide a forum for high-level exchange of views and experiences at the national and regional level in planning for the sustainable development of villages, towns and cities;
- Produce a report outlining the key achievements so far, the obstacles encountered and the action that is needed to be taken by Commonwealth countries in implementing the Habitat Agenda;
- Develop proposals for practical programmes in priority areas that may be undertaken by member countries;
- Facilitate informal discussions on how the Commonwealth can contribute to the goals of the Habitat Agenda; and
- Provide strategic guidance to the Commonwealth Secretariat's work programmes that relate to the Habitat Agenda.

The CCGHS usually meets in the wings of UN-Habitat meetings. It is an inter-governmental group at the level of Ministers and senior officials.

(From www.thecommonwealth.org)

CCGHS Papers

The official papers for the CCGHS meeting can be downloaded from the Commonwealth Secretariat's web site (see

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=142988>)