

Universal Forum of Cultures - Barcelona 2004

## Press Release

### **THIS MORNING A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN UN-HABITAT AND THE ORGANIZATION "CIUTATS AND GOVERNS LOCALS UNITS"**

**The last plenary session of the second year of the World Urban Forum counted on the presence of diverse mayors among whom Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona was present, and Kadir Topbas of Istanbul. During the act, a collaboration agreement was signed between UN-Habitat and the organization "Ciutats i Governs Locals Units"**

Barcelona, September 17, 2004

This morning, a collaboration agreement was signed between UN-Habitat and the organization "Ciutats i Governs Locals Units (CGLU)." Joan Clos, president of the CGLU explained that with this agreement "we commit to defend the financial capacity of the municipalities faced with their governments and international institutions, above all with the World Bank, which so that they turn into credit entities to face their projects."

"We have to increase the weight of the city in the credit portfolio of the World Bank," Clos pointed out.

The executive director of UN-Habitat, Anna Tibaijuka, congratulated "all the mayors present to form a part of an organization that represents their interests." Tibaijuka emphasized the importance of the agreement for UN-Habitat "that should facilitate cities' tasks to help them improve their citizens' quality of life."

Tibaijuka stated her commitment to the agreement and reminded us of the efforts of the CGLU "to offer a united voice of the UN cities."

The agreement was signed by the executive director of UN-Habitat, Anna Tibaijuka; the president of the CGLU, Joan Clos; the treasurer of the CGLU, Clarence Anthony; the US representative and mayor of Gatineau, Ives Ducharme; the Middle Eastern representative and mayor of Istanbul, Kadir Topbas; the Latin American representative, Ramírez Cardona, and for the representative of the African region and mayor of Rabat, Omar El Bahraoui.

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