



GENEVA/Dublin – 18 February 2013 - Join the conversation: How can we make cities smarter, safer and more sustainable?

Anyone, anywhere, with Internet access is invited to participate in this year's bi-annual Forum of the [World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty](#) (WACAP) in Dublin, Ireland, a global conference organized to discuss the growing problem of urban poverty that will take place this Wednesday and Thursday. This is the first time since the Alliance was established in 1997 ago that those affected by urban challenges – the citizens - can take part in the discussions, submit questions and solutions and follow the conference online.



"This year, the Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty will be more engaging than ever - anybody with Internet, email access, a Twitter or Facebook account can contribute and share his thoughts, questions and solutions to urban poverty challenges," says Adam Rogers, WACAP Coordinator at the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) , a co-host of the event along with the

[Dublin City Council](#)

in partnership with

[UN Women](#)

,  
[UNICEF](#)

and the

[UN Institute for Training and Research](#)

. "We are inviting people all over the world to connect with participants of the Forum through social media and discuss how to tackle urban poverty issues. And we're all answering the same big question: How can we make cities smart, safe and sustainable?"

By making the event truly interactive, the event organizers hope to crowdsource – i.e. tap into the experience and expertise of ordinary people everywhere – ideas and examples for how to best make cities smart, safe and sustainable. About 500 high level delegates, including mayors, municipal civil servants, innovators at the forefront of developing smart technologies and police officials with civil society, women's organizations, and NGOs specialized in poverty reduction, safety, prevention and access to services are expected to attend the conference.

### Take action & join the global conversation

- Follow the live tweets on [@undplive](#) | [#WACAP](#)
- Comment & share our Facebook updates on [www.facebook.com/wacapnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/wacapnetwork)
- [Attend](#) the 8th Forum of the [World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty \(WACAP\)](#) from February 20-21 as participant
- Register with the Digital Media Lounge if you are blogger (send your Name, email address, blog URL to [info@wacapnetwork.org](mailto:info@wacapnetwork.org) )
- Send your questions or comments on how to make cities smarter, safer and more sustainable to [info@wacapnetwork.org](mailto:info@wacapnetwork.org) and we will forward a selection to our speakers
- Visit the [Dublin 2013 Forum](http://www.dublin2013.ie/) website for more information about the event: <http://www.dublin2013.ie/>
- Visit the [World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty \(WACAP\)](#) site to get more information on the Alliance

### A Selection of Confirmed Speakers:

- Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland
- Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director, UN Women, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Mary Robinson, Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice
- Tom Arnold, CEO, Concern Worldwide
- Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

### **About the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP)**

The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) is a network of more than 900 cities working together to confront development challenges collectively. It was started by the United Nations Development Programme in 1996 following the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. The Dublin Forum is the eighth summit of city leaders. The Alliance supports its member-cities to mobilize individuals, governments, and all sectors of society to confront the many challenges of urban poverty and to share successes - and failures - with other cities.

Hundreds of best practices in reducing urban poverty will be presented at WACAP 8. Cities from across Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas will attend the Forum. For example, the City of Edmonton, Alberta will present how it eliminated the need for a garbage dump through aggressive composting and recycling programs. UNICEF, UN-HABITAT and UN Women will bring city delegates from Port Moresby, Quito, Kigali, New Delhi and Cairo to showcase their "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls" initiative.