

Dear colleagues.

On behalf of the founding members of the Academic and Research Constituent Group (ARCG) of the [World Urban Campaign](#) and the [General Assembly of Partners](#), we invite you to join the ARCG to share your insights and channel your interests and those of your home institution within the deliberative processes leading up to the United Nations Habitat III Summit and the passage of the New Urban Agenda.

The ARCG, one of 14 constituent groups that make up the WUC and GAP, is the primary space in which academics and researchers from across the Globe and disciplines can organize themselves to discuss, articulate, and channel individual and collective contributions to UN Habitat and the New Urban Agenda. Our voices and contributions are vital for ensuring that Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda not only address the range of dimensions and issues associated with an urbanized and urbanizing world, but also contain concrete mechanisms to tackle inequalities and conflicts within and across cities.

The ARCG will work tirelessly in the months leading to Habitat III to collect your input and ideas for the statement or set of statements we want to communicate to the Member States (include link/definition/relevance) that will adopt the New Urban Agenda. The ARCG does not strive to arrive at a consensus among academics and researchers on what matters most for cities of the 21st century. The ARCG, however, does want to assemble one or more documents that are as representative and faithful as possible of the collective concerns of the people and institutions conducting primary and applied research on the gamut of issues and phenomena in our cities. To this end, membership in the ARCG means committing to sharing your views and work in a set of conversations and initiatives over the next year and a half. There are no fees or agreements to secure your participation in the ARCG. We only require your consent and contact information to receive correspondence from the ARCG Chair and Co-Chair on discussions, meetings, events, and documentation focused on Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda.

You or a representative of your institution are not required to participate in person in any single meeting, but are encouraged to attend one of many WUC and GAP events scheduled for 2015-2016. Most of our business and discussion will take place on-line, whether by email, cloud platforms or internet conference call applications. Over the next couple of weeks, we will consolidate the list of ARCG members, distribute relevant documentation on Habitat III, WUC and the GAP, and immediately set out to define collectively the key questions and approach we will take to prepare our contribution to Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda. We hope you will join us and that you will consider recruiting other colleagues to add to our ranks. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us with questions or comments about the ARCG and the broader set of associations and initiatives in which it takes part.