

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

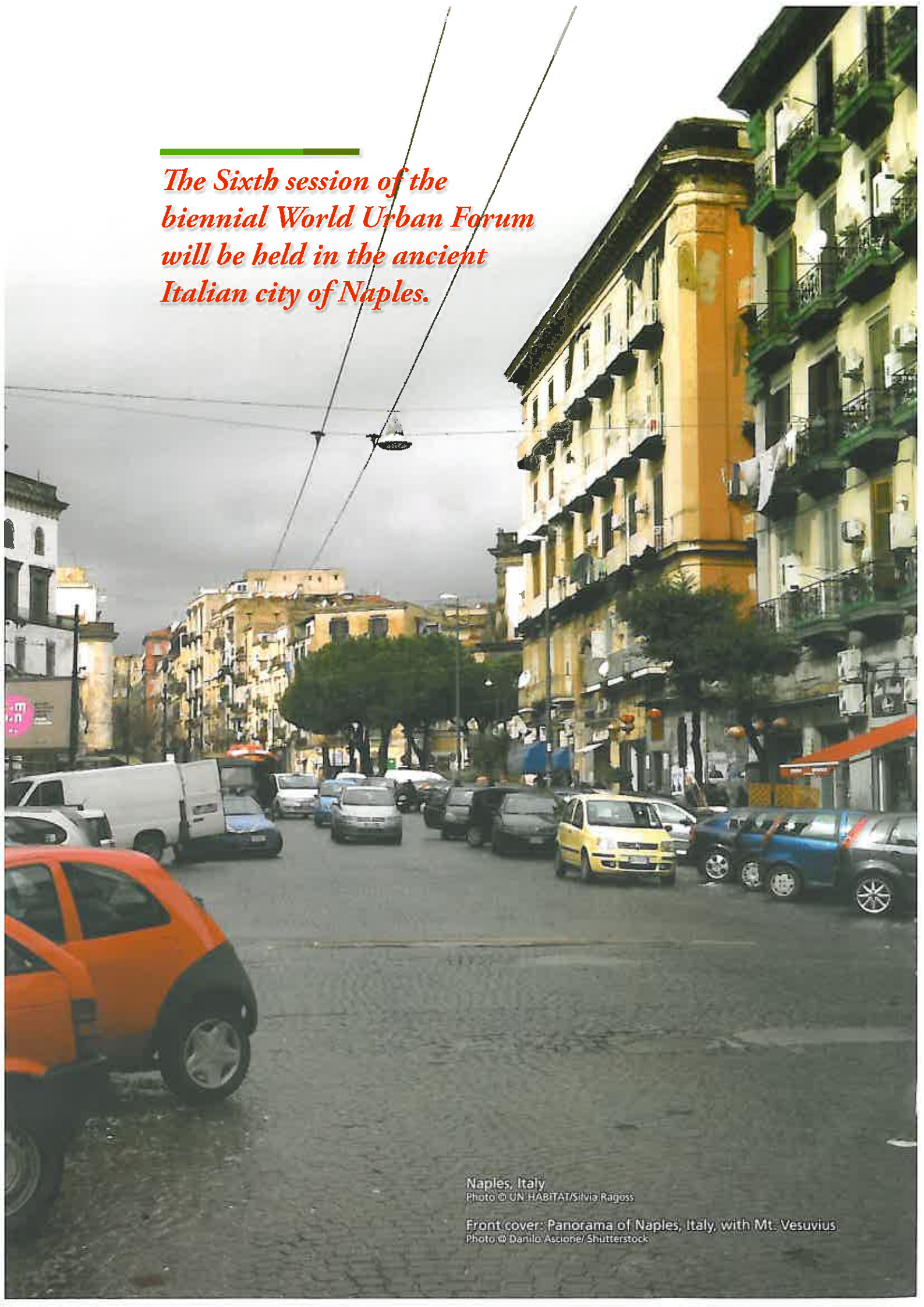
**THE URBAN FUTURE**  
DIALOGUE, NETWORK, LEARN AND EXHIBIT AT  
THE WORLD'S PREMIER CONFERENCE ON CITIES





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*The Sixth session of the  
biennial World Urban Forum  
will be held in the ancient  
Italian city of Naples.*



Naples, Italy  
Photo © UN HABITAT/Silvia Ragoss

Front cover: Panorama of Naples, Italy, with Mt. Vesuvius  
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Photos © Mostra d'Oltremare, Naples, Italy

UN-HABITAT joins the Government of Italy, the Campania Region and the City of Naples in warmly welcoming you to the Sixth session of the World Urban Forum scheduled 1-7 September 2012.

The theme of the Naples Forum, *The Urban Future*, was chosen to remind us all how fast the world is urbanizing. Already more than half the global population lives in towns and cities, and projections now show that cities will be home to two-thirds of humanity in little over a generation from now.

This means we have to plan our cities better, ensure sound urban legislation and governance, improve basic service delivery and housing. At the same time, we have to save energy harder than ever before, conserve our environment,

reduce pollution and tackle the urban dimension of climate change very seriously. We need to coordinate these actions and resources for smarter, more liveable, less wasteful cities of the future. We owe it to future generations and we owe it especially to the estimated 1 billion people living in slums and other sub-standard housing around the world.

We have much to learn from our host city Naples with its many centuries of accumulated culture and wisdom. And combining that with the expertise of thousands of delegates and partners, the Naples Forum promises to be a landmark global gathering on our planet's journey into *The Urban Future*.

This will be the essence of the 2012 World Urban Forum in Naples.

## Welcome!



"Humanity's pursuit of dream cities of the future which are beautiful, green, sustainable and humane places, is deserving of all our attention. Imagining the cities of the future, is imagining the very future of humanity, and the cities in which we will be living as our world becomes more and more urbanized."

*Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations*

"In an age when population will reach the seven billion mark and more than half of it will be living in urban areas, it is time to discuss the future of our cities and to share our vision of better, more liveable, inclusive and equitable cities. I cannot imagine a better place to host the most relevant international meeting on cities and urban issues than Naples. I expect that a big number of experts, organizations, civil society, media, governments, national, local and community leaders will be joining us at the World Urban Forum next September to re-think the urban agenda and to adopt a new approach to the huge urbanization challenge. Naples is waiting for creativity, innovation, hope and opportunities to design our future. "

*Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director UN-HABITAT*





The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, policies and climate change.

Since our first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002, the Forum has grown in size and stature as it travelled to stunning new destinations every two years – Barcelona 2004, Vancouver 2006, Nanjing 2008 and Rio de Janeiro 2010.

Today it is by far the world's premier conference on cities. This is largely because it is one of the most open and inclusive gatherings of its kind on the international stage. It brings together national leaders, slum dwellers, cabinet ministers, womens' groups, mayors, youth groups, academics, diplomats, community and business leaders, parliamentarians, local government groups, urban activists, and more; in short, all who share our vision for better, smarter cities of the future.

### How it works

To accommodate the ever growing numbers of participants, the Forum's meetings are divided into dialogue sessions discussing the main themes, thematic open debates, networking events, youth, gender, and business assemblies, caucus meetings, special sessions, roundtables, training seminars and an exciting array of side events, exhibitions and cultural events.

### The road to Naples

The road to Naples starts with a series of six online debates about *The Urban Future* to garner new ideas and to enhance the dialogue sessions. Internet users from around the world will be able to engage in interesting professionally moderated thematic debates.

The idea is to give as many people around the world as possible a chance to join in a discussion that will also provide new ideas and thinking for the Forum as a whole. The e-debates will commence early in 2012 for a period of about 3 months. The best contribution stands to win an invitation to attend the Naples Forum.

### The Assemblies

In keeping with an established tradition, young people from countries around the world will gather for a two-day World Urban Youth Assembly on the eve of the Forum, while others will join the Gender Equality Action Assembly. During the forum a Business Assembly will meet for two half days. The idea is to ensure the concerns of these constituencies are incorporated into the Sixth session.

### Dialogues

The dialogues are the high profile events at the Forum and will set the tone for consideration during that day and throughout the week's gatherings and well after the Forum. Six dialogues are planned for the Forum:

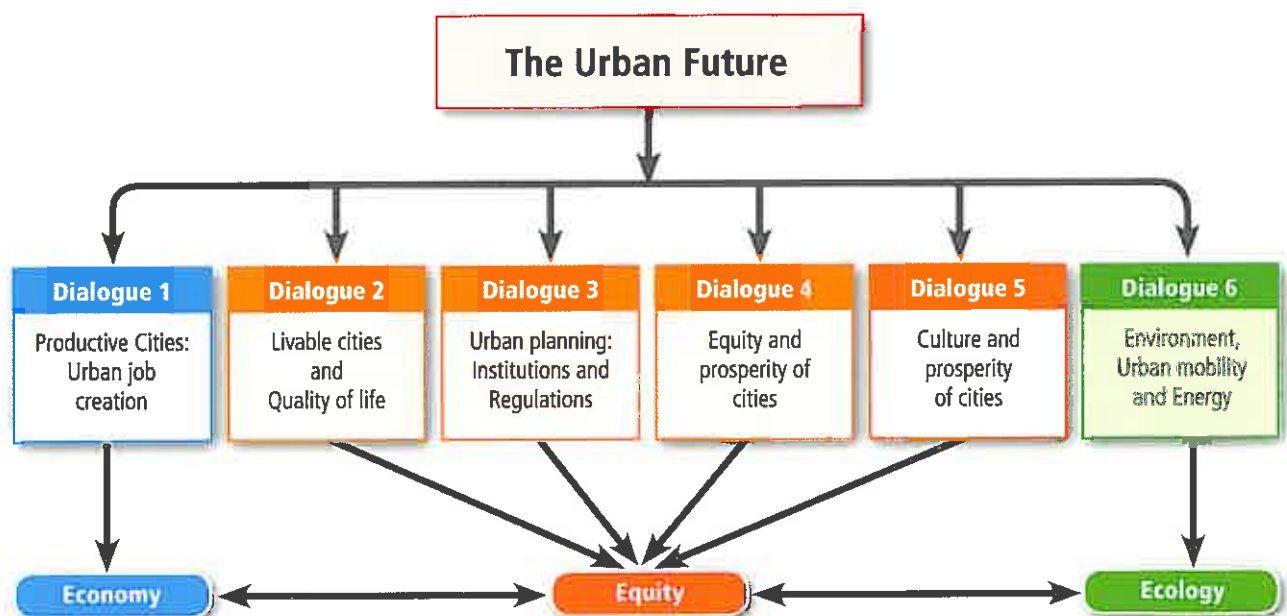




Photo © Ag. Gingafotos/Government of State of Rio de Janeiro

## The Thematic open debates and concluding sessions

The Thematic open debates and their concluding sessions will be addressed like during the Dialogues by high profile speakers whose interesting trend-setting, and thought provoking presentations continue discussions of the morning and wrap up the subject of the day.

## Roundtables

An array of roundtable meetings will be held by peer groups – ministers, mayors, parliamentarians, partner universities, business entities, urban researchers, Habitat professionals, women and youth groups, civil society organizations, indigenous people, and the Global Land Tool Network. Most of these meetings are open to the public, but access to some, such as the ministerial sessions, mayors and parliamentarians is restricted.

## Special Sessions

A number of special sessions on topics closely related to the theme of the Forum or topical issues of the day will be organized by UN-HABITAT and its partners. Interesting examples include the South-South cooperation and ONE-UN special sessions.

## World Urban Youth Assembly

The World Urban Youth Assembly, 1-2 September 2012, will enable young people to debate matters of concern to them for consideration at

the Forum. The idea is to ensure that the views of young people – by far the majority of the global population – are taken into account. This applies especially to their concerns about living in decent equitable, inclusive cities with better employment prospects.

## Gender Equality Action Assembly

The Gender Equality Action Assembly, 1-2 September 2012, will bring together partners to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the UN-HABITAT Gender Equality Action Plan (2008 – 2013). During the two days, focus will be on the challenges, progress, strategies for action and emerging issues pertinent to promoting gender equality and women empowerment in sustainable urban development. It will feature discussions with UN-HABITAT programme managers and partners, researchers, ministers, housing and local development professionals, as well as representatives of UN agencies.

## The Business Assembly

The business community constitute our vital partners and many will be playing a pivotal role in Naples. Their two half-day sessions will be held during the week of the Forum. Their sessions will enable industry captains and business leaders to meet and discuss matters of mutual concern with mayors, police officers, community representatives, urban planners and all who share the common goal of a better, smarter urban future.

## Training at the Forum

UN agencies, partner universities, local government capacity development institutions and other Habitat Agenda Partners will provide training on a range of topics presented at some 30 special morning sessions of three hours each. We will call for training ideas early in 2012. Each session can accommodate 40 people, so keep an eye out for bookings and further information on our website [www.unhabitat.org/wuf](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf).

## The Exhibition

A world city exhibition will showcase some of the world's premier cities and many innovations in urban development for smarter, inclusive cities. Promising a very exciting glimpse into the future of our urban world, the exhibition at each session of the Forum is a favorite highlight for visitors. Those wishing to exhibit will need to book well in advance. Further information will be available early in 2012 on the same website [www.unhabitat.org/wuf](http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf). Complimentary standard booths will be set aside for Least Developed Countries on a first-come, first-served basis. Forum Exhibitors will also be required to register as participants at the Forum.

## Participation

Participants must register for the Forum. Registration is free, but those attending are expected to meet their own travel, accommodation and living expenses. Every participant is advised to have a valid travel health insurance. For more, keep an eye on the website from early in 2012.

## Visas

Most non-European visitors require visas and should obtain these in advance from their nearest Italian Embassy or Consulate. Details are also on the website under Visas and Frequently Asked Questions.

## Hotels

Naples offers a wide range of accommodation for all budgets. There will be World Urban Forum designated hotels and in due course participants will be able to book their hotel of choice through the host. Visit our website for more details.

## The venue

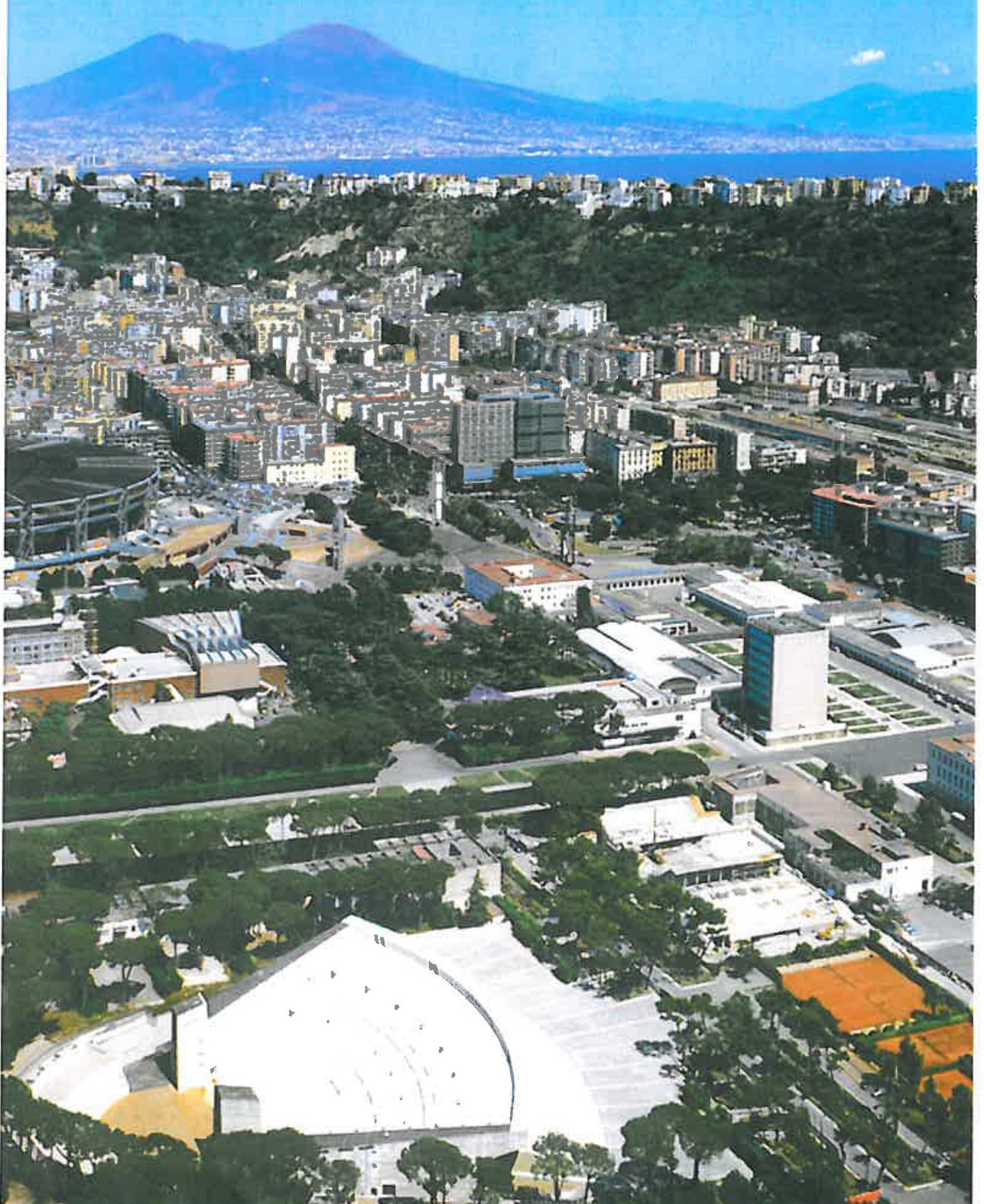
The Forum will be held at the Mostra d' Oltremare centre in the west of the city. See <http://www.mostradoltremare.it>





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*You are welcome to  
World Urban Forum 6  
in 2012 in Naples, Italy.*







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SEPTEMBER 2011