

In the framework of the

## 47<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development,

the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

cordially invites all Permanent Missions to the Organization

to the interactive session

## "ADDRESSING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES OF RAPID URBANIZATION"

Monday, 7 April 2014 at 1:15pm

in Conference Room 7 (North Lawn Building)

## DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERACTIVE SESSION

In 2014, half of the world population lives in cities. It is expected that by 2050, 6.4 billion people (70% of the world's population) will be city dwellers, with Asia and Africa being the most rapidly urbanizing regions of the world.

Urbanization promotes economic growth and employment and cities offer opportunities to increase resource use efficiency and improve public service access and delivery. However, poverty remains an important feature of urban life and fostering a higher quality of life in cities remains elusive. Aging city populations also represent a public policy challenge.

Countries have developed different strategies to respond to the needs of cities and their inhabitants. New policies and innovative ideas are required to reduce the unavoidable environmental and social consequences of rapid urbanization.

In this interactive discussion, expert panelists will present Mexico's experience regarding public policies that deal with the effect of the growth of cities on sustainable development.

Participants from Member States, United Nations Agencies and other organizations will be encouraged to share some of the lessons learned in this regard.