Launch of the UK Built Environment Advisory Group

supporting humanitarian action
Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador, 2016

Opening address by Joan Clos, UN Habitat
RIBA international footprint

1. RIBA international activity
   - RIBA validated school
   - RIBA award winner (2006 – 2011)

RIBA member communities:
- Constituted as part of RIBA
- Constituted independently
- Constitution in discussion

RIBA members:
- 35,000 members in country
- Location with > 500 members
- Location with > 100 members
- Over 50 members in country
- Between 10 and 50 members in country
- Between 1 and 50 members in country
- No members
RTPI international footprint
IStructE international footprint
Promoting **sustainable** development

- **Environmental**
- **Economical**
- **Social**
Meeting the challenge of climate change
Creating liveable cities
Promoting healthy communities
Contributing to **global competitiveness**

**Eight Pillars**

- Pillar 1: Institutions
- Pillar 2: Infrastructure
- Pillar 3: Macroeconomic Environment
- Pillar 4: Health & Primary Education
- Pillar 5: Higher Education & Training
- Pillar 6: Goods Market Efficiency
- Pillar 7: Labour Market Efficiency
- Pillar 8: Financial Market Development
- Pillar 9: Technological Readiness
- Pillar 10: Market Size
- Pillar 11: Business Sophistication
- Pillar 12: Innovation

Global Urbanisation, current projections

- More developed regions - Urban population
- Less developed regions - Urban population
- More developed regions - Rural population
- Less developed regions - Rural population
The other global context

1. **Increasing Global Urbanisation**
   By 2050 68% of the world's population will be living in cities, (ie 6.3bn people).

2. **Increasing vulnerability of Cities**
   1.5% of the world's land area is estimated to produce 50% of global GDP. The World Bank has established that the potential for losses is particularly high in urban areas.

3. **Staggering economic losses**
   Over the last 30 years one third of all monies spent on development has been lost as a result of recurring crises, ie over $3.8 trillion worldwide.

4. **Sub-standard housing:** Habitat for Humanity estimate that 1.6 billion people living in sub-standard housing (ie 25% of world's population)

5. **Lack of investment in emergency preparedness**
   Less than 5% of all humanitarian funding is spent on emergency preparedness.

6. **Growing number of refugees displaced by Civil Conflict**
   Number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people has, for the first time since WWII, exceeded 50m

7. **Human rights has an architectural dimension**
   As evidenced by workers' conditions in Qatar and tragedies such as the Rana Plaza collapse
Natural Disaster

Nepal Earthquake
Civil Conflict
Displacement and migration

Syrian refugee camps
UK Built Environment Advisory Group
Objectives

To provide a more effective conduit to the collective expertise of its member institutes together with access to the combined resources of over 100,000 members working in more than 150 countries throughout the world.

To provide access to expertise in connection with strategic policy making and also, via the Institutes, to their members at times of need.
Core Skills

The following are among the core skills offered by members of the group:

- Town & Country Planning
- Strategic Master Planning
- Infrastructure
- Urban Design
- Place Making
- Architecture
- Structural Engineering

All of the skills necessary to determine where to build, what to build and how to build.
Developing educational standards
Developing professional standards
Building institutional capacity
Providing advocacy
Promoting public engagement
Influencing Government Policy

The Case for Space
Planning policy

Forty years of rapid urbanisation in the Middle East
Building code

Rana Plaza, Bangladesh
Fire regulations
Construction standards
Building Back Better

UN Habitat Building back better in Ecuador
Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Overarching Principles

We, the signatories, commit ourselves to work together to enable urban communities, in particular those most at risk, to prepare for, cope with and recover more quickly from the effects of humanitarian crises, including forced displacement, natural disasters and/or armed conflicts.

We recognize that urban settings have specific characteristics which require effective, context-specific approaches to addressing vulnerability and risk reduction, preparedness and crisis response.

Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Four key commitment areas:

1. **Tailor humanitarian response to the urban context** by developing shared assessment and profiling tools, promoting joint analysis, and adapting coordination mechanisms.

2. **Develop or work with existing global, regional and national rosters** to facilitate the deployment of urban leaders, managers and technical experts.

3. **Build the evidence base on the specific characteristics of protracted displacement in urban areas**, and contribute to the design of appropriate and cost-effective responses, with particular regard to protection of vulnerable people, shelter, basic services and infrastructure.

4. Ensure that initiatives focused on building urban resilience incorporate components on resilient response and recovery from crises, and that they **leverage greatest impact in cities most at risk of humanitarian emergencies**.
Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Bridging the divide

- Promoting design excellence
- Building failure
- Divided community
- Natural disaster
- Displacement