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Urbanization and the 21st Century: Communication, Innovation and Prosperity

August 16, 2012

1-3 pm

HST, Room 1107

Washington, DC 20520

Sponsored by the
Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State

This is the first in a series of exchanges that will focus on the multiple challenges and opportunities that global urbanization trends present to U.S. foreign policy, including issues related to foreign assistance and national security. Policy makers from DOS, USAID, and the USG interagency will explore with the nongovernmental community how applying an urban lens to 21st Century foreign policy can improve U.S. effectiveness in addressing both foreign policy challenges and opportunities.

In this first exchange, the panel will address how institutions, civil societies, and communication technology can lead to innovative, prosperous cities. For example, how do urban populations harness their collective voice to both communicate good ideas and report detrimental behaviors or trends? What are the best ways to promote a sense of social inclusion and economic innovation in cities? What are some examples of small-scale deliverables that cities have adopted to make their cities successful and how are these solutions disseminated among the population?

All remarks at this event are UNCLASSIFIED, but strictly off the record and not for attribution. This analytic exchange is for a U.S. Government audience only. The State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) organize analytic exchanges to solicit the views of nongovernmental specialists and to facilitate the exchange of views between these specialists and government officials. The views expressed are solely those of the individuals and are not necessarily the views of INR or the Department of State.

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12:50 **Sign-in**

1:00-1:15 **Welcome and Introductions:**

Debbie Fugate, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues, US Department of State

Moderator:

Fernando Echavarria, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, US Department of State

1:10-1:30

*Dale Medearis, Senior Environmental Planner
Northern Virginia Regional Commission*

1:30-1:50

*Marc Weiss, Chairman and CEO
Global Urban Development*

1:50-2:00 **Break**

2:00-2:50 **Panel Discussion with Audience Participation**

Discussants:

*Peter Engelke, Atlantic Council
Banning Garrett, Atlantic Council*

2:50-3:00 **Conclusions**

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Speaker Biographies

(Ordered as they appear on the agenda)

Dale Medearis is a senior environmental planner for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. In that capacity, he co-leads the NVRC's regional climate mitigation and energy programs and manages NVRC's international environmental partnerships – among the few problem-focused, goal-oriented and geographically-specific transfer of lessons from abroad to the US. He helped co-launch the first formal climate and energy partnership between the 40 largest U.S. and European metropolitan regional councils, co-initiate the Transatlantic Climate Bridge, co-launch the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's "Cities and Climate" Network and co-develop the Transatlantic Urban Climate Dialogue with the Freie Universitaet of Berlin (Germany). Prior to working for NVRC, Medearis spent approximately 20 years at the Office of International Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, as the program manager for western Europe and urban environmental programs. In that capacity, he worked to identify, analyze and apply "green" building, brownfields, smart growth, energy, climate and related urban environmental policies from OECD member countries to the United States. As Program Manager for Western Europe, he coordinated EPA's science and technology agreements with the EU and Western Europe. Medearis also served as the program manager for the U.S. National Park Service's Potomac American Heritage River Initiative. He has been the Vice-chair of the OECD Territorial Development Committee and Chairman of the OECD Working Group on Urban Affairs. Medearis has been awarded fellowships to study urban and environmental planning in Europe from the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, the European Union, and the American Council on Germany. Medearis has taught courses on environmental policy and planning courses as an adjunct faculty at the University of Redlands, Virginia Tech University and the Johns Hopkins University. Medearis has a Ph.D. in environmental design and planning from Virginia Tech University, an M.S. in Cartographic and Geographic Science from George Mason University, an MGA in Government from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in International Relations from the University of Redlands.

Marc A. Weiss is Chairman and CEO of Global Urban Development (GUD), an international policy organization and professional network of more than 500 leaders and experts in nearly 60 countries. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, Chairman of Metropolitan Economic Strategy LLC, Executive Editor of *GUD Magazine*, and Chairman of Sustainable Economic Development Strategies LLC. In addition, he is a member of the Steering Committees of the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Partnership, UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign, UN-Habitat Best Practices and Local Leadership Program, and the Atlantic Council's Urban World 2030 initiative. He previously served as: Public Policy Scholar and Editor of *Global Outlook* at the Woodrow Wilson International Center; Coordinator of the 1998 Strategic Economic Development Plan for Washington, DC; Special Assistant to the Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and HUD Liaison to the President's Council on Sustainable Development in the Clinton Administration; Director of the Real Estate Development Research Center, Acting Director of the Ph.D. Program in Urban Planning, and Associate Professor at Columbia University; and Deputy Director of the California Commission on Industrial Innovation. He has been an adviser on Metropolitan Economic Strategy and sustainable economic, business, employment, and community development for cities and regions in the US and throughout the world. He and his GUD colleagues have advised on Sustainable Economic Development Strategies for San Antonio, San Jose/Silicon Valley, Southwest Florida, Metropolitan Portland, Metropolitan Denver, and the State of Delaware, and they produced a strategy for Sarasota County, Florida to become a Center for Innovation in Energy and Sustainability. He and his GUD colleagues helped organize an international conference on Sustainable Economic Development, sponsored by the Brazil and US Governments and the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) in 2011. Currently GUD is working on Metropolitan Economic Strategy and Sustainable Economic Development with the Federation of Industries and the State Governments of Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. Dr. Weiss earned an M.C.P. and a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. with Honors in Political Science from Stanford University, plus he attended the London School of Economics.

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Banning Garrett is the Director of the Asia Program at the Atlantic Council, a position he has held since March 2009 and held previously from January 2003 through January 2007. He also is director of the Atlantic Council's Strategic Foresight Initiative and its cooperation with the National Intelligence Council (NIC) in production of the NIC's unclassified, quadrennial long-term global trends assessments. Previously, he was the Director of the Initiative for U.S.-China Cooperation on Energy and Climate at the Asia Society's Center for U.S.-China Relations. He is the founding Executive Director of the Institute for Sino-American International Dialogue (ISAID) at the Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver. Earlier, Dr. Garrett was a consultant for 22 years to the Department of Defense and other U.S. Government agencies carrying on a strategic dialogue with China. He was also a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a founding board member of the U.S. Committee for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (USCSCAP), and an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at George Washington University. He has written extensively on a wide range of issues, including long-term global trends, U.S.-China relations and cooperation on climate change, energy, and other strategic issues; U.S. strategy toward China; Chinese foreign policy and views of the strategic environment; globalization and its strategic impact; U.S. defense policy and Asian security; and arms control. He received his BA from Stanford University and his PhD from Brandeis University.