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UN General Assembly President Visits INBAR Bamboo House at Habitat III to learn about Bamboo's Role in increasing Urban Resilience and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals

UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Peter Thomson of Fiji visited the International Network of Bamboo and Rattan's (INBAR) bamboo demonstration house at the HABITAT III Village in Quito's El Ejido Park on October 16 to learn more about the advantages of constructing homes with this strategic resource. Out of 43 demonstration projects in the HABITAT III village, this visit to the house was one of three made as part of his Urban Walk to discover urban innovation and solutions on urban planning, management, and sustainable development.

President Thomson asked about the resilience of bamboo houses in earthquakes. He learned that bamboo performs extremely well in such natural disasters due to its light weight and relative strength. He also asked about bamboo's performance in cyclones, which are common in his native Fiji. He learned that certain types of bamboo housing perform very well under such conditions. The example of BASE, a Social Enterprise that has produced anti-cyclone resistant bamboo housing in the Philippines, was used to highlight the potential of bamboo materials.

President Thomson was accompanied by Ambassador Dessima Williams, his Special Adviser for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They learned about bamboo's key role in addressing multiple SDGs, especially those relating to poverty reduction, energy, housing and urban development, sustainable production and consumption, climate change, and land degradation. Ambassador Williams was interested in learning about how to harness the use of bamboo in her native country of Grenada.

The bamboo demonstration house was built by INBAR in partnership with the United Nations 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production, the UN-HABITAT Housing Unit, and the Global Network for Sustainable Housing. It was also realized with the collaboration of the Bamboo National Roundtable, a platform of individuals, institutions from the public and private sector, producers' associations, industries and universities and Ecuadorian Ministries. The bamboo structure will be used after UN Habitat III by artists and artisans to organize expositions and to protect themselves from rain and sunny days.

ABOUT – [International Network for Bamboo and Rattan \(INBAR\)](#)

INBAR is a multilateral development organization of 41 Member States for the promotion of Bamboo and Rattan. INBAR plays a unique role in supporting its members to find and demonstrate innovative ways of using bamboo and rattan to protect environments and biodiversity, and alleviate poverty.

INBAR connects a global network of partners from the government, private, and not-for-profit sectors to define and implement a global agenda for sustainable development with bamboo and rattan.

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