

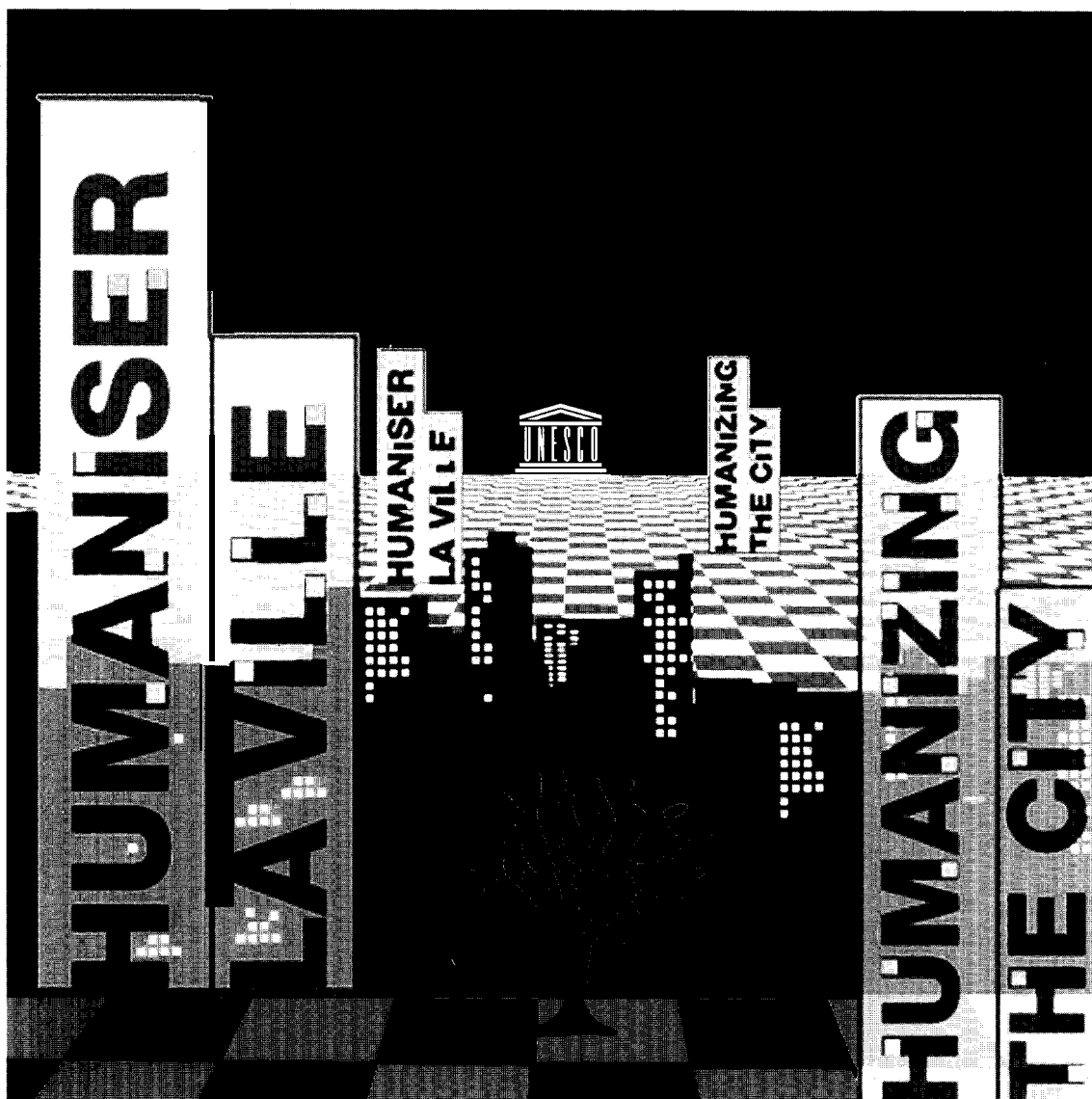


UNITED NATIONS  
EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION

# Note

presented by the

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
OF UNESCO**



**United Nations Conference  
on Human Settlements**



**HABITAT II City Summit**

**Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996**

# NOTE

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HABITAT II City Summit

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1

**Building the city of the twenty-first century** is a major challenge. The city, which is in the throes of unprecedented development, is central to the upheavals taking place in the countries of both North and South. Thus approximately **two thirds of the inhabitants of the planet will be city-dwellers** by the next century.

2

**This urban revolution** is bringing about a qualitative shift which we can link to the globalization of the economy and of technologies, and this in turn makes for far-reaching transformations whose consequences remain to be gauged. **A world-wide urban frame** is emerging. More and more cities are turning into **megapoles** that are spilling over into rural areas and endangering their ecosystems and original life-styles, highlighting the need for action to achieve **balanced development between rural and urban areas**.

3

While the rapid **social transformations** observed in cities today generate innovation and progress, they also bring with them social and spatial segregation between rich and poor and between 'legal' and 'illegal' cities, exacerbating the social divisions within societies.

4

UNESCO is taking part in the construction of the city of the twenty-first century and is doing so on two fronts: **knowledge and action in the field. Humanizing the city** is UNESCO's **ethical message**.

5

One of the major tasks to be accomplished in the city is to provide **a shelter to every citizen**. The right to adequate housing is a **human right** enshrined in a number of international standard-setting instruments.

6

Cities in history have been cradles of civilization. The time has come to re-create the conditions that will restore to the metropolises of today their role as **centres of cultural influence and democracy**. The fight against **intolerance** and **poverty, injustice** and **social and cultural exclusion**, the affirmation of **solidarity** as a fundamental value of **democracy** and **human rights**, the promotion of a **culture of peace** and **education for citizenship** are just a few of the challenges still to be taken up along the road to the city of solidarity and citizenship.

7

The face of the city, its architectural heritage and its public spaces engender a **city culture** in which inhabitants must be able to participate on a daily basis. To live in the city also means **to protect the environment**, fight pollution, address the problems of **water, energy, waste, noise pollution** and **urban transport**, and so forth.

The city of the twenty-first century will be what its inhabitants make of it – especially **women** and **young people**, whose neighbourhood innovations in the social, economic and cultural spheres create bonds of solidarity.

## 8

UNESCO will do its utmost to ensure implementation of the **Habitat II Global Plan of Action** by adopting a **partnership approach** that involves **all public and private actors at the local, national and international levels**. The Organization is continuing its action on behalf of **cities and human settlements through the programmes** it implements in its fields of competence.

**The capacity for contribution, innovation and action** in favour of cities must be supported and enhanced through **education, training, information and communication**. UNESCO is involved in training **urban actors**, setting up information **networks and data banks**, and communication activities designed, in particular, for the media.

## 9

The city of the twenty-first century must become a plural space and a place where **different cultures meet and mingle**, for it will need to manage complexity, aspiration to diversity and new forms of solidarity. In this way, it can at last become a unique place for laying the **foundations of peace** and harmony through **development and solidarity among citizens**.

# CITIES AT THE DAWN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: DIAGNOSIS AND PROSPECTS

## 1. A global urban frame

In countries of both North and South, **cities are at the centre of far-reaching changes.** Although they are focal points of innovation, progress and social change, innumerable situations of urban crisis point up the contradictions between the past and possible futures.

*It is estimated that in the year 2000, 75 per cent of the population of the industrialized countries and 45 per cent of the population of developing countries will live in cities. Between now and the year 2025, these figures will increase to 83 per cent in the North and 61 per cent in the South. The urban population growth rate is therefore set to be far higher in developing countries, which could, by 2025, account for as much as 80 per cent of the planet's urban population.*

*These figures are enough to demonstrate the urgency of defining an urban development policy, which must involve analysis of present urban development trends.*

The **urban revolution** is a qualitative leap, and closely **linked with globalization.** Cities promote globalization, and are in turn transformed by it, as it rewrites the rules of the geopolitical game, challenging the role of States and modifying the relationship between local, national and world levels.

On a global scale, urban development operates on three levels. Megapoles (with more than 4 or 5 million inhabitants), linked together, form a **global urban framework.**

The **megapoles** are not peculiar to the industrialized countries: in the year 2000, six of the largest cities in the world will be in Asia and two in Latin America; in 2025, 18 of the world's 25 largest cities are likely to be situated in the South.

Increasingly rapid urban concentration is accompanied by a structural change in the function of cities. Economic globalization has created global-cities which are communication centres forming networks for the exchange of capital and services worldwide. A new world map, based on these centres, is emerging which increasingly ignores the North-South divide between industrialized and developing countries. Many of these new urban developments go beyond the confines of a single city, grouping together several interconnected centres. These **urban archipelagos** have a variable population density, and their different centres are of different sizes.

**Medium-sized cities** of 100,000 to 2 million or 3 million inhabitants, depending on the region, polarize and structure a territory: they are both autonomous from, and subordinate to, the megalopolises, giving a structure to rural areas and connecting them with the urban world. Although megalopolises pose the most serious social and ecological threat, particularly in the South, it should not be forgotten that the fastest-growing cities at the present time are not the gigantic conglomerations but a number of secondary developments in Asia and Latin America. While these still have to deal with problems comparable to those

of large metropolises, they do not attract the same international attention.

With each city belonging to one or more urban networks or chains, consumer behaviour is becoming standardized through international trade, exchanges, media and tourism. On the basis of each link in the chain, production activities and processes are being reorganized and restructured, and jobs redistributed. Within this global framework, the labour force is thus being redistributed and **large-scale population movements** are taking place which, worldwide, **are structuring the process of urbanization** and creating around cities favellas, barrios, bidonvilles or shanty towns.

## 2. Urbanization and rural development

Reflection on the habitat cannot be limited to cities, and must address **the issue of rural areas**. In Africa, Latin America and Asia, urban growth is accompanied by changes in agriculture and an ensuing citywards migration of surplus labour. For urban development to be sustainable, a balance must be struck between these two types of economy, society and life-style.

Many societies are and will long remain predominantly agricultural, notably in Africa, India and China, where 70 per cent of the population still lives in villages and from the land. In these regions, the rural habitat should be improved; new kinds of towns are called for, and a new modernity, founded on the three principles of social justice, ecological prudence and economic efficiency, the latter being reinstated as an instrument of development. The abandonment of policies of support for the rural economy is out of the question, especially on the African continent, where villages play an essential role. **Improvement of the**

**quality of life and enhanced employment opportunities in rural communities must be priorities in their own right**, and not subordinated to urban problems.

But efforts in this direction can also help to check migration from the country to the city. **It is in rural areas that some help in solving urban problems can be found.**

The attraction of the city lies in the hope that it will offer somewhat better security, food and hygiene, together with longer life expectancy, a lower incidence of poverty and, very frequently, better opportunities for employment and education. These hopes, often disappointed, inspire very high-risk choices. **Balanced urban growth requires an improvement in living conditions and in opportunities for formal and informal education and employment in rural areas.**

In the countries of the South, as well as in the industrialized countries, agricultural land will have to be put to new uses. The application of biotechnologies and the exploitation of biomass and other renewable sources of energy can offer the countries in question the dual benefits of economic growth and sustainable development. Tourism and crafts can also be sources of income, provided that the equilibrium of ecosystems and the life-styles of rural populations are not adversely affected.

## 3. The city, focal point of social transformations

The city has always been Janus-faced: one profile radiates opportunity, encounters, vitality, culture, innovation, creativity and all the advantages of citizenship; the other scowls at enforced promiscuity, conflated solitude, poverty and violence. The difficulties are real: pollution, accumulations of garbage, inadequate housing and services, traffic jams, unemployment, social exclu-

sion, inter-community tension, criminality, insecurity and drug addiction.

Only a small fraction of international efforts is devoted to supplying water, cleaning up the environment or providing health care and education. Economic and social constraints frequently prevent governments from taking adequate measures to deal with the problems of their cities.

The conclusions to be drawn from all this are that:

- a considerable proportion of the urban population lives and will continue to live in conditions that place health and indeed life itself in jeopardy;  
more often than not, poor people make their homes on land which is most unsuitable for human occupation, heavily polluted and exposed to flooding, landslides, natural hazards such as earthquakes and the dangers attaching to technological development;
- huge inequalities separate the impoverished from the middle and privileged classes, and this is reflected in infant mortality rates, illness, life expectancy and the non-satisfaction of the most elementary needs: adequate housing, food, clothing, heating, health care and education;  
the economy of many cities depends mainly on the non-structured, so-called **'informal' sector**. This sector, characterized by the precarity of its activities and sources of income, is expanding at a rate which matches that of urban growth itself and exacerbates its problems.

The city is thus the place where **three crises** now converge:

- the crisis provoked by cleavages in society: this crisis is linked to social injustice, various types of inequality, economic under-development or real-development, and the processes leading to social exclusion;
- **the crisis of urban life**, i.e. affecting the types of social relations traditionally associated with the urban habitat. This crisis affects, first and foremost, the most vulnerable members of the population: children, women living alone, the elderly, and displaced persons: immigrants, refugees and the victims of conflicts to which cities and their inhabitants often fall prey;
- lastly, **the crisis of social communication, governance**, corruption, the regulatory State and, ultimately, political representation.

*The development of urban poverty is discussed in terms (**exclusion** in France, **underclass** in the United States, **marginalidad** in Latin America, for example) which reflect three different representations of social space (inside/outside, high/low, centre/periphery), and in extreme cases a situation amounting to social apartheid. Social and spatial segregation are interrelated. When the various social groups living in the city are kept apart by walls and security measures, as often happens, segregation, rather than cohabitation and universality, becomes the model.*



## II HUMANIZING THE CITY: UNESCO'S VISION

Although no two cities are the same, there are some shared requirements for their development in the twenty-first century, the most important being the need to give cities a **human face**.

Within the framework of the strategy for sustainable development adopted at the Rio Earth Summit (1992), we must strengthen the creative and productive capacities of cities, enabling them to overcome the many evils to which they are prey.

It is true that cities must have a place in world economic networks, but **the economy must serve human fulfillment:** employment and, more generally, productive activities must make the elimination of poverty and social integration possible and consolidate democracy in cities, in accordance with the social development strategy adopted at the Copenhagen Social Summit (1995).

The objective is to **promote an urban development that is socially and ecologically sound.**

### 1. An ethical message

UNESCO's message is first and foremost an **ethical one:** cities must serve the people who live in them. For UNESCO, the real issue is improving the conditions in which urban growth takes place in order to **build cities of peace, democracy and development.**

The cities of the twenty-first century must place the individual at the centre of public policy, **re-invent the concept of the cities** and realize the many ways of sharing in urban life.

The impact of globalization on urban systems and the strategic role of large cities in the world economy are jeopardizing the quality of urban living. There is an urgent need to counterbalance the tendency to

subordinate towns to the needs of business and the economy – which obviously are necessary focuses of activity and employment – by devising an **ethical approach** which subordinates them more to the needs of the individual, based on a better balance between men and women, and cities and nature, and in which the quality of the environment is primordial and it is possible for town-dwellers to make town-living a shared experience.

**Giving cities a human face is more than a Utopian dream:** there are places – in a project, a neighborhood, in a city, in the North, South or East – where the dream has come true. This can happen when the initiatives of the inhabitants, who are both users and builders, are encouraged and supported.

Our challenge is to devise policies that will awaken the creative capacities of all those – men, women and young people – who live in cities. We must **create the city of the democratic age**, in which the ideals of emancipation, equality, freedom and solidarity can be achieved for everyone.

### 2. Cities and respect for human rights, above all the right to housing

Fundamental rights and freedoms presuppose the exercise of citizenship and participation in the life of the community. The **right to housing**, the right to a roof over one's own and one's family's heads, is a prerequisite for citizenship.

Housing must provide adequate conditions of hygiene, material and human safety and privacy which can be summed up in the word dignity. Furthermore, a residential area is not viable without the infrastructure, particularly communications, that link it to the life of the town as a whole. The hou-

sing question is not only central to social concerns, but also at the heart of physical planning and development policies.

UNESCO therefore has a duty to remind the international community that the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires that **'appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right'** be taken. This is an ethical, as well as a social and economic imperative.

*As early as 1948, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated that everyone had a right to an adequate standard of living and mentioned housing as one of the elements of this right.*

*The International Covenants on Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1966 recognize, in Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 'the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions'*

### **3. The city as living heritage attuned to ecological development**

While large cities, as densely populated places, should allow the **effective management of natural resources**, at the end of the twentieth century they are actually places of wasteful consumption of water and energy. They also consume an increasing amount of land by continuing to expand, to the detriment of arable areas and green spaces; in the case of coastal cities they affect the marine environment.

Expanding cities have such far-reaching and intractable effects both on social structures and on the natural environment that a **resolutely forward-looking approach** should now be adopted, and the principle introduced of **responsible urban development respecting the rights of future generations**.

*An alternative is needed to an all too common model, particularly in the North, of sprawling cities that are heavy on energy consumption and largely given over to private cars. In the last quarter of a century, New York has thus seen a rise of 5 per cent in its population while the area it covers has increased by 61 per cent.*

Although conservation policies are sometimes applied to rural areas short-term economic logic often has disastrous effects on the environment. People are awakening to the ills of air pollution, noise pollution

and impaired water quality. Measures must be taken to ensure that protection and enhancement measures for the urban environment become a source of income and hence enable the inhabitants of a city to take charge of running it. **The foundations of eco-development sound development must be laid as a matter of urgency.**

#### 4. The educational city

Nowadays cities, both large and small, provide numerous educational opportunities.

**The educational city is open to its environment.** It maintains relations with other urban centres on its territory and with similar cities in other countries, seeking to learn, exchange and so make the lives of its inhabitants more rewarding.

The educational city must give very **high priority to cultural investment, education for citizenship as well as basic and lifelong education** for its population. [t must assume responsibility for the education, advancement and development of all its inhabitants, beginning with children and young people.

**Children and young people** are not passive participants in the life of society and therefore of towns and cities. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989 transformed children into fully-fledged citizens. Depending on how mature they are, they may therefore participate in the life of the community, in particular through advisory services for children and young people at municipal level.

#### 5. Towards participatory urban governance

There is often a mismatch between demographic development in large cities and the institutional structures for their management.

UNESCO supports the introduction of **urban governance structures** that delineate the respective areas of jurisdiction and **responsibility of central and local authorities.** However, although the practice of negotiation and partnership between the different urban participants may be seen as the best approach in the governance of cities, in no way should public authorities give up their role, in particular with regard to basic infrastructures such as of roads, water supplies and drainage, and major housing schemes.

Furthermore, a democratic and effective form of urban governance is based on the **participation of inhabitants and citizens' organizations in the life of their community.**

*Three main challenges face the cities of the twenty-first century. The first is the **introduction of democracy** and the creation of an urban community bringing together all citizens; the second is the **control of urban development t** and hence the governance of cities; and the third is the development and **control of urban engineering.***



**Urban planning** is currently undergoing a crisis. On the one hand, normative planning has been questioned for its rigidity and its inability to cope with immediate and long-term issues simultaneously. On the other hand, the price of urban development reduced to laissez-faire policies is spatial and social fragmentation of the city, which is liable to result in forms of social and cultural segregation or in the 'privatization' of public areas. Faced with a foreseeable increase in the urban population, more than ever we need a new form of flexible and strategic urban planning that sets ground rules and finally comes up with cities thought out by and for their citizens.

A third option now seems to be emerging, which is that of **'strategic town planning'**. Its essentials are already to be seen in some metropolises and are based on a new form of partnership aimed at reviving a sense of the public interest, and on flexible negotiating procedures between public and private participants better placed to ensure greater social homogeneity in cities.

# III DIRECTIONS AND MODALITIES OF ACTION OF UNESCO

## A Directions

The first principle of action of the 'Habitat Agenda' sketched out in preparation for the Istanbul City Summit is equality of access to the city, and encompasses access to physical infrastructure, education facilities and employment. Such equality implies that citizens should enjoy 'equal rights and obligations with regard to the conservation and use of natural and cultural resources, equal opportunity to participate in public decision-making and equal access to mechanisms to ensure that rights are not violated'. Potentially, urban development may be a factor in social progress, improved access to information, education and health, and more varied and rewarding life-styles and cultural exchanges. The city must be helped to fulfil its promise.

UNESCO intends to contribute to this end by simultaneous acting on two fronts, namely, knowledge generation and practical action.

### 1. The city of solidarity and citizenship

The construction of a city is not just a matter of erecting buildings; it also involves strengthening **local democracy and citizenship**.

The city is an essential link in the chain between individual and State.

The disintegration of the social fabric has resulted in a loss of the sense of common interest and in an exacerbation of self-interest based on class, cultural group, religion or a very restricted local community. Hence the indifference that can be seen

in the refusal by the wealthiest districts to provide communal facilities or infrastructure for the less advantaged and in the constitution of entirely private and fenced-off enclaves financed by their inhabitants and run by private companies.

This loss of a sense of community is a serious threat to democracy. Citizens must be given back the sense of belonging to the city, viewed as an organic unit and not as the mere juxtaposition of competing entities, if we are to stem the rising tide of urban violence. Structures need to be created that will make it possible for the sense of solidarity among citizens to find expression and for urban projects conducive in practice to such solidarity to be developed.

UNESCO has identified four challenges to be taken up in promoting a city of solidarity and citizenship:

- **to denounce intolerance** and prevent the development of social apartheid between the 'city of the citizens' and the 'city of the excluded';
- **to affirm solidarity as a fundamental value of democracy and human rights by inventing a city of solidarity**, through the encouragement of cultural and social pluralism and the promotion of integration through social policies, particularly employment policies;
- **to promote a culture of peace:** democracy was born in cities, and in cities it is most under threat from tensions of all kinds and from the forces of disintegration. It is also in the city that a **new social contract** must be worked out;
- **development and peace** are intimately linked: with cities becoming increasingly the scene of conflicts, UNESCO is implementing a culture of peace programme that includes social development activi-

ties aimed at peace-building, particularly in cities in a post-conflict situation;

• **to turn city-dwellers into citizens through education in citizenship:**

citizens must be given the means to express themselves in public and have an impact on their city. They must be placed at the centre of choices and decisions for the creation of a multifaceted city by measures to promote democratic discussion and participation.

## **2. Towards an urban culture**

Throughout history, cities have been centres of civilization. For UNESCO, it is a matter of priority to give present-day metropolises the chance to become in their turn centres of cultural influence.

### **a) Development through culture**

In order to promote the emergence of a culture of the city that is neither a standardized international culture nor a series of antagonistic cultures based on ethnic, religious or social groups, it will be necessary to boost the sense of solidarity by fostering an awareness of place and a feeling of belonging to a community destined to be a great city by organizing a whole range of cultural activities in the city that involve as many of its inhabitants as possible. Cultural development, especially in disadvantaged districts and pockets of exclusion, is a vital means of renewing the sense of dignity on which citizenship is founded.

### **b) The city as public space**

We need a return to a policy of public space; this makes it necessary to avoid an exclusively economic approach to human settlements and to encourage substantial

public works in the general interest, in conjunction with the private sector and NGOs and under the leadership of national and local authorities. To counterbalance people's longer and speedier journeys within the city, points of anchorage are needed, as well as monuments that will serve both as landmarks and focal points for public life and artistic creation. The aim should be to establish exhibition areas and meeting-places for the various cultures represented in the city so as to create a multicultural city that is more than just a mosaic of inward-looking cultures.

### **c) The city as heritage**

The city must be regarded as an open-ended heritage. The city's environment is made up not just of its natural components but of its buildings too. It is essential to respect the distinctive cultural personality of each city by revitalizing traditional forms, local practices and craftwork and more generally by respecting its '**genius loci**'. An international style based on modern materials has gradually spread throughout the world, bringing advances in the saving of space and improvements in health and safety, but it is often at odds with the sense of beauty and the climate of the countries in which these materials are used.

UNESCO supports the advent of **cultural tourism** which respects the identity and the ecology of each site. Cultural tourism promotes education about cities and gives the city itself an international status that is conducive to pride and dignity, while at the same time making an essential contribution to development and employment.

### 3. Urban-planning and architecture in the service of the city

UNESCO, whose purpose is to promote the worldwide sharing of knowledge, considers itself responsible for training those who will be in a position to construct and then to govern the city. This involves placing science and the arts in the service of the city in an interdisciplinary approach, and training builders and managers in modern techniques.

#### ***a) Redefining the links between architecture and town-planning***

There is a pressing need today to foster the emergence of a new generation of builders. More attention should be paid to the historical and aesthetic unity of cities and to the harmony of the urban landscape. This concern should not be monopolized by the richest districts but should be combined with a new attitude to social housing, and must accordingly be based on a strategy of public action.

**The architecture** of the twenty-first century will have to strike a difficult balance between modern technology, energy saving and technical and aesthetic traditions which exist in their own right and which it would be harmful to ignore in the name of so-called modernism.

**Town planning** should harmonize local action and overall operations, and should be a means of helping the city to anticipate future growth. The town planning of tomorrow should be guided by two major principles:

- **humanism:** it is the material and moral needs of men and women and their place in a setting and culture – and no longer techniques, ideologies, aesthetic doctrines or economic imperatives - that should shape the architectural and urban patterns of tomorrow;

- **diversity:** a more human, more friendly habitat draws greater inspiration from regional traditions, history, cultures and climates.

#### ***b) The training of architects, urban-planners and municipal officials***

UNESCO encourages the **training of city technicians and decision-makers** (architects, city-planners, local government officials) with a view to encouraging local action in constant collaboration with the general public and making research an integral part of training. It supports the creation of urban exchange networks, in particular for the purpose of pooling the experience of countries in the North and the South.

### 4. The ecological city

UNESCO promotes interaction between research in the natural sciences and in the social sciences aimed at determining the principles and working methods required for **sustainable urban development**. It encourages technological innovation and dissemination of knowledge making for rational and judicious use of natural resources and aimed at reducing pollution and environmental hazards.

#### ***a) A housing strategy***

The pressure exerted by rural-urban migration and high population growth complicates the implementation of housing policies. It is estimated that between 30 per cent and 60 per cent of the urban population of countries in the South live in shanty towns. Taking the world as a whole, 500 million human beings are reportedly either homeless or poorly housed.

One aspect of the housing strategy consists in **promoting do-it-yourself building**. In this regard, policies facilitating land ownership through tax and administrative reforms are very important. Land control measures and a policy of assistance and concessional loans, in particular to residents' associations, also form part of this strategy. Such a policy may be prompted by respect for the right to decent housing, but it can also be justified from the point of view of economic development. For studies show that investment in housing is very productive and that for every currency unit spent on building, just about one more will be added to the national income through the multiplier effects of the initial outlay.

*House building itself draws heavily on natural resources. Encouragement should therefore be given to the use of materials that are 'more durable and consistent with sound management of the environment, and are therefore re-usable and recyclable. UNESCO supports research programmes and the interfaces between research and action in the field, with use of the new technologies combing economic development and ecological viability (biotechnologies, renewable and non-polluting energy sources, new information and communication technologies, etc.) and the development of materials and techniques able to withstand natural disasters.*

### **b) Water, a vital urban resource**

The speed of urban development and increased needs will make **water one of the main international issues** in the coming century. In cities, especially in the South, the uneven supply of water and lack of modern plant have a disastrous impact on public health. Water is a fragile element to be used sparingly and protected, by reducing wastage from immoderate consumption and taking steps mostly in relation to obsolescent distribution and piping systems. Finally, within the context of sustainable development, soils and groundwater should be protected from the industrial effluent and unregulated use liable to pollute them.

UNESCO is conducting a campaign to improve knowledge and know-how in regard to the utilization of water resources in urban environments.

### **c) New energy sources for cities**

Cities, particularly in countries with high living standards, are heavy consumers of energy. But cities in the developing countries will also see a big rise in their demand for energy resources in the years ahead.

World energy demand, which is expected to double by 2020 or 2040, will have considerable repercussions both on raw material reserves and on the environment. Increased discharges of greenhouse gases, mostly from urban areas, will contribute to atmospheric warming; this might lead to a catastrophic rise in sea-level and pose a threat to many coastal cities. A 60 per cent to 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas discharges might become necessary. **The use of less polluting and renewable energy**



**sources** and the promotion of an 'efficiency revolution' in regard to energy use in cities has thus become a matter of urgency.

#### **d) Communication and information**

In regard to the new information and communication technologies, UNESCO believes it important to promote **equal access for each and everyone to these new development instruments**. They can give every individual the opportunity to participate not only in the affairs of the community but also in the affairs of the world, and in this way to combat exclusion and isolation.

The new technologies, if equitably accessible to all, can become the instruments for participation in city management and a new form of direct democracy, by affording the citizen easier access to local government structures. Information technology also has its part to play in familiarizing citizens with their rights and, in the process, making the city a place where freedom is exercised and human dignity enjoyed. Furthermore, the new technologies must become instrumental in securing the freedom of expression of each individual in the city, both the political and the artistic expressions indicative of genuine democracy.

Two conditions must be fulfilled: city and national authorities must apply policies for the introduction of information and communication technologies, and training programmes must be launched.

### **5. Transport policy**

Cities must now face up to the issue of how to manage the space available. Failures in this area are largely responsible for the lower quality of urban life.

Although it is vital to allow individuals to move around their own city freely, the growth of private transport in urban areas has for several decades been causing critically congested city centres, sprawling urban areas and a concomitant increase in the distances to be covered.

Car traffic is also an ecological disaster affecting our everyday lives: it is responsible for air pollution in the form of carbon monoxide and noise levels incompatible with health and safety standards.

Several policies may be envisaged, involving penalties for over-using or incentives not to use private transport, as well as the expansion of forms of public transport such as the electric monorail which is rapid and non-polluting. In any case, infrastructure construction policies must give priority to outlying and marginalized neighbourhoods.

### **6. Education for city life**

In the future, education and training are likely to be the most valuable assets for individuals and nations caught up in the process of globalization. If we wish to begin building the city of the twenty-first century now, we must start immediately **to train the city-dweller and citizen of the future**. By virtue of its basic responsibility for education, UNESCO has made children and young people one of its priority target groups.

**a) Education to consider the city as a living environment**

If the inhabitants of a city are to begin to feel responsible for it, it is essential, as a first step, to establish the 'ecological reflex' in children, who are the participants in and guarantors of future development. Their education must also introduce them to more economic ways of using energy and raw materials and accustom them to re-using and recycling different products.

**b) Education to consider the city as an essential base for democracy**

Specific measures must be taken to train the city-dwellers of the future in the practice of democracy. It is particularly important to provide facilities to guarantee the right to basic education for all city-dwellers, enabling each and every one of them to develop their potential, and be fully aware of their rights. Educational structures must themselves offer a basic model for democracy and citizenship, and communicate the virtues of tolerance and non-violence.

**c) Education to consider the city as heritage**

The very concept of sustainable development implies that awareness of inter-generational solidarity lies at the basis of urban construction and management policies. The notion of heritage and its conservation contains within it the notion of respect for such solidarity through time. **To teach young citizens to love their city** and be familiar with its history is to teach them a sense of belonging to the human community in its political and 'transhistorical' dimension; it makes them feel involved in the development process, with a responsible role to play.

## **7. Women in the city**

Women are among the first victims of social problems in cities, such as disintegration of the social fabric, the breaking up of solidarity structures, unemployment, poverty, violence and prostitution. In many cities of the world, there has been a substantial increase in the number of women who are head of the household, the family unit formed by women and children being the most resistant to the various types of urban crisis, even though women's incomes are smaller than those of men and women constitute the hard core of extreme poverty.

Women increasingly have their share in bringing in the family income but in so doing they accumulate fatigue and other problems, having to exercise simultaneously a financial, domestic and family function. These handicaps are often further compounded by difficult access to public transport in deprived neighbourhoods and by the lack of infrastructures, amenities and services which they have to make up for (water supply, waste disposal, etc.).

However, women are reacting against these injustices and in cities of both the North and the South are forming women's associations aimed at improving local living standards, setting up productive groups to create jobs and developing community and neighbourhood links. These efforts are encouraged through field operations supported by UNESCO programmes, in particular the 'Cities: management of social transformations and the environment' programme.

## **8. Young people in the city**

Young people are another vulnerable social group in cities. Today, more than four in ten inhabitants of third world cities are children. In poor neighbourhoods, it is quite common for 50 per cent of the population to be under the age of fourteen. More than 100 million children throughout the world survive in conditions of destitution and distress.

Among the many risks they face are murder, violence, rape, sexual exploitation, drugs, AIDS and other diseases, hunger, solitude and forced labour. Caught in the stranglehold of insecurity, living lives in which economic necessity forces the youngest of them to work well before adolescence and in which violence is their only code of conduct and the gang their only family, they do their best to survive.

The crucial question underlying the dry facts and figures is this: what will happen as children and adolescents migrate from rural areas to towns in countries where social investment is often at the bottom of the priority list? Action in this area is essential and cities must, at basic community level, provide for the needs of young people in terms of training, culture, living environment, sport and community support.

UNESCO provides encouragement to young peoples' associations, in particular sports and cultural associations which take an active part in neighbourhood campaigns for litter collection, drug abuse prevention and information on sexually transmissible diseases and AIDS.

## B Modalities of Action

Within its own fields of competence – education, culture, natural sciences, social sciences and communication – UNESCO intends to play its full part in the implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action which will be adopted during the Habitat II Conference.

‘On the basis of a **partnership approach**, UNESCO will pursue its action in three directions which complement each other:

- **understand** and compare for action;
- **act** in the field;
- **train, inform** and communicate.

### 1. The partnership approach

The only way of effectively addressing the mammoth challenge of improving the living conditions of city-dwellers is through the dynamics of social mobilization involving all public and private actors from the local to the international level.

UNESCO embraces such a partnership approach:

- partnership with the National Commissions for UNESCO;
- partnership among United Nations agencies;
- partnership between United Nations agencies and States;
- partnership between States and local authorities;  
partnership between public authorities and universities and research centres;

- partnership between national and local authorities and industry;
- partnership between national and local public authorities and citizens;
- partnership among cities of the world.

#### – **Partnership with non-governmental organizations**

The grass-roots communities and non-governmental organizations, which are an outgrowth of civil society and channels of active citizenship, are UNESCO’s major partners in the Organization’s fields of competence. Without the participation of the inhabitants, particularly women and young people, without their involvement and their creativity, and unless due account is taken of grass-roots movements and of the inhabitants themselves, there can be no lasting, tangible improvement in living conditions in human settlements.

#### – **Partnership with cities and local authorities**

Local authorities are becoming increasingly involved, alongside central government, in housing, the fight against exclusion and moves towards greater solidarity, and also in education, health, urban safety, the environment and urban services.

Cities and their mayors have acquired legitimacy and influence which UNESCO intends to support through partnerships.

#### **Partnership with universities and the world of research**

One of UNESCO’s tasks is to build bridges between the world of knowledge and the world of action, between scientists and politicians. To this end, partnerships between researchers and decision-makers are encouraged, on a contractual basis that safeguards each party’s autonomy.

UNESCO will use its catalytic role to continue its effort to broaden partnerships and develop synergies and connections linking the public and private sectors, mayors' associations, professional associations, inhabitants' associations, women's and youth associations and the world of business.

## 2. Three rationales behind UNESCO's contribution

### ◆ *Understanding in order to act*

Since UNESCO's mission is to improve and disseminate knowledge, it is implementing a number of **research programmes on society and nature**.

In the social sciences, UNESCO has created the **Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme**. Its aim is both to contribute to better knowledge of the processes of social transformation and to put the findings of social research to good use in policy – and decision-making. MOST is developing activities on cities as places of rapid transformation, particularly as regards social exclusion and cohesion, violence and multi culturalism in an urban setting and the relationship between cities and globalization. MOST's international research projects cover topics such as cities and sustainable development, urban violence, city language, industrialization of medium-sized cities and globalization, problems specific to mega-cities (with UNU), the environment and women in cities.

In the area of natural sciences, UNESCO is encouraging research on the biosphere, environment and development, links between urban and rural areas, management of the city as an ecosystem, rational use of soil and waste management (**MAB programme: Man and the Biosphere**); urban water-resources management

(**IHP: International Hydrological Programme**); renewable energies in cities and human settlements; reduction of risks connected with natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods (**IGCP: International Geological Correlation programmes**).

### ◆ *Acting in the field: examples of UNESCO programmes*

- The MOST and MAB programmes, one on natural science and the other on ecological sciences, joined forces to launch a programme on: '**Cities: management of social transformations and the environment**'.

This is a programme of experimental actions in pilot sites in support of initiatives by the inhabitants, especially women and young people, to improve their own living conditions. Its intention is to tackle, on specific sites, social problems such as under-employment, delinquency, drug addiction, exploitation of women and children, and environmental problems such as those relating to water, waste and various forms of pollution. The programme is based on partnership involving UNESCO, national authorities, local communities, non-governmental organizations, grass-roots associations and research institutions and universities.

- **Training of urban actors:** architects, town-planners and developers, and also elected local officials, civil servants and social workers, is conducted by means of the existing programmes of action such as the MOST and MAB programmes.
- UNESCO's heritage programme has made it possible to create the '**World Heritage Towns Network**' and to draw up the '**International Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas**' which serves as a guide

for the authorities of historic towns when it comes to managing historic centres and integrating their life into the town-planning development of urban conglomerations.

- Many monuments have already been rescued through the programmes for the restoration of historic buildings in the towns on the **World Heritage** List and those targeted in UNESCO's International Safeguarding Campaign: they include the old city of Havana, the Medina of Fez and Dubrovnik.
  - The programme for the **rehabilitation of urban centres** is geared as a matter of priority to cities affected by natural disasters or armed conflict, such as Beirut and Sarajevo, with a view to restoring a culture of peace.
  - The programmes for **promotion of vernacular architecture**, which support self-build projects by the inhabitants, or for traditional dwellings in deprived areas, also rely on bilateral co-operation, international co-operation and assistance from non-governmental organizations, national governments and universities, from the ancient cities of Mauritania to the outskirts of Guadalajara in Mexico.
  - The programme on **Environment and population education and information for development** has elicited the co-operation of the world's eight most populous cities to disseminate educational messages to the general public and women and young people in particular.
  - [In co-operation with local non-governmental organizations, the **programme on 'Street children'** is developing informal education activities to facilitate children's reintegration in society.
  - UNESCO's communication programmes (in particular **IPDC: International Programme for the Development of Communication**) is concerned with developing the concept of 'communication for the city' and working out practical methods and strategies for improving the quality of life in cities through dialogue with the citizens and their active participation in developing community media.
  - Under the **Culture of Peace programme**, a pilot project against urban violence has been devised to develop international co-operation on behalf of schools facing difficulties.
  - The programme to mobilize **Young people for the recycling of urban 'waste'**.
- ◆ **Informing and communicating**
- Research and action must go hand in hand with information and communication.
  - **A MOST Clearing House** on city research has been set up on the Internet. It is a means of communication among researchers and research institutes.
  - MOST is setting up a **data bank on the best social practices**. It contains information on various experiments on the ground in combating social and cultural exclusion, poverty and violence in cities.
  - A communication policy designed for town-planners, officials, educators, journalists and civic organizations has been designed to mobilize the media to reinforce the sense of solidarity, tolerance, respect for cultural diversity, the culture of peace (**International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), the General Information Programme (PGI), and the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme (IIP)**).

- Finally, UNESCO proposes to establish a **'Mayors for Peace Prize'** to honour, in the various regions of the world, exemplary operations carried out by municipal teams which have improved living conditions and created a degree of 'urban well-being' with respect for cultural diversity and promotion of active citizenship. The competition would be the starting-point for a data bank of innovative initiatives in this field and for regional networks of co-operation among municipalities.



## UNESCO: MAKE CITIES HUMAN CENTRES OF DEMOCRACY, CULTURE AND INNOVATION

Paris - As the new millennium approaches, a world-wide urban structure is emerging that is bringing innovation and progress while deepening divisions between rich and poor.

By the next century, two-thirds of the earth's inhabitants will be living in cities. It is estimated that by the year 2000, 75 percent of the population in industrialised countries and 45 percent in developing countries will be urban dwellers. Cities are becoming megalopolises and spilling over into the countryside often spoiling the ecology and diluting traditional life-styles. They are not only centres of culture, creativity and opportunity. They are also disfigured by inadequate housing, traffic jams, garbage, pollution, unemployment, poverty, solitude and violence.

“Rapid urbanisation is one of the major trends of our time even if in Africa and Asia a majority of the population still lives in rural areas,” says UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor. “The often uncontrolled growth of cities presents overwhelming problems to governments and local authorities in areas such as housing, infrastructure, health, education, social exclusion and violence. Habitat II is the occasion for the international community to come to terms with the urban question and to mobilise itself towards building the city of the next century.”

At the conference, UNESCO will attempt to convey an ethical message: humanise the city. Make towns serve the people who live in them. The Organization has adopted two simultaneous approaches: knowledge and practical action. These two fronts seek to form partnerships between the public and private sector to turn cities into centres of democracy, culture and education while respecting the environment and surrounding countryside.

One of the major tasks is to strike a balance between urban and rural economies and lifestyles. In Africa, Latin America and Asia, agricultural changes and a migration of surplus labour to the cities is linked to urban expansion. To check this migration, employment opportunities and improvements in lifestyle must be top priorities for rural areas. Farm land must be used in new ways. Tourism and crafts should be developed as alternative sources of income in agrarian areas.

### The right to housing

The pressure exerted by rural-urban migration and high population growth complicates housing policies. Between 30 and 60 percent of urban residents in developing countries live in shanty towns and are part of the estimated 500 million human beings throughout the world who are either poorly housed or homeless. They are denied adequate housing, a human right enshrined in many international instruments.

A new housing strategy that promotes do-it-yourself building as well as policies that facilitate land ownership through tax and administrative reforms could lead to reversing this situation. Studies have shown that housing is a good investment: for every currency unit spent on building, just about one more will be added to the national income through the multiplier effects of the initial outlay.



UNESCOPRESS/Habitat -2

UNESCO's programmes promoting vernacular architecture support self-build projects in deprived areas. The Organization's programmes on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) train urban actors: architects, town planners, developers, elected officials and social workers.

### **Balancing urban growth and the environment**

In building more housing, UNESCO encourages conservation by promoting the use of durable and environmentally-sound materials. As cities grow in population and sprawl in size, water is becoming an increasingly fragile resource. It must be protected through efficient consumption and distribution.

UNESCO'S Division of Water Sciences seeks to improve knowledge of hydrological processes and to develop ways to assess and manage water resources. It is currently promoting research on methods of controlling water runoff and flooding in urban areas.

World energy demand is expected to double by 2020 or 2040. Policies advocating 60 to 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases, discharged mostly from urban areas, may have to be adopted. UNESCO also encourages initiatives that include penalties for over-use and incentives to use and develop public transportation. Reliance on cleaner and renewable energy sources will become a matter of urgency.

Teaching urban residents, particularly young people, to consider the city a living environment is another priority. Children, as participants and future managers, must be introduced to recycling and thriftier ways of using energy. UNESCO's environment and population education and information for development project seeks to teach public awareness of environmental and population issues.

### **The city as the centre of democracy**

The city is an essential link between individual and state, between citizenship and democracy. Full participation is linked to education so citizens can make informed decisions, UNESCO's basic education programmes provide literacy and life-training skills for youth. The Organization also supports programmes to teach working and street children and projects to combat adult illiteracy. UNESCO's Culture of Peace programme promotes democracy, tolerance, human rights and full participation in social, political and economic life through projects in basic education and lifelong learning, particularly in post-conflict situations.

New information and communication technologies can be harnessed to create a new form of direct democracy. This requires guaranteeing equal access to these new instruments. These technologies will not only play a vital role in informing citizens but should also provide them freedom of expression, both indicators of genuine democracy. UNESCO's communication programmes help to develop community media and practical methods to improve dialogue between citizens.

UNESCOPRESS/Habitat -3

### **Making the city a living cultural heritage**

Throughout history, cities have been cradles of civilisation. Citizens can be taught the history of their cities thus engendering a sense of belonging to a community and responsibility for its development. Urban planners and policy-makers should focus on cultural development, especially in disadvantaged areas. Exhibition areas and meeting places for the various cultures represented in the city could be established to promote tolerance and respect for diversity. UNESCO also supports cultural tourism that respects the identity and ecology of cities while creating jobs and improved economic development.

UNESCO's heritage programme has led to the establishment of the World Heritage Towns Network and the International Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas which serves as a guide for managing and integrating historic centres in urban planning.

### **Partnerships between the public and private sectors**

The Organization will participate actively in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to be adopted at the Habitat II Conference. Improving the living conditions of city dwellers is a massive challenge that requires partnerships linking the public and private sectors. UNESCO will work with non-governmental organizations, mayors and local authorities as well as scholars and scientists in the research and academic fields.

UNESCO has been working towards improving city life through many of its programmes. For more than two decades, UNESCO's MAB programme has linked conservation and development through the creation of biosphere reserves. These are protected areas where conservation is combined with the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of local communities, scientific research and world-wide information exchange. The MOST programme develops international research projects on cities that explore topics such as violence, urban language, the environment and women and shares these findings with decision-makers.

These two programmes have now joined forces in the *Cities; Management of Social Transformations and the Environment* project. This activity seeks to help city residents, especially women and youth, tackle urban problems such as delinquency, drug addiction, unemployment and pollution,

Other UNESCO projects in education, culture and communication aim to build cities that respect democratic principles and reflect a creative mixture of social, cultural and ethnic diversity.

For more information, please refer to the June issue of the MOST newsletter. It can be obtained by contacting the MOST Secretariat at UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15 or e-mail: [ssmost@unesco.org](mailto:ssmost@unesco.org). Issue 147 of UNESCO's International Social Science Journal is devoted to Habitat II. It is available from Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK. E-mail: [jnlsamples@blackwellpublishers.co.uk](mailto:jnlsamples@blackwellpublishers.co.uk).

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press release

### UNESCO AT HABITAT II: HUMANIZE THE CITY

Paris - UNESCO'S goal at Habitat II, the last major United Nations conference of this century, is to convey an ethical message: humanize the city by placing the individual at the centre of public policy,

For this second UN Conference on Human Settlements, which will take place 3 to 14 June in Istanbul, Turkey, UNESCO has organized different events that are geared to explore this message and put it into practice. The goal is to create urban havens of peace, democracy and development while respecting the environment and surrounding countryside. This can be achieved by forming partnerships between the private and public sectors.

"There is an urgent need to give towns a human face, to create democratic centres of equality, freedom and solidarity," says UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor. "Our challenge is to devise policies that will subordinate business and the economy to the needs of the individual based on a better balance between men and women, city and country side."

Mr Mayor will present UNESCO's visions and goals during his keynote speech to the plenary on 7 June. He will also participate in Habitat II's Forum on Solidarity on 8 June that will feature Brazilian anthropologist Ruth Cardoso, architect Richard Correa, Ismael Serageldin, vice-president of the World Bank, and former French cabinet minister Simone Veil.

On 7 June, UNESCO will organise a day-long dialogue, one of 10 being held at Habitat II, on **Citizenship and Democracy in the City of the 21st Century**. Scholars, mayors, creative artists and urban planners will explore challenges posed by expected changes in the future to help guide today's policy-makers during this round table.

Ms Cardoso 'will chair a diverse panel including Christian de Portzamparc, winner of the 1994 Pritzker Prize for Architecture, Turkish composer Zulfu Livaneli, Mayor Isaac Mogase of Johannesburg, South Africa, Kirtee Shah, president of the non-governmental Habitat International Coalition, along with a dozen other experts and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Dr Cardoso is founder and chairperson of *Comunidade Solidaria*, a major programme to fight poverty and social exclusion in Brazil.

These panelists will discuss such topics as emerging forms of city politics and decision-making, the rights and aspirations of women in urban development, as well as implications of global communication between cities in the next century. They will also explore models of partnership between citizens, the state and the private sector to improve city governance and urban life.

Architects, city planners and heads of philanthropic trusts will take part in a UNESCO colloquium, **Renewal of Inner City Areas**, also on 7 June. Panelists will include the Italian architect and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Renzo Piano, who previously worked with the Organization on the restoration of urban centres in Italy; the Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi; Silvio Mutal, a consultant specialised in Latin America and Caribbean urban planning and restoration; Said Mouline, who designed restoration projects for the old quarters of Marrakech, Tangiers, Tunis and elsewhere; and Suha Ozkan, secretary-general of the Aga Khan Trust for

UNESCOPRESS/City -2

Culture. a philanthropic fund that has aided the restoration of numerous historic Islamic town centres.

During the morning session the panelists will describe their work and present ideas on inner-city restoration. In the afternoon, the panelists will exchange ideas with an audience that should draw architecture and urban planning students.

This panel discussion is linked to an exhibit organized by UNESCO showing how cities throughout the world were revitalised and rebuilt following socio-economic changes, wars and natural disasters. This exhibit which will be open throughout the conference will feature some 80 panels of photographs, architectural plans and text describing recent or on-going urban restoration projects in 15 cities throughout the world. These range from the docklands of London to the old Li Long district of Shanghai to the Newton District in central Johannesburg, to Lisbon's Chiado district.

UNESCO will also participate in the conference's youth day activities on 10 June by organizing a round table with non-governmental organizations. The goal is to make participants at Habitat II aware of the important role young people can play in improving urban life and environment. Participants at this event. **Youth Voices to Build Our Global Home**, will explore topics related to mobilizing youth in community work ranging from street theatre to tutoring to helping to recycle garbage.

In addition, the Director-General will announce the creation of the **Mayors for Peace Prize** during his speech at the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities to be held in Istanbul on 30 and 31 May. This award will honour exemplary operations carried out by municipalities to improve living conditions and to create 'citizen-friendly' urban environments. It will recognise leaders of cities with populations of more than 100,000 for their exemplary action to combat social exclusion and promote community dialogue, peace and citizenship. Nearly 500 mayors and municipal leaders from around the world are expected at this meeting to prepare a joint declaration for Habitat II calling upon the United Nations to recognise the vital role played by local authorities.

Also as part of its contributions to Habitat II, UNESCO is hosting an exhibit of vernacular architecture until 6 June at its Headquarters. Photographs, models and drawings highlight the world's traditional architectural styles and the rapid disappearance of building techniques due to demographic and economic changes.

UNESCO takes a leading role in promoting intergovernmental and interdisciplinary research and sharing of knowledge on urban issues. Its programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST) actively facilitates exchange between public policy-makers and social scientists and supports a variety of comparative research with practical applications.

MOST is currently working on the Project on Cities with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme. This activity joins UNESCO's expertise in social and ecological science to encourage local initiatives and to improve the quality of life. These include measures to promote citizenship, training, the sharing of know-how as well as to boost urban employment in social and environmental professions. MOST also serves as an international clearing house for collecting and distributing information on city management for the 21st century.

For more information, contact UNESCO's Press Service at: (33. 1)45 681670 or fax: 44490692

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MANAGEMENT  
OF SOCIAL  
TRANSFORMATIONS

Newsletter

6/7

JUNE 1996

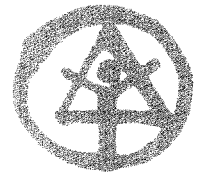


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## *Towards the City of the 21st Century*



*Following upon the Earth Summit (Rio, 1992), the Population Summit (Cairo, 1994), the Social Development Summit (Copenhagen, 1995) and the Women's Summit (Beijing, 1995), the United Nations Conference on Human Habitat (HABITAT II), also called the "City Summit", concentrates upon all questions raised by the international community in these preceding planetary meetings, from an urban perspective. Today the city appears, for better or for worse, as a laboratory in which many social, cultural and technological transformations occur.*

*Rapid urbanisation is one of the major trends of our time in all regions of the world, even if in Africa and Asia a majority of the population still live in rural areas: the "urban revolution" is a major global challenge. The often uncontrolled growth of cities presents overwhelming problems to governments and local authorities, in areas such as housing, infrastructure, health, education, social exclusion and violence.*

*Should this lead to discouragement? Can we accept such situations which a certain catastrophic discourse qualifies as inevitable and irreversible? That would be unacceptable.*

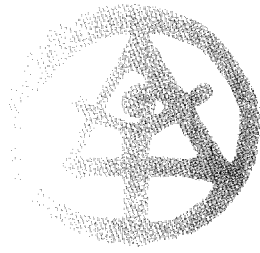
*HABITAT II provides the occasion for the international community to come to terms with "the urban question" and to mobilise towards building the city of the next century.*

*UNESCO has already been working toward this objective; it is ready to contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action which will be adopted in Istanbul in its fields of competence and through its specialised programmes, particularly the one on the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) as well as the Culture of Peace.*

*The Organisation aims at contributing towards building a city which would be a place of innovation, conviviality and openness, reflecting a creative mixture of social, cultural and ethnic diversity; a city where the culture of peace would take over from the culture of violence, all and every human right prevails, starting with the right to housing and decent living standards; a city which would not do harm to the surrounding countryside and its people, hence the need to foster better quality of life and income generating activities for country dwellers. A city which would cause neither pollution nor degradation of the environment.*

*Let us hope that the Istanbul Conference will effectively contribute to the advent of such a city of humanness, culture, citizenship and solidarity.*

Federico Mayor  
Director-General, UNESCO

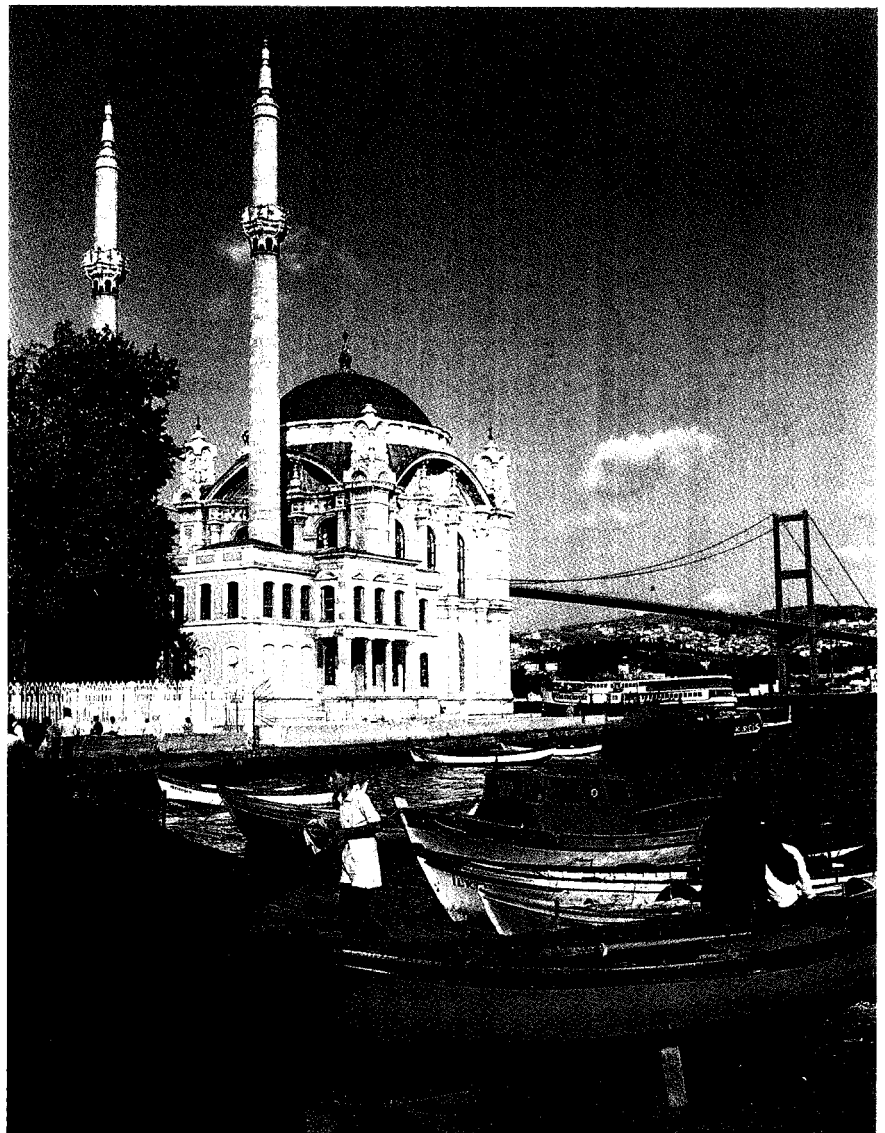


UNESCO  
CITY OF  
SOLIDARITY  
AND  
CITIZENSHIP

# Towards a City

*On the eve of the City Summit, and at the doorstep of the Twenty-first century, solidarity and citizenship have become cornerstones of urban civilisation. In the current period of transition successful construction of the City of **Solidarity and Citizenship** requires asserting solidarity as a fundamental value of democracy and human rights and citizenship as a vector of a just and humane city, which means a space for free exercise of liberty, creativity and enjoyment. Below are the recommendations adopted by the participants in this international symposium and excerpts of the text presented by Enrique Ortiz, which personifies the MOST Programme's vision of the City of the 21st Century. ■ C.S.J.*

*From 11 to 12 October 1995, UNESCO brought together forty professionals, NGO representatives, politicians, local authorities and development experts to commentate the city of solidarity and citizenship. The dialogue between this international and interdisciplinary group foreshadowed the kind of team work required for promoting a city of the twenty-first century that favours solidarity, fair-mindedness and citizenship.*



Views of Istanbul

# of Solidarity and Citizenship

## *Recommendations for Action*

- Promote a forward-looking perspective on the new forms of solidarity necessitated by the transformation of society.
- Devise action-oriented strategies to promote solidarity and citizenship in the city of the twenty-first century, particularly by supporting popular urban economy and encouraging a coherent policy for spaces of opportunities in cities
- Find ways to concur international actions with national and local experience.
- Support participative action-research projects based on initiatives and skills of inhabitants with regard to their urban environment.
- Construct public-private-citizen partnerships in governance for urban innovation and identify, experiment, analyse, evaluate and disseminate successful partnerships.
- Develop a learning process of innovative forms of solidarity and of citizenship by promoting a systematic recording of experience and practice, cumulative analysis and exchange of experience and know-how through:
  - micro social observatories;
  - observatories of associative civic practices that contribute to building up civic links;
  - collection and dissemination “Best practices of solidarity and citizenship”.
- Recognise the social usefulness and applicability of social and human science research.
- Expand the transfer of applied social science research results, through the media, to the public, so as to increase public understanding of social issues.
- Clarify the city related concepts and words in use.
- Develop training activities, particularly “education towards citizenship”, defined as the appropriation and exercising of all fundamental rights.
- Encourage exchanges between city practitioners – elected and social actors – and academics.
- Organise periodically “urban assemblies of solidarity and citizenship”.
- Establish an annual “World Festival of the City”, aimed at emphasizing citizenship.
- Use UNESCO’s MOST programme (Management of social transformations) as an appropriate international instrument for implementing the above recommendations.

## ***What is MOST ?***

MOST is an international social science research programme that supports policy relevant research that is interdisciplinary and usually comparative between countries.

The programme is administered in the social science sector of UNESCO, has a Scientific Committee composed of international scholars, and an Intergovernmental Council formed of representatives of 35 Member States. The programme is particularly concerned with population policies, urbanisation, multiculturalism, social aspects of development and economic reform packages, and facets of globalisation and their local impacts. MOST is a framework through which Governments can seek assistance in implementing their response to the recent major UN Summits and through which scholars from various disciplines and regions can converge to address pressing development issues.

# HABITAT II

**H**UMANISING the city is much more than building wide tree-lined streets, underpasses, parks and public spaces.

It is more than providing shelter for all and equipping the city with good infrastructure, public buildings and rapid transport. Above all else, to humanise the city is to open spaces for the free exercise of liberty, creativity and the enjoyment of its inhabitants. It is to guarantee that

## Citizenship, Vector of Humanism

those who appropriate it imagine it, live it, enjoy it and transform it. Just like what was pointed out in the UNESCO document which convoked us to this event: "the citizen must be returned to the centre of choices and decisions thus help recreate the plural city, the medium of culture".

To transform the city to be at the service of people implies taking the economy out of the centre of our ethic and of our current urban concepts. To humanise the city is to democratise it, in the broadest sense of the term. That is, to facilitate the access of all to the goods and services produced by society, creating conditions that give priority to those who have less, the children, the women and the most vulnerable groups in society such as the elderly and the disabled. It is also to strengthen representative democracy and broaden spaces and possibilities for the exercise of direct democracy. In synthesis, to humanise the city is to build citizenship making the rights of its inhabitants effective and making possible the exercise of their responsibilities.

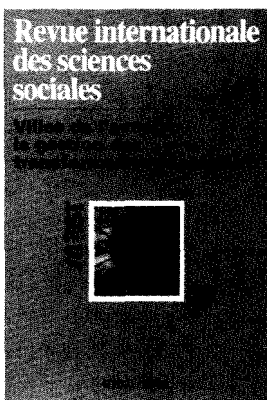
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### *International Social Science Journal*

Special Issue for Habitat II: N° 147, March 1996

*Cities of the Future: Managing Social Transformations*

(English, French, Russian, Arabic and Chinese). Editor: David Makinson



JORGE WILHEIM *Introduction: urban challenges of a transitional period*

#### **The Global City**

PETER HALL, *The Global City*

YUE-MAN YEUNG, *An Asian perspective on the global city*

#### **The Multi-Ethnic and Multicultural City**

PAUL WINSTONE, *Managing a multi-ethnic and multicultural city in Europe: Leicester*

A. A. LAQUIAN, *The multi-ethnic and multicultural city: an Asian perspective*

#### **The Fragmented City**

T.P.R. CALDEIRA, *Building up walls: the new patterns of spatial segregation in Sao Paulo*

MICHAEL SUTCLIFFE, *The fragmented city: Durban, South Africa*



Within the preparatory process towards Habitat II some countries oppose the inclusion of the right to housing as a fundamental orienting principle of the conference. It becomes then necessary to turn to the more profound and root sense in which this right is based. That is the right that human beings, as all species on our planet, have to a place to live. This is an inalienable right closely linked to the right to live, in its spiritual as in its material aspects.

It is through this right, that goes beyond all legislation or government programs, that it is possible to link the rest of the rights and freedoms proposed in the text of the Treaty subscribed in the Rio Global Forum for the full exercise of our citizenship and the humanisation of our cities. The right to a place to live in peace and dignity; the freedom to choose that place and how it will be inhabited; the civil right to organise to make it effective; the political right to participate in the orientation of the policies and tools that the State establishes for housing and urban development, bring us closer to the economic, social and cultural rights that are being challenged and which many countries aim to deny. Finally, there is great interdependence and indivisibility in the whole of human rights.

UNESCO can fulfil a fundamental role in this universal struggle for citizenship and the humanisation of the places in which we live. Its work in the area of culture, education and social development opens a vast field of action to affirm, in all the world environments, those principles and paths to follow to guarantee the right to the full exercising of our citizenship as a vector for the humanisation of our cities.

Enrique Ortiz  
Secretary General  
Habitat International Coalition  
Mexico, D.F.

### Democracy and Governance of the City

A. RODRIGUEZ and L. WINCHESTER,  
*Cities, democracy and governance  
in Latin America*

JORDI BORJA, *The city, democracy  
and governability: the case of Barcelona*

### The Urban Environment

MICHAEL COHEN, *HABITAT II and  
the challenge of the urban environment:  
bringing together the two definitions of habitat*

F. RUTELLI, *Interview: Rome, sustainable city*

### Urban Research

RICHARD STREN, *Urban research and urban  
researchers in developing countries*

MARIO LUNGO, *The challenges of urban research:  
a Latin American perspective*

### Perspectives

C. SACHS-JEANTET, *Humanizing the city*

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The outlook of governance shows us that  
city government is not the exclusive affair  
of the local government institution.  
Coalitions of different social actors,  
the private sector, other national  
and international government bodies  
and their institutions also influence  
how the city is governed – sometimes  
decisively so.

ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ  
*International Social Science Journal*, No. 147, March 1996



# UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES AT THE CITY SUMMIT

(Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996)

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## Meetings:

- Dialogue 8 of the City Summit on "Citizenship and Democracy in the City of the 21st Century" (7 June 1996) ;
- Round-table on the Revitalisation of Inner Cities (6 June 1996);
- Youth Day Round Table (9 June).

## Exhibitions:

- The Revitalisation of Inner Cities;
- Traditional Architecture  
(also displayed at the UNESCO headquarters, Place de Fontenoy, Paris)
- 16 Video Films on Vernacular Architecture in Africa

*The Organisation is also co-sponsoring the following events:*

- Dialogue 1: "How Cities will look in the 21st Century" (4 June 1996)  
(World Heritage Centre and Architecture for Education Unit)
- Dialogue 3: "Water for Thirsty Cities",  
(5 June 1996), (Science/Hydrology)
- Dialogue 6: "Land and Rural/Urban Linkages to the Future"  
(Ecological Science/MAB), 4 June 1996
- Dialogue 9: "Cities Communications and the Media in the Information Society  
(10 June 1996) (Communication)

## Publications:

- *Towards the City of Solidarity and Citizenship*  
by Céline Sachs-Jeantet, 1996 (English, French, Spanish)  
MOST Background Paper prepared for HABITAT II Conference.
- *Managing Social Transformations in Cities. A Challenge to Social Sciences*,  
by Céline Sachs-Jeantet, 1995 (English, French, Spanish)  
MOST Discussion Paper Series N° 2
- *Urban Research in Latin America - Towards a Research Agenda*,  
by Licia Valladares, 1995 (English, French, Spanish)  
MOST Discussion Paper Series N° 4
- *International Social Science Journal*  
"Cities of the Future: Managing Social Transformations"  
(N° 147, March 1996)
- *Les libertés de la Ville, sous la direction de Emile Malet et Hervé Le Bras*,  
Editions Passages / Editions UNESCO, 1995
- *Construire pour la paix. Des abris pour la guerre, des maisons pour la paix*,  
par Alain Hays et Silvia Matuk, Editions Alternatives/Editions UNESCO; 1995.
- *Nature & Resources*  
Special Issue on Cities (Volume 32, Number 2, 1996).
- « Pour une ville solidaire » in *Urbanisme*, le magazine international de la ville,  
N° 286, Janvier-février 1996.

# Urban Projects under the MOST PROGRAMME

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## Cities, Environment and Social Relations between Women and Men

Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Argentina, Brazil, Poland, Bulgaria, and Switzerland are the countries that participate in this project which seeks to analyse the questions related to the environment in medium-sized cities, based on the consideration that the analysis of gender relations is a fundamental key to the understanding of the differential impact of environmental problems as well as of the social changes necessary to solve them and act on their causes.

Up till now reflections on environment and development or on gender and development evolved in parallel. The urban setting could provide the opportunity for making them converge, thus enriching the theoretical thinking on these concepts. A critical analysis of gender-planning, of the concepts of autonomy, sustainable development and eco-feminism shows that they are unsatisfactory: either they do not allow questioning of the present model of development, since both gender relations and the environment involve relations of power which are not questions; either these theories idealise the women-Nature relationship and do not analyse the social and historical causes of the problems but render man and culture responsible for all evil; or, they do not link theory and social practice, mainly because of a lack of communication between researchers, grass roots movements and the authorities.

The themes and propositions that will guide this research are:

- the environment in medium-sized cities
- an approach from a gender perspective
- comparative study of the environmental problem or problems that are considered as priorities in each of the cities included in the study
- special attention to their effects on public health
- a study of grass roots movements and how they function, in the light of the empowerment of women, to stimulate reflection on the possibilities of changing gender relationships and social relations in general.

The long term results of this project will be:

- creation of education material for different levels of schooling
- initiation of regular university training seminars in at least one institution per region that has participated in the project: further training of researchers and research projects on this theme, raising awareness of people working in the field of development and of researchers in general to the importance of gender questions in social transformation
- organisation of a working group in one institution per region, responsible for the development of research and training in appropriate technologies
- increased awareness of environmental problems in cities.

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## The Social Sustainability of Cities

The MOST project *Towards socially sustainable cities: building a knowledge base for Urban Management* is co-ordinated by Mario Polèse from Villes et Développement in Montréal, and Richard Stren from the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto and GUPI (Global Urban Research Institute), together with Diana Lee-Smith of Mazingira Institute, Nairobi, and ARNUM (African Research Network for Urban Management), and Mario Lunge, Universidad Centro Americana in San Salvador, and FLACSO (Facultad Latino-americano de Ciencias Sociales).

The project is sponsored by MOST, the Governments of Canada and Québec, and UTO (United Towns Organisation).

The central premise of the project maybe stated thus: "For the management of a city to be successful, its policies need to be conducive to "social Sustainability". Social Sustainability for a city is defined as development which is compatible with the harmonious evolution of civil society, fostering an environment conducive to the compatible contribution of culturally and socially diverse groups while at the same time promoting social integration through

improvements in the quality of life of all segments of the population.

The project builds on an internationally comparative approach comprising a diversity of institutions. Twelve cities considered for study are:

- (starting with North America): Montréal and Toronto;
- in the United States: Baltimore and Miami;
- In Europe: Geneva, Randstad, Lyon and Vienna;
- In Latin America: Sao Paulo and San Salvador;
- In Africa: Nairobi and Cape Town.

A workshop was held in Montréal and Toronto in October 1995. This meeting was attended by 12 teams from the twelve cities to discuss:

- housing and land;
- infrastructures and urban services;
- cultural and social policies;
- transport;
- employment, economy and management;
- governance.

Each city had its own different specific challenge within the context of social sustainability :

- in Toronto the high proportion of foreign-born residents;
- in Sao Paulo and San Salvador or Cape Town harsh social inequalities in very segregated cities;
- in Baltimore an increased spatial polarization between centres and suburbs.

For Sao Paulo, San Salvador and Nairobi, the goal of social sustainability is far from attainable.

The workshop decided to proceed with comparative studies, to construct a network, to broaden the above-mentioned themes linked to environment and gender issues, to collaborate with local social workers and NGO's and policy makers at the municipal level.

A brochure has been planned for the HABIBAT II Conference, and a book will be published.

The next meeting is being planned for October 1996 in Geneva with the very active support of the Swiss Government (Center of Geneva). The Swiss Government is also financing the work of a number of the research groups and the Canada council has granted 25.000 dollars to this MOST project.

## City Words

The project concerns ways of speaking about the city and its life. It is a long-term project, and is comparative, both within and between languages. It is co-ordinated by Francis Godard, PIR Villes.

The eight urban networks from various regions cover a number of eight linguistic groups: Arab, Chinese, Canadian English, British English, Anglo-American, Hindi, Urdu, the English spoken in the Indian Peninsula and in South Asia, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Latino-American and Portuguese.

The question is not to translate terms "word for word", to draw up an equivalent table between terms and concepts from various languages or to constitute a thesaurus, but to identify the terms to speak of urban realities by placing them in a context, in order to compare them.

The researchers distinguish four levels:

- popular lexicon;
- scientific lexicon (for geography, social statistics, sociology, urban studies);
- administrative lexicons;
- technical lexicons.

In the present phase researchers are studying:

- the type of words which cities bring to mind such as megalopolis, suburbs, quarters, neighbourhoods.
- surrounding areas: slums; favellas, barrios as proximate space.

This first phase will produce a publication in French and in English, presenting the linguistic correspondence between the semantic fields of each of the languages retained.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also supporting a glossary between the French, English, Arabic and Hindi languages for policy makers in the field of economy and trade.

PIR Villes has finalised a small brochure presenting the project for the HABITAT II Conference.

### *In the next issue*

- *The Internet for Social Sciences* by Craig Mckie and Paul de Guchteneire

*A succinct and comprehensible description of the Internet toolsets*

A prepublication is available on <http://www.unesco.org/most/research.htm>

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## **Industrial Decentralisation and Urban Development in India, with Consideration of south-east and East Asian Cases**

This project involves research teams from Jawaharlal Nehru University, the University of Amsterdam, the French institute of Pondicherry, and the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies of the French CNRS.

Decentralised industrialisation, hailed as a competitive alternative to the classic city-centred industrialisation model, may be more conducive to stimulating local initiative and allowing more balanced development. The objective of this project is to undertake a comparative analysis of socio-cultural and economic processes that foster industrial growth in small and medium towns and the vertical integration of these towns with national and international production systems in Asia.

This scientific endeavour is the result of co-operative efforts between three national research teams (Indian, Dutch and French). This research network will seek to expand and forge links with other networks.

The strategy and overall design of the project reflects the aim and the importance of adopting a multi-level approach:

- firstly to understand at the local level, the social and economic processes that have given rise to decentralised industrialisation and the forms of urbanisation and social change this has created;
- secondly to evaluate the impact at the local level of macro-economic policies and of the globalisation of markets and technology, and the new forms of economic integration and urbanisation they generate.

A number of key issues will be examined on the process of industrial decentralisation and its integration in regional, national or international economies:

- ◆ specific patterns of organisation (e.g. sub-contracting) that facilitate economic development:
  - political and administrative environment, social structure and its degree of dynamism;
  - integration of smaller urban units within broader economic networks;
  - comparative advantages of small firms in terms of responsiveness to changing demand and capacity to innovate;
  - extent to which these new economic opportunities rely on the segmentation

(e.g. along gender and ethnic lines) and the vulnerability of the labour force

- ◆ Relative advantages of a new economic rationale favouring the decentralisation of decision-making by private and public agents (compared to a large or centralised structure associated with urban concentration, which remains the norm in many developing countries)

The first intensive research phase of this project includes study of the following situations:

- the diversity of economic and regional differences of six industrially developed small and medium towns within India
- the peripheralisation of growth around two metropolitan cities in south Asia
- the salient characteristics of a sample of fast-growing towns in south-east and East Asia.

A number of documents and papers including technical reports and policy briefs will be issued regularly and disseminated widely:

- annual reports including a substantial document at the end of the first three years of the project;
- regular workshops and seminars followed by working papers and articles in international journals;
- technical reports, intermediate and final, focusing on themes of policy relevance regarding local and more general issues;
- international conferences to compare project's findings and discuss possible extension of the project ■ G.S.

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## **MOST-UNU Training Seminars on Mega-Cities**

The Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) of the United Nations University (Tokyo) are preparing a series of regional training seminars on governance, participation, citizenship, social, economic and infrastructure issues of mega-cities addressed to city specialists and practitioners.

The first seminar will take place in the Autumn of 1996 and will concern the mega-cities of Asia. In subsequent years, other regions, such as Latin America and Africa will be covered.

The Seminar series are funded, from the MOST side, through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO-UNU co-operation, as well as by the UNU/IAS funds.

# *The City* and its Social and Ecological Context



## A UNESCO Project

UNESCO has established an action-oriented project for the six-year period 1996-2001, entitled "Cities: management of social and environmental transformations". The first four years will be spent designing and implementing a small number of pilot activities. During the final biennium (2000-2001), a comparative evaluation of these experiments will be carried out, and proposals will be designed to improve policies for cities, mainly in respect of support for local communities in the context of urban management.

This project, anchored in the MOST (Management of Social Transformations) and MAB (Man and the Biosphere) programmes of UNESCO, will be implemented in partnership with local authorities, NGO's and grass-roots organisations. Co-operation with the international organisations and scientific communities is actively sought.

Since the experimental project relies on action in the field, it seeks to associate the social sciences with the natural sciences. The "social science" dimension will be centred on combating forms of social exclusion and, in particular, urban violence, drug abuse, delinquency, exploitation of children, discrimination against women, and will seek to foster various forms of solidarity and citizens' participation in the face of these cases of social dysfunction. The "natural science" approach will emphasise the ecological facets, taking the city as an ecosystem. In addition to the social aspects of urban life, it will introduce the physical, chemical and biological aspects, for example problems related to water and to the purification of urban waste, the destruction of green spaces and the lack thereof, the deterioration of the built-up environment, the deterioration of coastal

regions linked to urban growth, industrial hazards in the urban context and atmospheric pollution.

The premise of the project is as follows: the protection and the functioning of the city require the consumption of "things" which, through development of social policies, become goods owned in common, a part of the common heritage. This is the case with water, air, soil, silence, and the architectural context. It is the way in which the city consumes, transforms and brings about the deterioration of these collectively owned goods that will pattern the urban environment.

This *way* of transforming and consuming common goods implies a legal and financial framework, technical tools and above all actors, among them the inhabitants of the cities.

The goal of the project is to "encourage initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life and to promote the exercise of citizenship in an urban environment".

The present programme is therefore neither a project of urban management nor a programme of pure research. It is an action-oriented programme, based on certain criteria of choice. It should also form the basis for partnership among grass-roots communities, municipalities, the scientific community and the media with the impetus being provided by UNESCO. It will be conducted as case studies from which lessons will be drawn. It will form the core of an emerging network of social actors.

In order to determine the sites of the pilot activities, it is proposed to attach greater importance to the following criteria:

- A well delimited territory, as the site of the activity.
- A territory where there is an already-formed grass-roots community.
- Support to actions already underway, by a community.
- Environmental, economic, social, psycho-social and health sector activities for example:
  - 1) the relationship between water and women: support for the setting up of water posts by women in single-parent families;
  - 2) the relationship between decaying built-up areas and youth in the streets: support for pavement repair work by pre-delinquent youth – street children;
  - 3) the relationship between wastes and households: support for income-generating micro-projects (recycling of wastes, market gardening) with rotating community credit.
- Adoption of interactive strategies for:
  - renewing the urban environment,
  - developing the local economy,
  - enhancing the lives of the inhabitants.

It is assumed that the prerequisite for the individual's self-esteem is the self-esteem of the group which itself is based on respect for and the renewal of an element of the urban environment, for example, a street, a square, a river, etc.

- Partnership between the grass-roots community and local government.
- Along with action, the undertaking of a process to train local leaders and municipal officials.
- Support for action in the field and for the training process by a local government authority and an NGO from the North in order to promote South-North and North-South co-operation.
- Monitoring the action and process of training local actors through partnership with local research institutions.

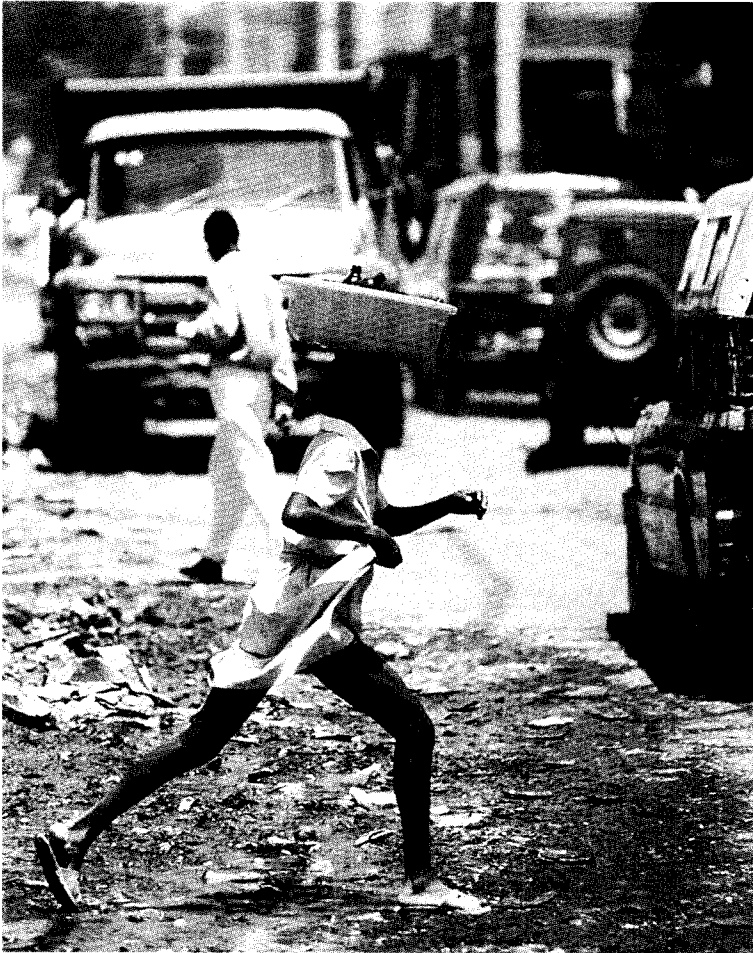
- Accompanying activities in terms of information notably through the media and radio.
- Setting up networks of the different social actors in the two pilot activities in order to promote South-South networks.
- Follow-up and assessment of each activity by a network of research workers in the natural and social sciences in order to draw lessons from activities in the field: these lessons would pertain to what works and what does not work, how it works, why the activity is functioning or not functioning, what is changing and what is not changing, what are the obstacles and what are the factors that make things easier.

### **Haiti/Port-au-Prince, cité-soleil districts, Sous-Fort, Caridad**

In the Haitian capital, with a population of 1.3 million, there are several thousands of children aged between 7 and 18 who are homeless and even without shelter and there are even fewer families to receive them. They subsist in small street groups in an environment of violence, where they evolve survival mechanisms.

In the face of this situation, the inhabitants of the cemetery district who belong to an Association for Street Children have created a Peoples' Education Centre in order to strive for the integration of these children through a community-based approach.

This association proposes to support initiatives by groups of young people in their districts who have undertaken space-appropriating action: work to repair roads and pavements, action for cleanliness and the recycling of wastes. To accompany these examples of local initiative, action would be undertaken to train municipal cadres and social organisers along with information-providing activities in Haiti as well as abroad. The main thrust of this action would be education in citizenship and democracy in the city. The Cimade



and the France-Haiti Partage Association would be involved along with the Maurice Sixto Homes as well as the GRD (Groupe Recherche Développement), an NGO that works in the recycling of urban waste, the Association des volontaires au Progrès and the Groupe de Recherches et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET). The Quisqueya University of Port-au-Prince would also be associated through the ENVIL network.

### **Senegal/Pikine (Dakar suburb)/ Yeumbel district**

Yeumbel is a peripheral district of the municipality of Pikine in the suburbs of Dakar.

Owing to the natural configuration of Dakar's location (which is peninsular), Pikine, to the north-east of downtown Dakar is one of the two municipalities, with Guédiawaye, that have experienced the bulk of population growth in Dakar.

Yeumbel (in the Pikine district) which is a former "traditional" village has become a working-class district in the outer suburbs. Most of its 7,000-odd resident households have no connections of their own to the potable water system. Certain parts of the district have no access to the household garbage collection system.

Owing to urban unemployment which has affected the majority of the population, especially young school-leavers, the inhabitants of the district are constantly undertaking action to create living conditions that are more dignified and less precarious. This action is supported by mutual assistance and solidarity groups such as savings and credit banks, women's development groups, cultural and sports associations, etc.

The association ENDA is planning a participatory project at Yeumbel for research and action on local development ventures conducted essentially by women. The proposed approach is based on participation by the concerned groups and other local partners (such as the municipality, the district, medical services and health services) in the identification, planning, financing, implementation and follow-up and assessment of different activities to be carried out in the district such as:

- the improvement of the public health and environment of the district by the building of toilets and filtering wells in dwelling units that have no such facilities; the setting up of water posts, and the collection and recycling of household garbage;
- the improvement of the living conditions of least privileged groups by providing support to income-generating micro-projects (recycling of wastes, market gardening, etc. ) and ventures of community interest (rotating credit, vaccination campaigns, etc.).

Multi-institutional partnerships, involving NGO's from the North, cities and universities, will be established to backup action supported by UNESCO ■ GDC



# OTHER UNESCO ACTIVITIES ON URBAN PROBLEMS

## *Working Towards the City of the 21st Century*



WHILE already implementing specific actions on social, cultural and ecological aspects of urban life, UNESCO will support the follow-up of HABITAT II by increasing research, training, information, dissemination and initiation of pilot projects in the field of urban and environmental management.

### Other key UNESCO efforts include:

- The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme which did pioneering studies for over two decades, (1970 to 1990), on cities as ecosystems;
- The International Hydrological Programme, working on water problems in cities.
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre and its cities in the World Heritage List; this programme created a World Heritage Cities Network in 1991 in Quebec and, since then, The International Management Guide for Historical Cities has become one of the important tools in assisting Municipalities in the elaboration of local policies towards the preservation of historic city centres within the urban development of towns.
- Within the International Campaigns for the safeguarding of cities, UNESCO has made several appeals to International Community efforts for the restoration of Historic Monuments and buildings in historic cities such as Cartagenas de Indias or Fez.
- Urban Historic Centres damaged by natural disasters or war like Beirut or Sarajevo, benefit from rehabilitation and revitalisation programmes,
- Promotional Programs for vernacular architecture and traditional houses, with local materials self-construction workshops by inhabitants within poor areas, are supported by technical International Co-operation, Non Governmental Organisations or Universities

like, in the historic cities of Mauritania or in the suburbs of Guadalajara.

- A Policy level meeting of the mayors of some eight mega cities will be organised in 1997 within the transdisciplinary project "Environment and Population Education and Information for Development". It will be attended by representatives of relevant United Nations Agencies, NGO's and voluntary movements as well as research institutions
- An informal educational programme "street's children" will back Up Non Governmental Organisations in the perspective of the social reinsertion of children.
- An inter-regional educational programme oriented towards the eradication of urban

*The City Summit encompasses many issues. There are hard questions to answer: how can we improve the governance and finance of human settlements? What policies are needed to improve conditions for the poorest people, families and communities? How can we ensure basic hygienic conditions in urban areas, while avoiding long-term damage to the environment? Can we ensure that, by a target date, adequate shelter will exist for all? What must be done to mitigate the effects of natural disaster and war? Can the cycle of deprivation, conflict, devastation and failure to develop be broken?*

**BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

## Best Practices Databank in the Management of Social Transformations

MOST is setting up a “**Best Practices**” **Databank** where the “best” refers to the cases in which creative and sustainable solutions have been put in place to provide substantive responses to pressing social problems. The idea of the databank is based on the fact that no satisfactory solution has yet been found to the matter of collecting and circulating experiences from over the world relating to the management of social transformations. Thus, the main goal of the Databank is to contribute to the design of effective policy-making by providing precise and compact information on existing successful projects.

MOST is launching a pilot project with the “**Union Iberoamericana de Municipalistas**”, an NGO with members in Latin America and in Spain, on local and municipal projects concerning **Social Exclusion and Social Integration**. After the Social Summit of Copenhagen the term “social exclusion” has become one of the key concepts amongst policy-makers and analysts to understand the effects of social transformations. This concept, with much rhetorical force, covers a wide variety of projects which promote socio-economic cohesion, ethno-cultural integration and poverty reduction.

The Databank is designed to be an effective way to communicate and make visible alternative solutions designed by policy-makers all over the world. The collected experiences will be widely diffused by UNESCO via the MOST Clearing House on the Internet, and in printed form ■ **LR/PdG**  
*Internet address:* <http://www.unesco.org/most>

violence is developed in schools, through UNESCO’s associated schools scheme, as part of the Culture of Peace Programme.

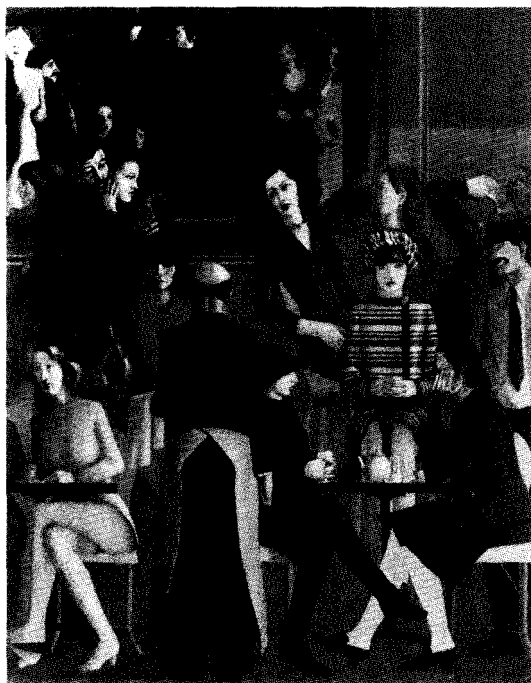
- A new programme will be engaged for the training of young people in charge of recycling urban waste and garbage as well as the programme for sports in cities.

- In addition to the above, a training programme will be concentrated on city actors such as architects, town planners, social workers, city technicians and managers, as well as mayors and regional authorities.
- A MOST Clearing House on cities research has been created on Internet as a tool to increase and speed up communication and information between researchers and specialised Institutions.
- A MOST data-base on Internet will provide information about the best social practices based on field experiences against social and cultural exclusion, poverty and violence in cities as well.

A communication policy for urban town planners, civil servants, teachers, journalists, media specialists and civic organisations has been created.

In addition, a UNESCO Mayors for Peace Prize is under preparation. It will enhance specific actions realised by Municipalities world-wide to improve urban living conditions, taking into account cultural, and ethnic diversity and the promotion of active Citizenship and Solidarity ■ **BC**

*Humanizing  
the City*



# Globalisation & Urbanisation

## *A Concern for MOST*

**E**CONOMIC globalisation has changed the world, and a challenge is put forward to the State and other international actors in terms of definition of their new economic, social and political roles. Over-centralised State power in economic and social ruling is no longer satisfactory; and yet, the idea of an emasculated and powerless State is unjustifiable and groundless. The MOST Programme, under its third major theme which focuses on coping strategies at local and regional levels with global economic, technological and environmental transformations, aims at reinforcing the need to promote scientifically-based and policy-relevant knowledge on relationships between urbanisation and globalisation processes. For instance, the MOST project on "Industrialisation, decentralisation and urban development in India with consideration of South-east and East Asian cases", implemented by scholars from India, France and the Netherlands,

is currently underrating a comparative analysis of socio-cultural and economic processes that foster industrial growth in small and medium towns in Asia.

In fact, globalisation through economic world markets and progressive deregulation, the spread of liberal democracy, the transformation of production and labour relations, and new information technologies does not pre-empt the role of the State in regulating territories, spaces and people. Globalisation calls for a review of the role of the State in terms of management of its territories and resources, not just as a minimal regulating structure of civil society, but also as a political force which programmes globalisation processes according to social and economic priorities.

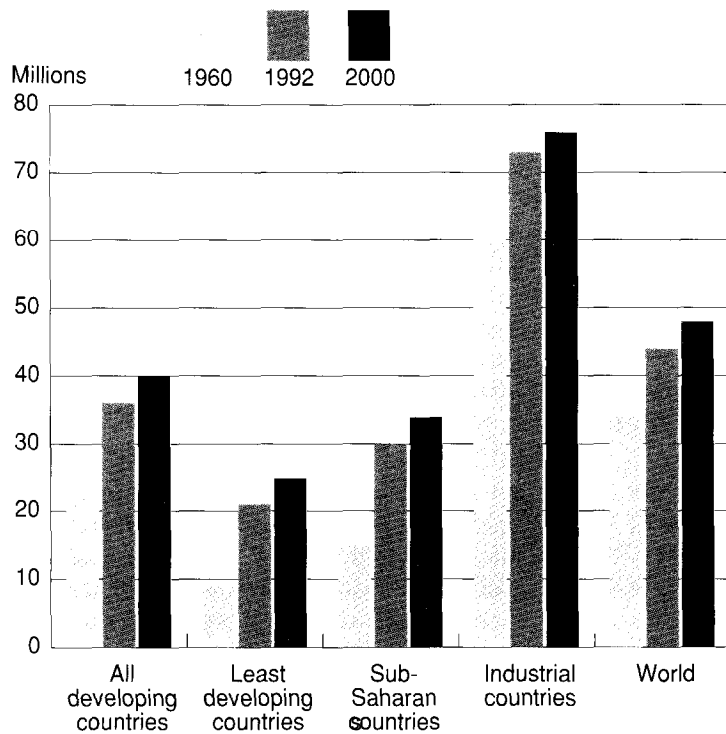
The translational market is unable to manage all natural and human resources without producing what classical economists would call "external effects", which include poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation and energy waste. Thus, the State must not subscribe only to an ideology of market efficiency. As a basic rule, globalisation processes create new forms of integration and enhance competition among economic and social actors; however, it also leads to new forms of exclusion: exclusion stemming from rising unemployment or precarious jobs, exclusion through the lack of sufficient social services and security nets, exclusion through a culture based upon excessive and unsustainable consumption, exclusion from political decision-making, and finally exclusion from the common understanding of current events.

Urbanisation resulting from unbalanced industrial growth and "de-ruralisation" caused by forced rural migration constitute both major features of globalisation. Cities, in industrially advanced and developing countries, are attracting thousands of people ahead of their economic capacity to provide jobs, homes, water, sanitation, and many other

*Growth Rate  
of some World  
Metropolis*

<i>Cities</i>	<i>Population as % of urban population of the country</i>	<i>Growth rate (1970-75)</i>	<i>Growth rate (1990-95)</i>
Alma-Ata	12	2,5	1,7
Bombay	6	3,3	4,2
Buenos Aires	38	1,6	0,7
Istanbul	19	5,1	3,7
Kampala	38	3,2	4,7
Kinshasa	33	4,7	4
Mexico City	25	4,3	0,7
New York	9	-0,4	0,3
Paris	23	0,9	0,3
Sao Paulo	13	4,1	2
Seoul	33	4,9	2
Sydney	25	2,1	0,4
Teheran	19	5,2	1,5
Tokyo	26	3,7	1,4
Toronto	18	1,8	3,5
Tripoli	69	10,5	4,6

Source : UNDP Human Development Report, 1995.



*Urban Population (1960-2000)*

Source :  
IMF World Economic Report ,  
1994.

basic services. Uncontrolled global processes and the incapacity to manage urban demands contribute to urban squalor, where social tensions, rampant crime, youth distresses and transgressions are on the rise.

In urban areas, globalisation can be seen as a factor of uniformity of spatial and

social disparities. Social uniformity arising from globalisation processes is characterised by the fact that the beneficiaries (those who benefit from advantages incurred by globalisation) and the victims (those who suffer from this process) belong to similar social categories both in the North and the South. Geographic and spatial disparities also follow similar dynamics in different urban areas of the world : the rules organizing urban space are basically parameters of social and spatial segregation, differentiation and separation. Thus, development policies must consider the lack of concrete social regulation possibilities offered by global markets. Flexibility and organisation capacity of the private sector and the "organised civil society" are often overestimated. The State, but also the municipalities, must make the necessary effort to contribute to and ensure the sound functioning of basic and vital urban functions. As many scholars stressed in the last issue of the International Social Science Journal, prepared as a UNESCO contribution to HABITAT II, cities must begin to develop strategies to cope with the major tensions stemming from economic and technological globalisation ■ CM

**Countries with MOST Liaison committees:**

- Argentina,
- Australia,
- Austria,
- Belgium
- Benin,
- Brazil,
- Burundi,
- Canada,
- Colombia,
- Croatia,
- Czech Republic,
- Egypt,
- Finland,
- France,
- India,
- Iran,
- Italy,
- Japan,
- Jordan,
- Kazakstan,
- Latvia,
- Malawi,
- Malta,
- Netherlands,
- Norway,
- Pakistan,
- Philippines,
- Republic of Belarus,
- Russia,
- Slovakia,
- Sweden,
- Switzerland,
- Tanzania
- Thailand,
- Trinidad & Tobago,
- Tunisia,
- Vietnam,
- Zaire.

**News from National Liaison Committees**

Tanzania has recently formed the National Liaison Committee for the MOST Programme.

The following institutions are involved:

1. Faculty of Social Sciences (University of Dar Es Salaam)
2. Ministry of Community Development, Women and children
3. Department of Youth Development (Ministry of Labour and Youth Development).
4. Department of Youth – Zanzibar (Ministry of Information, Culture, Tourism and Youth)
5. Tanzania Law Reform Commission
6. Ministry of Education and Culture (Commissioner for Culture)
7. Ministry of Education, Zanzibar
8. UNESCO National Commission of Tanzania (Social Sciences Committee Co-ordination).

**C O N F E R E N C E S**

**MOST Regional and Sub-regional Conference Series**

The series of regional and sub-regional MOST conferences, that started in 1994, with the aim of identifying research and policy priorities in MOST fields, will be completed, with the sub-regional meeting for English-speaking Caribbean countries, to take place in Jamaica, in October 1996. Also, the Second European Social Science Conference, in the Spring of 1997, in Bratislava, will devote half of its Agenda to discussing the MOST policy and research priorities in both Western and Eastern Europe. The meetings that have already taken place concerned the Asia-Pacific region, the Central Asian sub-region, the Latin American and Caribbean region (Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries), the Pacific sub-region, the Arctic region (northern parts of Scandinavia, Canada and the Russian Federation), the Central and Eastern European region and the Arab region.

A synthesis of the academic and policy implications of all these conferences will be published by the MOST Programme and will be available in 1997 from the Secretariat in Paris.

**Arab Region:  
Highlights from MOST Conference**

*Tunis, 26-28 February 1996*

This regional MOST conference was attended by some 60 academics and policy-makers from 11 countries in the Arab region. The conference benefited strongly from the interest and support of the host country. The meeting was attended by the Tunisian Minister of the Interior, Mr Mohammed Jegham, the Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Mr Kamal Hadj Sassi and by several

representatives of international organisations working in the region.

Highlights of this meeting include the lively discussion around the theme of ethnic diversity in the Arab region. A keynote paper on this subject by Prof. Saad Eddin Ibrahim on the "Management and mismanagement of diversity, the case of ethnic conflict and state building in the Arab world" will be published shortly as a MOST discussion paper.

Participants emphasised the need for reinforcement of co-operation of Arab researchers and research institutions internationally. A proposal was made to establish a co-ordinating organisation for the social sciences following the model of CLACSO in Latin America or CODESRIA in Africa. MOST will follow up this initiative in co-operation with the Arab Association for Sociology and with other NGO's working in the social sciences.

The discussion on the state of the social sciences in the Arab region showed that the infrastructure in which the social sciences are to operate is problematic in those countries lacking the democratic freedom necessary for researchers to work and publish. It was stressed that social science research can only be effective in contributing to policy-making if it has scientific autonomy.

The participants underlined the importance of studying urbanisation in the region as one of the central mechanisms in social transformation. Special attention should be paid to the socio-cultural aspects of urbanisation. The participants debated at length the issue of globalization and emphasised the role that the Arab region could and should play in this regard.

As a major outcome of the conference several research projects were proposed including a conflict management project and a project examining agricultural policies. A recommendation was made to promote international exchange and training for students and researchers. MOST intends to

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The UNESCO office in Tunis which specialises in the social and human sciences has planned the following decentralised MOST Programme activities:

- production of an inventory of social science researchers and institutions in the Arab World, and a general bibliography in this area; attention will initially be focused on Algeria, Morocco Mauritania, Tunisia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Egypt;
- Organisation of two expert meetings with researchers from approved MOST projects in the Arab region;
- Development of a joint MOST-ISSC project, with the co-operation of Palestine, on population movements

*For more information on these activities contact:*

**Francisco Carrillo**, Director, UNESCO Office, B.P. 363 Mutuelville, 1002 Tunis, Tunisia

**Members of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST in 1996-1997:**

Angola, Australia, Austria, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*The Scientific Steering Committee of the MOST Programme met in Paris from 15-19 April 1996 to assess MOST research proposals and progress reports from accepted projects. The next issue of this newsletter will provide information on newly accepted MOST projects.*

**List of SSC members:**

Prof. Elvi Whittaker  
*Chairperson (Canada)*  
Prof. Norbert Lechner  
*Vice-Chairperson (Chile)*  
Prof. Narifumi M. Tachimoto  
*Vice-Chairperson (Japan)*  
Prof. Yoginder K. Alagh  
*(India)*  
Prof. Maurice Aymard  
*(France)*  
Prof. Arnlaug Leira  
*(Norway)*  
Prof. Antoni Kuklinski  
*(Poland)*  
Mr. Davinder Lamba  
*(Kenya)*  
Prof. Licia Valladares  
*(Brazil)*

cooperate with the European Union to join forces in this respect through the MED Campus programme.

With the support of UNESCO's Tunis Office, MOST will organise two small workshops for the further development of those projects which were initiated at the conference.

The final report as well as the Recommendations are available on the MOST Internet Clearinghouse or on paper upon request ■ P. de G.

**New urban communities: past experiences and responses to the future**  
*Cairo, Egypt, 13-17 October 1996*  
- **INTA20 Annual Congress**

The Conference will address issues such as:

- "New urban Communities in Retrospect: the good intentions behind the initial policy of new towns".
- "Readjustment of new urban communities thinking, planning and implementation"
- "New Urban communities and future urbanisation: the readjustment of new urban communities thinking, planning and implementation; the adaptability of the new urban communities policy in light of the prevailing economic dynamics and change"
- "Modernisation without compromising the cultural heritage; modernisation without endangering the environmental balance"

Major technical visits are part of the programme:

- The greater Cairo general metro
- The north Gamalia renovation in old Islamic Cairo
- Infrastructure development
- Zamalek District project
- Coastal development
- Marina City
- El Alamein
- 10th of Ramadan
- Ismailia
- 6th of October

A special reduced fee is available for delegates from lesser developed countries

*For information please contact the INTA Secretariat at Nassau Dillenburgstraat 44, NL-2596 AE, The Hague, The Netherlands. Tel. (31-70) 324 45 26; FAX: (31-70) 3280727.*

**The Scandinavian Countries' meeting on MOST**

*Helsinki, Finland, 11-12 January 1996*

The Finnish National Commission for UNESCO organised this meeting, with the participation of National Commissions and MOST Liaison Committees of the host country, Norway and Sweden, as well as the social science research councils, and

researchers from universities and research centres from these three countries.

The Agenda included issues such as the consolidation of MOST in 1996-1997, after the start-up period of 1994-1995, an assessment of project development strategies, funding opportunities and procedures, especially at the national level, promotion of national level activities and support, and the crucial role of national MOST Liaison Committees. In this connection, the MOST Liaison committees of Nordic countries will participate in May, in Stockholm, in the Joint Meeting of the National Committees of all UNESCO scientific programmes - the four others being in ecology (MAB), geology (IGCP), hydrology (IHP) and oceanography (IOC), to explore possibilities of interdisciplinary joint projects.

The meeting recommended that:

- the MOST Programme be consolidated during the 1996-1997 biennium
- Liaison Committees be established to support the development of MOST projects; it is, however, up to each country to decide on the actual structure and status of the committee. All Nordic countries should establish liaison committees prior to the May 1996 joint meeting in Stockholm of liaison committees of the five UNESCO scientific programmes (IOC, IHP, MOST, MAB, IGCP)
- surveys of MOST relevant research be conducted in each Nordic country
- National research councils and financing agencies - including NOS-S - consider supporting the MOST project on "Coping in the Circumpolar Region with Global Economic, technological and Environmental Phenomena and other initiatives promoted by the national liaison committees
- Joint MOST research projects be generated in the context of inter-university co-operation
- Nordic academic communities participate in and support the Bratislava Conference on Social Sciences due to be held in 1997
- A flexible approach be found to funding of projects
- National liaison committees may initiate MOST projects independently and grant the MOST label to these projects at the national level and communicate such initiatives to the MOST Secretariat.

The Helsinki meeting proved to be very useful for assessing the operations of MOST in 1994-1995 and providing expert advice on its future strategies and actions. We hope that Member States in other regions and sub-regions will take the initiative of organizing such meetings. ■ A.K

## NEWS FROM PROJECTS

# MOST Programme Area of Multiculturalism and Multiethnicity

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### ● MOST- APMRN

The MOST-Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) held its first annual conference in Bangkok from 11-13 March 1996. The network is comprised of research teams from the following countries: Australia, Indonesia, Fiji, New Zealand, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, and the People's Democratic Republic of China.

The objectives of the conference which were as follows:

- to obtain the commitment of each official delegate to work toward establishing a national migration research network (if this has not already been achieved);
- to discuss and agree upon a common workplan and schedule of activities;
- to design an effective administrative structure for the network
- to explain and agree upon UNESCO's role in the APMRN and particularly the necessity for establishing close ties with the UNESCO national commissions of each country;
- to determine funding possibilities for the network;
- to determine a satisfactory publication strategy for the network;
- to identify migration training and educational needs in the APMRN member countries;

The morning of the first day was devoted to the presentation Country-level Issues Papers. These will be published by UNESCO as the first volume of the MOST-APMRN and will be available from the MOST Secretariat as of August 1996. This resulted in the group agreeing on four themes 4 themes that capture a number of significant contemporary research issues in migration studies, which have relevance for both academic and policy-oriented inquiry into social, political and environmental dimensions of migration and increasing ethno-cultural diversity in the Asia-Pacific region. Each country will participate in the theme or themes pertinent to its particular migration problems. **Agreement was reached, by all national teams on the following APMRN workplan, 1996-1998:**

- an elaboration, in theoretical and policy oriented terms of dynamics of major migration systems (including undocumented migration) operating within the Asia-Pacific region, with particular reference to social and a political dimensions of globalisation. This broad theme could incorporate a comprehensive survey of current migration policies in the region with regard to their impacts on short-term and long-term human resource transfers at national, regional and global levels.

*A particular publication output from this research initiative could be a special issue of the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal – a journal which has already published leading papers on the transformation of migration systems in the region.*

- an exploration of population mobility in the region in terms of the policy implications of an increasing mis-match between what local societies and environments can sustain, and the demands placed on these societies and environments by essentially transient populations. Flows of relevance here include tourism, short-term labour circulation, contract labour migration,
- circulation of highly-skilled employees of multinational companies, and possibly some of the return flows in the Pacific Islands and Asia. One idea underlying this research initiative is the consequences for people and places of temporary transfers of people from essentially low per capita resource consumption societies to societies where resource consumption is high (e.g. contract labour migration between Thailand and Taiwan, or population movement between Tonga and New Zealand). Another idea is the increasing pressure which exponential growth in short-term circulation, especially that associated with tourism is having on natural environments (scenic areas, nature reserves, national parks, etc. )

*A particular publication output from this research initiative would be a UNESCO Press report or book (possibly published with the support of UNFPA, given the links between this theme and the post-Cairo ICPD Plan of Action. This will be followed up by Richard Bedford from New Zealand, who has done extensive work in the past with UNFPA). There may also be links with the MAB Programme and the MOST*

*Secretariat could consider a joint Publication with MAB.*

- research on the consequences of international migration for inter-group relations including relations with indigenous peoples with particular reference to the policy implications of increasing ethnic diversity for concepts of citizenship, the rights of migrants and their families in both countries of destination and origin, and the significance of social networks for the emigration process.

*A particular publication output from this research initiative could be a special issue of the ISSJ*

- research on the consequences of international migration for international migration (including return migration) and entrepreneurial activity in receiving and sending countries, with particular reference to both small-scale enterprises (including the operation of flea markets) and the activities of multinational companies. The roles of immigration policy, social networks and economic development plans/strategies at the national level would be highlighted in this research.

*A particular publication output from this research initiative could be a special issue of the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, or the journal Asia-Pacific Viewpoint (formerly Pacific Viewpoint), edited at the Victoria University of Wellington and now published by Basil Blackwell (UK)*

Throughout the APMRN's stages of work there will be seminars and training programmes both for policy-makers and academics. An effort will be made to communicate migration issues through public media, such as newspapers, magazines and press releases ■ NA

## ● **Multicultural Policies and Modes of Citizenship in European Cities**

Under the auspices of the UNESCO/MOST Programme, on 19-20 February 1996 a meeting was held at the "Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales, Paris", in order to develop a project initiative by way of a full MOST project proposal. This meeting carried forward achievements made at previous development meetings in Gimo and Stockholm, Sweden, which were sponsored by UNESCO World Decade for Cultural Development and the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO.

The project under development, entitled "Multicultural Policies and Modes of Citizenship in European Cities", involves comparative and interdisciplinary research concerning ways in which immigrant and minority groups have

gained access (or been confronted with obstacles) to decision-making processes and other ways of participating in the municipal public sphere. This includes the examination of local authority frameworks and immigrant or ethnic minority group activities with regard to local authority consultative bodies, civil service positions, political parties, public funding (e.g. organisations, legal assistance, training), housing, cultural policy and specific elements for urban regeneration. Preliminary material, fieldwork locations, researchers and thematic elements arise from the linkage of two prior research projects: "Multiculturalism and Political Integration in European Cities" (supported by the European Commission's COST-A2 Migration Programme and the British Economic and Social Research Council) and "Culture and Neighbourhoods (managed by the Council of Europe's Council for Cultural Co-operation). The Directors of both of these prior projects, respectively Prof. John Rex and Dr. Franco Bianchini, are both Advisors to the new initiative. Steering Committee members and proposed researchers for the new project are trained in Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, Human Geography and Cultural Studies.

The project will have a duration of "three plus three" years. 1996-98 will see a consolidation of the link between the COST - A and Council of Europe Projects through a comparison of findings, application for new research funding, and the commencement of fieldwork in chosen cities to represent certain social and political conditions (namely Birmingham, Liege, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Lyon, Marseilles, Bilbao, Milan, Berlin). Findings from this first three-year phase will be presented in 1998 in Stockholm, when that city is European City of Culture. The second three-year period will involve further comparative work in these cities together with research in other, yet to be confirmed cities, including ones in Eastern Europe.

Steve Vertovec, University of Warwick & NA

## ● **Multicultural Societies: Clarification of concepts and terminology**

(CNRS Research Group  
"Law, Cultures, Languages")

This project which was accepted by the Scientific Steering Committee of the MOST Programme at its June 1995 meeting, aims at developing a research potential and the theoretical tools to grapple with the increasingly used terms and concepts used in media reporting of various situations related to Multiculturalism and Multiethnicity. The project aims not at producing



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# METROPOLIS

Metropolis is a co-operative, international research project that seeks to stimulate multidisciplinary research on the effects of international migration on urban centres involving over twelve countries and international organisations. The project has two overarching objectives:

- First, it will provide policy makers at all levels of government, as well as community and business leaders with solid information on which to anchor their policy ideas—thus integrating research more systematically into policy development
- Second, it will develop an inventory of “best international practices” that identifies the most effective solutions to the many practical challenges that face all countries which have significant numbers of foreign-born persons in their large urban centres

To accomplish these objectives, Metropolis proposes to encourage major academic institutions to engage in systematic research supported, in the initial stages, by the public and private sectors.

Two planning meetings, co-sponsored by the European Commission and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, were held in Brussels (in October 1995 and February 1996) to establish collaboration and commitment to work together in realising the international research agenda. In addition to participating countries, and research institutes, the meetings included representation from the EC, OECD and UNESCO/MOST Programme

The project will feature a series of major, annual conferences to be hosted by “partner countries”. Italy will host the first such event in November 1996. The conferences will focus on distinct policy themes and challenges requiring strategic management and will bring together senior researchers, members of the policy community and private sector, “stakeholders”. They will provide a focal point for the discussion of existing research and a venue for unveiling new “state of the art” work commissioned expressly for the Metropolis project.

Research results will be communicated broadly and a selection of papers presented at the annual conferences will be published in a journal of proceedings.

*For further information on the Metropolis project, please contact*

the **Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada - Metropolis Project at (819) 9941390**

a universal glossary of such usage but rather at identifying the implications of the use of various terms on public behaviour and public understanding of the issue being reported.

The choice of concepts and terminology will be made using the following criteria for selection:

1. *The importance of the problems such or such a society must face during a given period.* This priority will allow this clarification work to have a short-term effect on resolving questions in those societies under consideration.
2. *The way in which the different disciplines in the social and human sciences have analysed problems within multicultural and multiethnic societies in their different national contexts.* This approach permits an understanding of the functioning of concepts within complex societies .
3. *Ethnic and national designations identifying concrete historical realities.* The transformations which have occurred to ethnic and national designations (official and/or officious names, self-identifiers, etc. )

This programme is being undertaken by a network of teams from the main Western European countries, Russia, the GIS, Hungary, the Balkans,

the Maghreb, USA, Canada and Chile. The network is lead by the CNRS Research Group “Law, Culture, Languages” (GDR 11 78) with the help of Paris X Nanterre and Paul Valéry (Montpellier III) universities.

The network is planning a series of volumes describing multicultural and multiethnic realities in a number of countries and analysing the concepts with which these are normally treated. These publications, in the forms of school or popular textbooks will contribute to presenting a less emotional viewpoint of these realities, in particular to the problems presented by the existence of minority groups.

The project will take place over 4 years from 1996-2000 and will also concern the organisation by the network’s teams of a certain number of symposia, culminating in a large international conference on “prevention and Resolution of Conflicts in Multicultural and Multiethnic Societies” to present the synthesis of results.

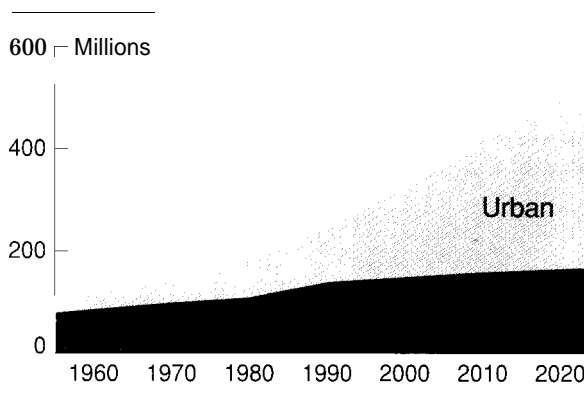
*Contact:*

**Henri Giordan**, 61 Traverse des Eaudes,  
30250 VILLEVIEILLE, tel. and fax 33 66 80 44 50,  
email Giordan@u-paris10.fr

# Cities in the Arab World: *In Search of an Integrated Urban Environment*

**T**HE consequences of the historical development of the traditional urban fabric in the Islamic World are linked to the common conception and production of urban fabric in Islamic cultures. Over the centuries, the architectural specificity of the various historical time periods were integrated into the existing urban fabric.

From the 1st century of Hegira, architectural and urban principles coming from Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Sassanite periods were assimilated to the new religious situation. Old cities like Tunis, Kairouan, Algiers, Tlemcen, Marrakech and Fez are testimonies through specific urban landscaping of regional techniques, socio-economic and political



*Urban/rural  
Population Change  
in the Middle East  
and North Africa*

inputs related to the religion and the inhabitants traditional way of life.

This capacity, observed in the Arab region, to integrate new inputs through the joining of various civilisations was disrupted by colonisation. The subsequent rapid urbanisation of countries with limited resources has typically resulted in a steady and marked deterioration of the urban environment.

Successive migrations have increased the demand for liveable and affordable housing beyond means of the government to provide the subsidies required to produce it. Density has increased as housing shortage has forced the subdivision of the old buildings into tiny units and a lack of maintenance has accelerated their deterioration, while original city dwellers are replaced by a poorer, often rural population. Traditional urban quarters have been particularly affected, as their central location has proved attractive to migrants seeking cheap housing and unskilled jobs readily available in the city's small business and workshops: housing in historic urban fabric is too dense and decaying, rehabilitation

works are expansive and neglected; the traditional know-how is fading away and living conditions are not decent anymore, some handicrafts activities are increasing the process of decay spurred by pollution. Old infrastructure is used well beyond its design capacity and breaks in winter and sewerage systems are common place, creating health hazards and threatening the structural integrity of buildings through shifts in the watertable and erosion damage to foundations. Sometimes the logic of government urban redevelopment projects destroys the whole traditional neighborhoods without too much concern for the Islamic Heritage of the Arab City.

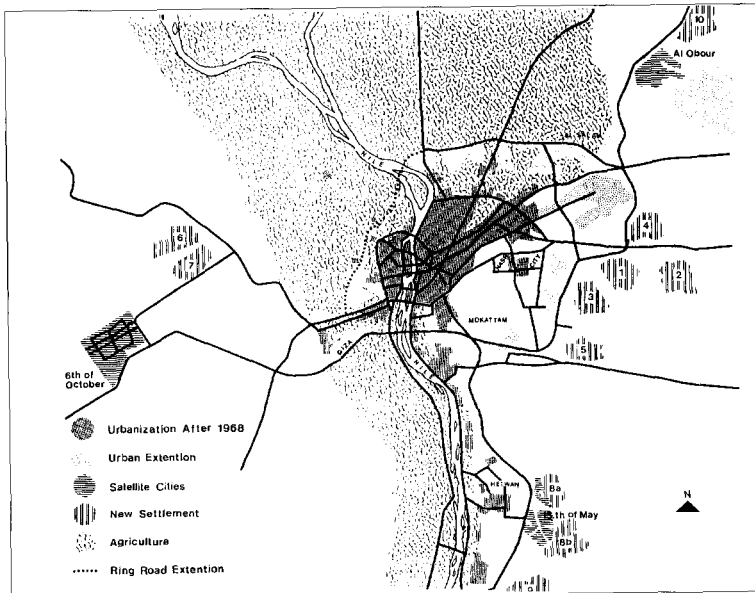
Some historical public Facilities, even when physically safeguarded, survive in a dejected and lonely setting, devoid of their former urban physical and social fabric. Following the colonial period, most types of houses built in Arab countries are one way or another inspired by western models of architecture, excluding the very few architects inspired by Hassan Fathy who successfully adapted the traditional method of designing and building houses with the requirements of present day life.

New dwellings often compelled inhabitants to pay for imported technologies, their maintenance and energy consumption. The fencing of many education] buildings and their mosques, miles away from city centres is also not an uncommon practice: in Arab cities, planning is often non-existent; if it does exist, it is frequently non comprehensive, or not implemented and fails to provide an integrated urban environment, which would maintain the values and the qualities of traditional urban fabrics.

## **Cairo**

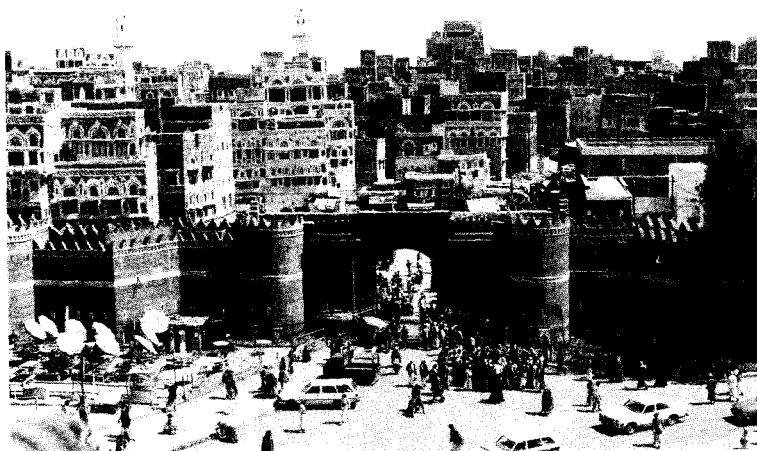
In less than a hundred years, the population of Cairo has grown about ten fold. In 1990, 12 million people were living in an area that covers about 32 000 hectares; the proper city has an area of about 22 000 hectares which means a city with a very high density.

"Beautifully located, its old quarters have the special character of all medieval Arab-Islamic Cities". The historic core exhibits striking contrast of deterioration with vitality. After the second world war a flood of migrants poured into Cairo from all over Egypt. An unsurmountable housing shortage was generated, and haphazard illegal development sprung forth.

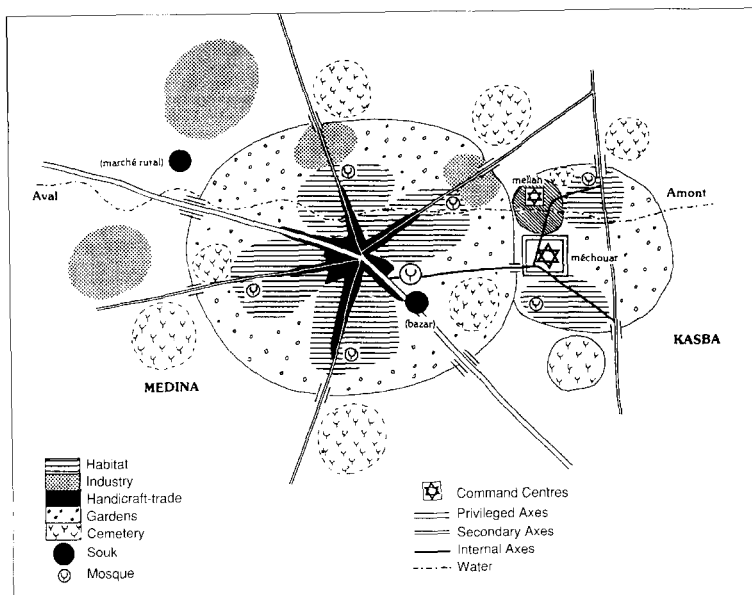


Greater Cairo Urbanization Plan

Source: *Urban Regeneration and the Shaping of Growth*. The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, 1990



Sana'a: An Urban Wonder of Tradition and Modernity



Plan of the Moroccan Precolonial City

Source: *Les équipements structurels de l'espace social 1975*. Ministère de l'urbanisme, Maroc, 1972

Few would have predicted the dramatic expansion in the two decades between 1976 and 1996 that doubled the city's size from 15,000 to 30,000 hectares, triggered by the appearance of people lacking education and urbanity.

## Bagdad

Within seventy years, Baghdad went from the level of a regional town of less than 200,000 inhabitants to a metropolis of 3 million inhabitants. Pressure on the historic city was increasing by the fact that the Modern city centre was growing within the historical urban fabric, using the Old City to provide construction material. The Old City suffers from the social mutation as well as from the increase in commercial and industrial activities which may trigger the explosion of the physical framework of the traditional urban fabric.

## The Old City of Sana'a

"an exception"

A visitor from a North African City would be surprised to find a Medina that does not exude rural poverty: rural immigrants are not attempting to take the city over its ancient ramparts. Due mainly to the infrastructure improvements a delicate and precarious balance has been miraculously maintained between Sana'a and its citizens, between inhabitants and souk traders, traditions and a strong desire for modernity.

The Aga Khan prize for Islamic Architecture was awarded in October 1995 to the Old City of Sana'a.

## Tunis

1980 total population 70,000 inhabitants

56% living in old deteriorating houses

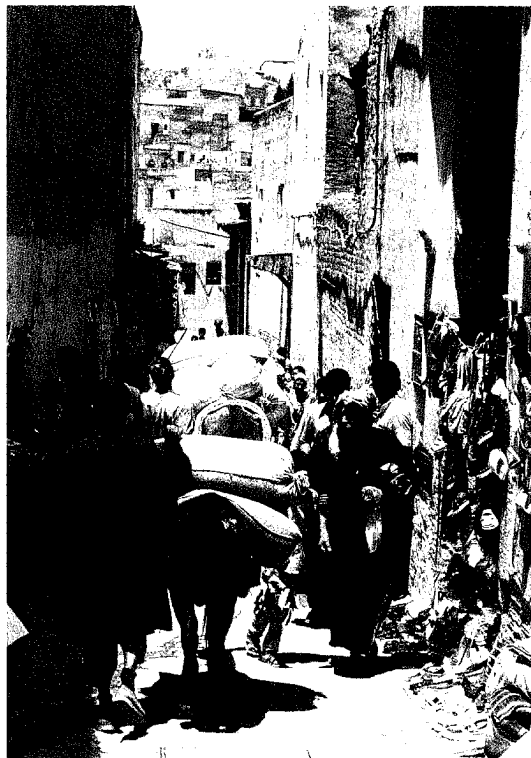
65% of households are of rural origin.

Like others, the Medina has been transformed by successive migrations from rural areas.

The first migrants settled in the Medina in the 1930's driven out of their land by a severe drought: old structures had been subdivided into many small dwellings. On the average, each liveable room sheltered 2.8 persons.

From 1975 to 1980, over 150,000 new migrants came to Tunis, crowding into cheap units of the Medina. As a result, twice as many families lived in one room dwellings in 1980 than in 1975.

The Medina, however, provides centrally located, relatively inexpensive housing despite overcrowding and deteriorating buildings and sanitary conditions. The increase in land availability and the rising number of jobs that draw on a broad spectrum of skills are perfectly adapted to the lifestyles of the inhabitants.



From:  
*Shadows of the Past  
and the Present*

## Morocco

From 1900 up to 1960, the Muslim cultural identity has decreased from 100% to 30% while the urban space was increasing from 1 to 15... (See plan, page 23).

Should Arab planners and architects keep following lessons that are often already outdated in their countries of origin, or should

they now strive to develop different and original paths?

Why do some governments concentrate their attention on new developments rather than improving the old housing stock?

The assets and the liabilities of the Medina underline the inherent conflict between conservation and revitalisation: conservation usually attempts to freeze an existing environment, if not actually to restore it to a previous state of grandeur and artificially to protect it from further encroachment. Physical, social and economic revitalisation requires its evolution, its adaptation and its integration into the modern urban fabric: schools, open space, community facilities and sources of employment for a labour force with limited skills are the indispensable complement to housing.



The various statements herewith are taken from studies realised by FRANCOIS VIGIER, Architect M.I.T, SAÏD MOULINE, Architect-Town Planner Specialist of Arab cities for the French Institute for Architecture, teacher in Rabat, STEFANO BIANCA, Architect-Town Planner, Director of the Aga Khan Support for the Historic Arab Cities, LEILA IBRAHIMS, Architect and Town Planner Consultant for the M.I.T. and Aga Khan Institute for Architecture, HEDI ECKERT, Specialist of Socio-Cultural Problems in the Maghreb and Yemen, SAMIR ADBULAC, Consultant M.I.T. Architect Town Planner and MONA SERAGELDIN, Specialist of the Arab World, M.I.T. ■ BC

## Newsletter



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*Coping locally and regionally with economic,*  
*technological and environmental phenomena*  
*and MOST Liaison Committees:*

CARLOS S. MILANI

*Requests for MOST Documentation:*  
CATHERINE BAUER

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## Cities of the Future: Managing Social Transformations

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## Editorial

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In 1990, issue no. 125 of the *International Social Science Journal* carried the title 'Tales of Cities', and examined the experience of the city dweller of the twentieth century. Since then, the worldwide growth of cities, urban zones, and population has continued unabated, and research on the city has expanded and deepened.

The need for sustainable development of cities has become a major international priority, as was underlined by the 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and confirmed at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1994. It is also a central focus of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) scheduled for 3-14 June 1996, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Through its scientific programmes MOST (Management of Social Transformations) and MAB (Man and Biosphere), UNESCO is participating actively in this renewed examination. Over the period 1996-2001, an experimental collaboration between MOST and MAB will design and implement a number of pilot activities in collaboration with NGOs, local authorities, and grass-roots organizations, and will on this basis draw up proposals for improving policies for cities, particularly as regards support for local communities as a part of urban management.

One of the three priority research areas of MOST is 'Cities as arenas of accelerated social transformation', and in this context MOST is supporting research projects such as 'Socially sustainable cities: building a knowledge-base for urban management in the twenty-first century' and 'City words' - the objective of the latter being to construct a multicultural and multi-

linguistic glossary on the city, with linguistic and cultural analysis of the terms employed. MOST is also establishing a Clearing House to facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge in the domain of urban research. Further, an "experts" meeting was organized in October 1995, as part of the preparation of UNESCO's contribution to HABITAT II, and some of the articles appearing in this issue of the *International Social Science Journal* were pre-released at that meeting.

This issue of the *Journal* may thus also be seen as a contribution to both the surge of international interest in cities and the road to HABITAT II. Our focus is prospective. The issue discusses, from a broad international standpoint, the principal social transformations that are currently shaping cities and will continue to do so in the passage to the twenty-first century, presenting challenges to both decision-makers and inhabitants.

Following an introduction by Jorge Wilhelm, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and in charge of the preparation of HABITAT II, the issue considers the subject field from five major perspectives - the Global City, the Multi-ethnic and Multicultural City, the Fragmented City, Democracy and Governance of the City, and the Urban Environment. Additional articles take stock of the problems and challenges of urban research, particularly in developing countries, and a final overview brings together the main threads of the issue.

The five perspectives are tackled by a team of leading specialists who are international in their composition and multidisciplinary in their

background. They include a planner, a mayor, a parliamentarian and an international civil servant, as well as a professional political scientist, an economist, a geographer and an anthropologist. Contributors come from Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Southern Africa.

Each of the five themes is examined from at least two complementary perspectives. For example, the challenges and opportunities of the multi-ethnic city are discussed by a senior policy officer of Leicester City Council, UK, and by a researcher on the governance of mega-urban zones in Asia. Again, the problems of

the fragmented city are addressed as they arise in the stark but differing contexts of Sao Paolo, Brazil, and Durban, South Africa. The issue also includes an interview with the Mayor of Rome. Whilst there is no question of covering all facets of our overall theme in the space of a single issue of the *journal*, the present issue casts its net widely, and provides the reader with threads to follow in the ongoing debate.

The Editor wishes to thank Ms Céline Sachs-Jeantet for her most valuable contribution as adviser for this issue.

D.M.



## Abstracts

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Introduction: urban challenges of a transitional period

Jorge Wilhelm

There is a clear trend towards a much more urbanized world. Urban growth is not uncontrolled; it is closely linked to economic growth and it reflects the turmoil of the globalization of the economy. In the year 2025, 61 per cent of the 5 billion world population will be urban and most mega-cities will stand in what we call the 'South'. This process occurs in the context of a transitional period of mankind, when radical changes allow us to foresee a new form of capitalism in the next century. Some symptoms of this transition are: robotization and world assemblage in industry, changes in job structure, capital less in banks and much more in mutual, pension and insurance funds, circulating at incredible speed through capital markets, Cities have an undeserved bad reputation because of the difficulties people have to face in living there: pollution, lack of adequate shelter and homes, violence, crime, traffic congestion. These difficulties are real; but they are a reflection of social inequity, economic underdevelopment, management shortcomings and corruption, social and psychological reactions to migration, and employment instabilities. On the other hand cities are the core of opportunities, a fertile melting pot, and all the urban social and health indicators are better now than in the 1950s although the gap between rich and poor (both countries and people) has doubled from 1962 to 1992. Challenges are faced by local authorities and NGOs of different kinds.

New forms of governance are needed by cities. networking globally before they can be taken to national levels.

The global city

Peter Hall

Four main forces appear to be shaping urban growth and change at the end of the twentieth century: *tertiarization*, the shift from manufacturing to services; *informationalization*, the increasing use of information as the basis of the economy; the resulting *locational disarticulation* whereby command-and-control functions are carried out in places different from production locations; and constant *innovation* in both manufacturing and, increasingly, the generation and exchange of information. The result is a new urban hierarchy dominated by a few *global cities*. Their worldwide distribution depends a great deal on historical accident: there are fundamental and deep-seated differences between the urban hierarchies of North America, Europe, and Japan. But in all, higher-level urban development is concentrated into quite small axial belts: Boston-NewYork-Philadelphia-Baltimore-Washington, the Tokaido corridor of Japan. and the complex pattern of transport corridors connecting the major cities of North-West Europe. While on the macro scale there is increasing concentration into metropolitan areas and corridors, at the level of the individual metro area there is simultaneous dispersal of homes and jobs, which further increases journeys and poses challenges to sustainable urban

development. Cities are just beginning to develop strategies to meet the resulting tension.

An Asian perspective on the global city

Yue-man Yeung

Over the past two decades, the global economy has changed in significant ways with certain large cities playing pivotal roles as centres of control, management and finance. These cities, distinguished by the functions they perform, are called global cities and they have emerged in Asia, especially along the Western Pacific Rim. These cities are examined from the point of view of the specific roles they play, and how they have prepared themselves for the network functions they perform. The transformation of Asian cities into global cities has resulted in a changing socio-economic milieu that has been outlined spatially, economically and socially. The implications of the recent changes in Asia's global cities are drawn for the daily life of their inhabitants, with particular attention to some of the negative consequences. The paper ends with the sanguine view that global cities in Asia will help propel the global and regional economies forward.

Managing a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural city in Europe: Leicester

Paul Winstone

Managing the transition from monocultural to multicultural societies is one of the most profound management challenges facing urban entities as we approach the next century. There have always been minorities, even in the most homogeneous of western societies. Such minorities were small in number and rarely challenged the self image of mainstream societies. However, since the end of **World War II Western European cities have experienced a completely unprecedented alteration** in their social composition with the mass influx of millions of former colonial subjects. In Britain as the volume of immigration began to increase in cities in the 1950s and 1960s, voices were raised in alarm

and fear. The debate resulted in the 1965 Race Relations Law, the 1968 strengthening of that Law, and the creation under the 1976 Race Relations Act of a Commission for Racial Equality charged with improving race relations. These Laws remain virtually unique in Europe even today. One of the consequences of the 1976 Race Relations Act was the creation within local authorities of structures to create good race relations. This small measure had profound consequences for city management, resulting in structures that would alter profoundly and permanently the ways in which minorities were perceived by British cities and how those cities saw themselves. In the city of Leicester, in the English Midlands, this process was particularly dramatic and is still unfolding. The article describes the development of the process in Leicester, and its future prospects.

The multi-ethnic and multicultural city: an Asian perspective

Aprodicio A. Laquian

Asian cities with ancient origins and large populations are complex ethnic and cultural mosaics reflecting their national contexts. They tend to have less ethnic conflict and tension compared to their counterparts in other regions of the world. This may arise from their important role in nation-building and the colonial, ideological and socio-economic factors that have made them instruments in the formation and maintenance of the nation-state. Conscious of problems arising from ethnic conflicts, Asian governments have pursued policies and bureaucratic fixes to maintain social harmony and stability. They have used housing policy, zoning codes and regulations, language policy and have encouraged civil society efforts to achieve societal goals, but results have been mixed. Ethnic concentrations and re-concentrations have spontaneously grown despite the use of intervention measures. In the long run, continued penetration by global economic and social forces, the information revolution, political socialization through family, school and other social institutions and the forces of urbanization may exert more changes on the ethnic and cultural character of cities than explicitly interventionist measures.

Building up walls: the new pattern of spatial segregation in São Paulo

Teresa P. R. Caldeira

The article focuses on the new way in which spatial and social segregation is organized in contemporary São Paulo, Brazil. Throughout this century, segregation has found at least three different forms of expression in São Paulo's urban space. The first lasted from the late nineteenth century to the 1940s and produced a condensed city, in which different social groups were packed into a small urban area and segregated by types of housing. The second urban form (1940s to 1980s) was the centre-periphery, in which different social groups were separated by great distances: the middle and upper classes lived in central and well equipped neighbourhoods and the poor lived in the precarious hinterland. A third form took shape in the 1980s. Its main instrument is the fortified enclave, and its legitimating rhetoric is that of the fear of crime. Recent transformations are generating a city in which different social groups are again closer in the city space, but separated by walls and technologies of security, and tending not to circulate or interact in common areas. The article argues that this pattern of segregation gives ground to a new type of public sphere. Its ideal is one of separateness and no longer one of commonality and universality.

The fragmented city: Durban, South Africa

Michael Sutcliffe

South Africa's second largest metropolitan area, Durban, forms the focus of this paper. Durban's residents live in an urban environment of fragmentation, violence, and class and racial stratification which has not disappeared with the removal of apartheid, and which now guides emerging struggles. Apartheid policies such as forced removals, and gerrymandering of borders, have resulted in a divided city of five components: the city of death, the city of survival, the city of hope, the city of entitlement, and the city of superfluity. Although not necessarily spatially separate, people within each of

these cities see the others as a threat, and the cities operate in parallel with each other. There is no co-ordinated city system, no coherent development plan, and no sense of unity of purpose or interdependence. Uniting the city involves both subjective and objective dimensions. The vote, constitution and emerging democracy are important in developing conditions under which the unification of the city might occur. Creating the objective conditions for a non-racial and democratic city provides important challenges. To unite our city we need to develop a new way of thinking about it, and to develop principles based on non-racialism, democracy, non-sexism and unity.

Cities, democracy and governance in Latin America

Alfredo Rodriguez and Lucy Winchester

The outbreaks of social unrest which have occurred in a number of Latin American cities during the past decade are often attributed to a problem of ungovernability: in other words, they are taken to stem from excessive demands which remain unsatisfied by the democratic system. In this article, however, they are taken to originate in a problem of governance, by which we mean the *form* of governing: the process whereby the State, the market and civil society combine to settle conflicts and share out costs and benefits. From the point of view of governance, social conflicts erupt when changes in economic and social structures are set against the inertia of traditional political and social structures. This article explores these changes, the forms that they take in the cities of the region and their implications as to how Latin American cities are governed.

The city, democracy and governability: the case of Barcelona

Jordi Borja

'The city is the people' has been the watchword of the municipal government of Barcelona for the last fifteen years. This approach has found expression in three courses of action. The first

lies in making the city – building it up as a place fit for citizens, with a system of public spaces and an environment conducive to good fellowship. The second involves citizen participation as a form of government and permanent contact with the public, while the third relates to the development of a collective enterprise in which all citizens are engaged. Twenty years ago Barcelona was an emerging civil society; by the time of the 1992 Olympic Games, the city had become a powerful social, economic, cultural and political force based on a special symbiosis between key institutions and community associations. The policy of building up the city, promoting citizen participation and devising major forward-looking projects is indivisible. The city as identity, citizenship as the collective use of urban space, and the future as a strategic project starting today are the parameters of this mobilizing model.

HABITAT II and the challenge of the urban environment: bringing together the two definitions of habitat

Michael Cohen

Environment must be a central feature of the global messages of the HABITAT II preparatory process and the conference itself. In conveying to political leaders and the public that the economic and social prospects of nations in the twenty-first century will depend on cities, the conference must reassert the centrality of the urban environment. It must refer to the experiences of the respective regions of the world and show that all countries and localities share the challenge of urban environmental management. The response to that challenge must in the first instance be local - with local authorities and populations being aware of the threats at hand and how they need to change patterns of behaviour. It must assemble the evidence to demonstrate that the prospects of cities have depended upon and will continue to depend upon environmental resources.

Interview: Managing a modern city: the case of Rome

Francesco Rutelli

An interview with Francesco Rutelli, Mayor of Rome, on his vision of how to manage social transformations. Attention to the environment is a priority demanded by Remans and is manifested by many political changes. If it is to embody sustainable development, Rome needs a partnership between the public domain, private enterprise and citizens.

Urban research and urban researchers in developing countries

Richard Stren

Given the rapid growth of cities in the developing world, and their political importance – particularly during this period of structural adjustment - it is surprising that the writings of urban researchers have not had more impact on the policies of development agencies. To understand the dynamics of research in Africa, Asia and Latin America, this article summarizes major findings in a large comparative project involving researchers in some fifty countries. Their production and the limitations on their work are discussed in terms of levels of production, major disciplines, the dispersion of research activity, and the new modalities (such as NGOs and international agencies) which are increasingly involved in urban research. The article concludes that urban researchers are becoming increasingly more central to local policy-making as the policy community broadens and their work responds more effectively to local needs.

The challenges of urban research: a Latin American perspective

Mario Lungo

The article explores recent transformations in the cities of Latin America and the Caribbean, their effects on urban research and the challenges facing such research. On the first point, four central processes are identified: changes in the urban economy, greater fragmentation and social exclusions, the crisis in present forms of municipal government, and urban decay. Their explanation is preceded by an outline of the distinctive features of urban development in previous decades and the explanatory theories that were developed on the subject. Regarding the consequences and challenges, it is maintained that, given the different time scales and trends that exist between urban development and economic and social processes, recent changes have a considerable impact on urban research: the main challenges facing such research are: conducting long-term research, maintaining continuity of subject around the essential processes of urban development, reviewing the epistemological question of the character of the object of study, and rebuilding

the institutional character of urban research on new bases.

Humanizing the city

Céline Sachs-Jeantet

The spectre of social, political and psychological breakdown is stalking the cities of both North and South. Urban life has broken down: the city, which was once the cradle of democracy, has become a synonym of exclusion and violence. This pessimistic observation should not prevent us from realizing that city dwellers are in search of citizenship, despite, or perhaps because of, this situation. To respond to this we must not hesitate to reconstruct in order to create new alliances among everyone involved in the city so as to 'reoccupy' it. Cities must be humanized. We must break with economism, create a new ethic of the city at the service of people and strengthen local ability to reconceptualize it completely. The city of the future must be built not by specialists alone but by the people themselves. Flexible methods and policies of support and participation must be established. In this respect, the example of the Brazilian *mutirao* is worth studying.

# Introduction: urban challenges of a transitional period

Jorge Wilhelm

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Our streets are safe. The problem is people ‘  
(from a speech of a mayor)

Cities have had a bad reputation, both in the daily press and among politicians. Many scholars support this poor opinion, tabulating data to corroborate the grim picture of decay, injustice, pollution, poverty and violence. This is an easy language for eager constituencies. But is it accurate? Does it illuminate reality and encourage solutions?

Cities have always been melting pots and marketplaces; the physical site of social interaction and communication, where ideas and products circulate and receive their social and economic value. They are the locus of creativity and culture, where opportunities are offered, creating the preconditions for progress (an old-fashioned word. ...) and the firmest foundations for civilization. We should

keep in mind this role of human settlements, mainly of cities, before we indulge in prophesying ‘the suicidal end of cities’.

In cities all economic factors are translated into social facts, for better or worse. Economic policies, their successes and their failures, receive an immediate visibility in cities, because of social density and lively reaction. Human settlements of all sizes are physical expressions of a society and of its culture. We should expect them to reflect the turmoil of the period human-kind is going through.

Jorge Wilhelm is a Brazilian architect and urbanist based in São Paulo. He has co-ordinated the plans of twenty cities, including those of Curitiba and metropolitan São Paulo. He held several political posts: State Secretary of Planning (1975-79), Municipal Planning Secretary (1982-84), State Secretary for Environment (1988-91) and President of São Paulo’s Metropolitan Planning Agency (1991-93). In 1994 he became Deputy Secretary-General of HABITAT II - The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT) - to be held in 1996 in Istanbul. His most recent book is FAX - a Message from *the Near Future*.

Before commenting on the present situation, and in order to design a framework of the present urban dynamics, I want to present some information from the *Global Report on Human Settlements*, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (UNCHS) for the Preparatory Committee of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 1996), and delivered in April 1995.

## The urban situation

Over twenty nations with one million or more inhabitants in 1990, had populations that had more than tripled since 1950, most of them in Eastern Africa, Western Asia and Central America. Settlement patterns have changed even in North America, where the settlement system inherited

from the 1940s, dominated by industrial cities and eastern ports, is being reordered in a new hierarchy including major metropolitan areas that hardly existed in 1950.

Urban growth has not occurred in either an ‘uncontrolled’ or a ‘mushroom random’ way. Not only is this growth linked to very definite economic changes, but two-thirds of the world’s ‘million-cities’ have been important for at least 200 years, and a third for 800 years. The diversity of recent urban conurbations and legal definitions makes it quite difficult to compare and

TABLE 1. Urban population and percentage of population living in urban areas (1970, 1990, 2025)

Region	Urban Population (millions)			Urban Share (percentage)		
	1970	1990	2025	1970	1990	2025
World	1 352	2 282	5 187	37	43	61
Less developed regions	654	1 401	4 011	25	34	57
Least developed countries	38	103	532	13	20	44
Other countries	615	1 298	3 479	26	36	59
More developed regions	698	881	1 177	67	73	84

classify 'cities' by their size or population. And for the same reason, the *Global Report* cautiously states that the world's population currently living in urban centres lies between 40 and 55 per cent of the total.

Just to give one example of the diversity that makes comparison difficult. which part of Tokyo could be classified as a city? What is its population. as such, in 1990? Its central city (23 wards) occupied 598 square kilometers and had a population of 8. 164.000; the Tokyo prefecture (Tokyo-to), with 2.162 km<sup>2</sup>, had 11,856,000 people. The Greater Tokyo Metropolitan Area (a vast conurbation including Yokohama) had 13.508 km<sup>2</sup> and 31,559,000 people, And the National Capital Region, with 36,834 km<sup>2</sup>, had a population of 39,158,000,

In any case, all censi inform us that urbanization is increasing and the *World Urbanisation Prospects* published by United Nations (1993) gives a fairly clear indication of this phenomenon (see Table 1).

Moreover, when discussing the impact of urbanization on environment the *Global Report* provides a curious calculation: the total world urban population put together in a comfortable density similar to the one of Chelsea in London, would cover only 200,000 km<sup>2</sup>, roughly an area equivalent to Senegal or Oman.

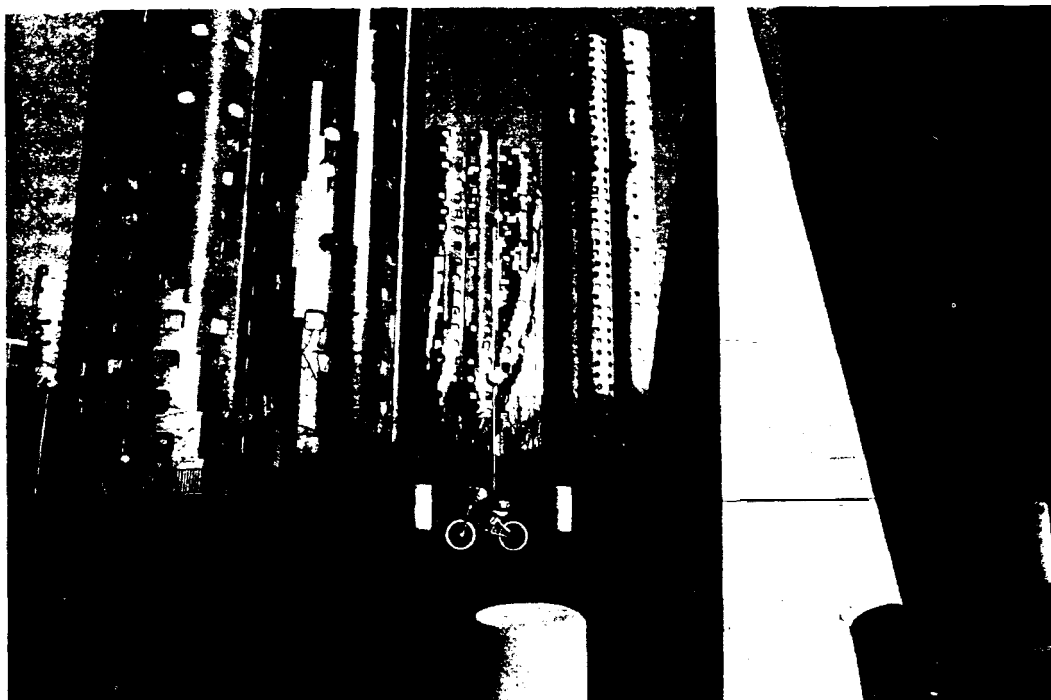
These are indications of trends. But trends are not destiny. They are projections, with some corrections based on the assumption of a fairly linear development in history - which rarely occurs. Thus they merely give us a reasonable starting point for thought, speculation. strategical planning, initial cost estimates and political action.

The process of urbanization is partially responsible for several changes in social and

economic indicators and certainly for a change in habits and a decrease in the birth-rate. The *Global Report* indicates that in the last three decades all indicators are better: the world life expectancy at birth increased from 53.4 years (1960) to 65.6 years (1992), including the worst region (sub-Saharan Africa) from 40.0 to 51.1 years. World infant mortality rate decreased from 128 per 1,000 live births to 60 per 1,000, including sub-Saharan Africa: from 165 to 101. A very modest amelioration in 'the South' can be noted also in the percentage of malnourished children. from 40 to 35 (between 1975 and 1990); the percentage of population with access to safe water increased from 36 to 70; and the adult literacy rate in the South increased from 46 to 69 per cent.

Statistics are useful if we are not misled by them, forgetting the realities of social life: the diversity, mobility, inequities, exclusions that are hidden under average calculations. For the same period considered above, the *Human Development Report (1994)* prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates an increasing concentration of income and inequality, among countries and also inside many countries. 'The gap between the rich and the poor', says J. G. Speth, 'has not narrowed over the past 30 years but has in fact widened greatly. In 1962, the richest 20 percent of the world's population had 30 times the income of the poorest 20 percent. Today the gap has doubled to 60 fold!'

To this unbalanced situation we should add other dramatic events of these last decades, We have not been at war, with the exception of the Gulf War, but we have certainly not been 'at peace'. Conflicts *within* countries have increased: of the 82 armed conflicts between



Housing in Nanterre, near Paris Pierre Michaud, Rapho

1989 and 1992. 79 were domestic, many along ethnic lines, Destruction of human settlements, killings and genocides. in Rwanda or in Bosnia, resulted in 15 million displaced people. Together With huge migrations caused by instability and insecurity, this accounts for considerable change and stress in many cities of the world.

### The socio-economic context

It is time to say something about the context In which all the recent phenomena occur: the worldwide transitional period.

What are the symptoms of radical change? Under the umbrella expression 'globalization of the economy' we need to identify specific components, each of them a factor of change. Industrial production is more and more assembling elements coming from far away, with regular transport and strict rules of standardization. Robotization and informatization are changing

the design of products, the management of plants, the skills required from manpower, and the structure of employment, as well as the size and site-location of industrial units.

The radical advances of the information society since the invention of the electronic chip, led to a global flux of electronic information, accelerating decision-making and economic and social processes, This widened the gap between societies with or without information technology, between countries and inside each country, creating a new form of exclusion.

Capital is not where it used to be. As Michael Hirsh points out (*Newsweek*, 3 October 1994), capital 'has become phenomenally mobile and much harder for economies to hold on to and control'. The enormous amount of US\$ 3 trillion in 1993, almost triple the amount of three years earlier, circulated rapidly through telecommunications and computers, from giant mutual, pension and insurance funds, as well as from stock-exchange operations. Says Roy



Smith, a New York University expert in global finance. quoted in the same article: 'This private money totals three quarters of the amount of the annual government budget of the seven largest industrial nations. More significant is the changing mix. As recently as 1990, \$468 billion was in syndicated bank loans against \$756 billion raised through the stock and bond markets now sprouting around the world. By 1993 the proportion was \$555 billion in bank money to a staggering 42.3 trillion from the capital markets. This is money that's outside the reach of governments.'

This radical change in capital mobility makes the whole world extremely vulnerable. It has been said that capital markets are the IMF (International Monetary Fund) of the 1990s. This would be a disaster for development, because of the internal rationale of money, with its natural instability. The case of Mexico is a good example of instability provoked by the volatile nature of capital among other causes: of the 1993 inflow of \$33 billion in the Mexican economy, 11 billion drained out in just 40 days after the assassination of candidate Colosio. The dependence of developing countries, as well as of governments looking for resources to cover their huge deficits, is increasing and accentuating the problem of governance. This is a clear symptom of any transitional period in history.

Governance is defined by the World Bank as 'the exercise of political power to manage a nation's affairs'. Too vague for the taste of diplomats, who prefer to think that management is understandable but to deal with changes on the political level is too risky. How true! The weakening of governments, the lack of credibility, and the erosion caused by corruption in so many countries, are clear symptoms of a necessary transition, of the need to build a new social covenant, a new 'social contract' between the basic actors of development: central governments, local governments, the business and banking sectors, public, but not governmental, organizations (like universities and hospitals), grass roots NGOs and others.

Why are neo-liberals and businessmen so happy? Capitalism is on the verge of changing so many of its rules in order to survive, that one cannot even be sure if the economic regime of the next decade will be called 'capitalism' at all. Its vulnerability is such that development

will be the only anchor to keep the system in existence. From the point of view of development, transnationalism should be clearly evaluated, as one of the major symptoms and components of the transitional period. It started in the late 1960s, as Osvaldo Sunkel pointed out, when some corporations implemented their strategy of globalization, no longer considering national boundaries or national policies. This detachment from national interests increased and is now the major mode of global business.

This mode is not limited to production and business strategies. The building up of an informational society allows for all kind of global networking. Mega-cities do it. Philanthropic organizations do it, as do research and academic institutions. That's fine, but what will be the role of state and government during the next decade and in the future if all relevant organizations go networking over the border? Can we manage to live (and live better) without nation-states?

Nation-states were not always there. All this 'traditional' nationalism is only 150 years old. Mankind has prospered both with and without central governments. We can even design a new geopolitical map, born from the present transitional period. If things get worse, with increasing concentration of wealth and increasing exclusion, we can imagine a global archipelago of islands of welfare, a virtual community of reasonably well-off segments, exchanging among themselves products, ideas, fashion, news, and information. These interconnected islands of accelerated and well-informed development would be surrounded by an ocean of slowly progressing marginal society, un-informed or viciously ill-informed and manipulated.

If things get better, we might have another map: a network of mega-cities, with their metropolitan regions governed through a decentralized system in which power is shared by several relevant actors, equality finally being enhanced, and corporations, through their specialized foundations, participating in productive and social joint ventures, in order to guarantee the sustainability of a peaceful development and the reproduction of capital.

Notwithstanding what the future with its usual surprises will bring us, we have to pass through a transitional period, that cannot wave aside the useful existence of the state and of

central governments. This is especially so because 'of another painful symptom: urban intolerance and violence. In the present instability with the optimistic ideology of socialism being discredited, with no acceptable philosophical system to cope with the excessive amount of undigestible information, with the media inciting stronger and wilder emotions leading to increased insensitivity, mankind becomes defensive, paranoid, clusterlike and exclusive. Intolerance increases, while nationalism mushrooms, corporative bodies (even labour forces) cling to their privileges, institutions reject any progressive change, solidarity is replaced by suspicion and hatred, by a new wave of urban tribalism, if not by madness and violence, whether this follows the pattern of the Rwanda genocide, the Bosnia guerilla, or the Oklahoma terrorist.

### The alternatives for our future

In this context what will be the role of cities? What are the urban alternatives and the processes that should be implemented?

I believe that many cities are spearheading innovations that are already a component of a new geopolitical world reality. They are implementing action through partnerships and various types of decentralized management. A spontaneous and still not coherent network of cities is moulding an urban transnationalism, producing quick, although still limited, results. Good experience of this action through partnerships, as well as innovative urban solutions for transport systems, water access, waste disposal, house provision and planning, are beginning to be replicated.

Some mega-cities are the powerful locomotives of the national economy. Global cities in their own right, they network, negotiate for capital resources, develop new forms of management, and build what will be a new format for representative democracy. Cities are the new 'barons' that will give support to the national 'king'. History might be full of surprises and discontinuities, but it never goes back. Therefore 'urban' governance in the next decades, much before 'national' state governance, will implement decentralized action, negotiate priorities and partnerships that will constitute the

action pattern and the design of a new governing system.

The relation between economic growth and urban development works both ways. Cities are not passive recipients of economic growth. They create the pre-conditions for it: density, human resources, knowledge, mutual information and evaluation, consumer demands, social organization, infrastructure, cultural stimulus, institutions, a set of partners, political awareness. Thus, the role of cities in development and in change is quite clear: they will lead the process taking mankind through a transitional period, which, alas, will show its nastiest face on the urban scene.

But local authorities, even with some local partners, cannot solve all the problems of development. Although many local initiatives have provided some housing for their homeless families, it is common sense that housing is not a dramatic issue as long as: (a) access to land is made possible; (b) income and wealth are fairly well distributed; (c) governance and justice are transparent and democratic; and (d) wars, terrorism and natural disaster do not destroy lives, homes and cities. These are national issues, they depend on central government, parliament, justice and constitutions.

Consider the example of sanitation and waste. In Jakarta there is no central waterborne sewage system; in Kinshasa there is no sewage system; only 18 per cent of the population are connected to sewers in Kingston; less than 10 per cent of the Kampala population benefit from regular waste collection, only two-fifths of the solid waste produced by households in Karachi is collected. To solve these huge problems central governments and international partners must collaborate with local authorities and NGOs.

Another example of the necessary central/local government partnership is the problem of urban transport and the air pollution caused by cars. Although some interesting innovations have been implemented locally, especially in cities of developing countries, to regulate the industry and change fuels is a major national and indeed global issue, to be faced resolutely despite the various lobbies. What commitment can we get from the automotive industry to put in place the floating train, the natural gas truck, the mixed fuel or electric bus, the hydrogen

fuelled car? These issues are at once technical, economic, and political.

Change does not come easily. In São Paulo, in 1988, it was only street demonstrations by half a million people that prevented the State oil monopoly taking out the usual 20 per cent of alcohol from gasoline which would have resulted in an increase of CO in the air people breathe.

The *Global Report* gives us a good picture of the broad range of possibilities for the intelligent use of private cars. There is no automatic link between per capita income and the number of cars per person. Japan and Denmark are among the world's most wealthy nations but have far fewer cars per inhabitant than Germany, the United States, New Zealand or Switzerland. High density, provision of alternatives and a cultural effort sometimes change the transport pattern. Several modes of taxi service as well as the implementation of a 'public passenger car' system should be tried.

But this introductory note should resist the temptation to offer examples of urban action. The contributions that follow in this issue of the *International Social Science Journal*, from a variety of perspectives, are sufficient to give the reader a detailed and profound understanding of managing social transformations.

This issue of the ISSJ is timely, appearing on the eve of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, June 1996), a

global meeting that is being organized as a 'Partnership Conference', with the participation of all involved on the urban scene. A notable difference between this and other UN conferences is that local authorities, scholars, NGOs and business will have an opportunity to participate alongside governments in the preparatory process including inputs for drafting documents. All agencies of the UN system, as well as UNCHS (HABITAT) that is organizing it, are participating actively in the whole preparatory process, and the same pattern of partnership has been followed in setting up National Committees.

The ideas produced for this issue of the ISSJ can have a direct leverage on the HABITAT II debate, in the partners' fora, at the round tables that will debate alternatives for the future, through the members of the national delegations, which this time will consist not only of government diplomats but also mayors and representatives of other relevant actors.

In this painful and sometimes dramatic transitional period of mankind, that must be shortened, we must all do what the encyclopaedists of the eighteenth century did: redefine what is significant, fight against prejudice and intolerance, and design generously a better world for humanity that will once again have the city as a centre of peace, freedom, justice, creativity and solidarity.

# Humanizing the city

Céline Sachs-Jeantet

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When in December 1994 the 'Droit au logement' association went from demands to action and occupied buildings in Paris, it was something new for Paris but quite unremarkable compared to the situation in Latin America, where demonstrators daily invade sites demanding 'the right to the city'. The situations in the countries involved are very different, but what they have in common is the city at the heart of relations between those whose action creates the basis of society. The city suffers, exacerbates and at the same time symbolizes all the conflicts of a changing society in disarray. The city is a concrete, visible, sensitive space of political decisions, economic constraints and collective behaviour, a place that crystallizes the tensions of the modern world, particularly in relation to society. The contrast between citizens and the excluded is central, because society is made up of their interdependence and their mixing as much as of their separation. In urban conflict, the divide between the 'citizens' city', and the 'city of the excluded' finds expression in a specific place.

When I look alternately at Brazilian and French cities with which I am familiar, I am able to see, despite their individual characteristics, the main challenges that have to be met, the differences and similarities, similarities that are sometime obscured by apparent difference.

## Today: citizenship is flouted

The spectre of social, political and psychological breakdown

The apparently different situations in France and Brazil show the power of the mechanism of economic exclusion that leads to social, psychological and family breakdown - and, as a corollary, the importance of access to work and sources of income - generated by the current development model; they also show the limitations of the territorial management of exclusion. While urban policy needs to be more than simply a means of hiding poverty (and France's policy illustrates the limits of its ambition), we must combat poverty, attack the structural roots of the current development model and make a choice about the sort of society we want.

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**This** is simple to say, but infinitely more difficult to do in many ways.

Rereading twenty years of public housing policy in São Paulo, the main industrial centre and richest town in Brazil but also a metropolis of inequality, leads one to conclude that an effective housing policy cannot be conceived without a holistic, systemic approach that involves all aspects of the production function of real property, not forgetting that in the final analysis the housing conditions of the low-paid

reflect the economic and social model in force. As long as the mechanisms of social exclusion and spatial segregation are not tackled at their base, social policies in general and housing policies in particular will be only palliative measures with little effect on a form of poverty that constantly reproduces itself by means of the dominant mode of accumulation and economic growth through inequality.

This process of marginalization does not spare the cities of the industrialized countries. In France the crisis in the suburbs has shown the malaise of civilization and the fragility of the integration model. In just a few years all the handicaps of a multi-speed society, where the contemporary divide - integration versus marginality - is projected directly onto the city, have accumulated in these soulless suburbs. This divide is traditional in Latin American towns. Town-planning has served to amplify and reveal an increasingly dual society, producing ever more social inequality, segregation and economic, psychological and cultural insecurity.

The chairperson of the committee for assessing urban policy in France has pronounced a severe judgment on almost two decades of urban policy and stated bluntly that there is no credible future for territorial management of exclusion if we continue to accept 'increasing separation of the advanced segments of society from its peripheral or detached components. a separation that creates ever more exclusion and is a constant threat to the lower fringes of the middle class, with the resulting climate of social tensions .' (Belorgey, 1994), Not only must the resources made available for the policy be concentrated on the combating of exclusion: Sufficient resources must be found to combat the problem before it becomes territorially crystallized.

Even if unemployment and the model of 'impoverishing growth' and poverty create difficulties of all sorts and 'relegate' the least fortunate to deprived urban areas. exclusion is not reducible to its social dimension and the sum total of economic issues: it is political in that it concerns citizenship and has cultural, symbolic and personal dimensions, Exclusion generates a basic claim for dignity and recognition of human worth,

Urban life is out of joint

Whereas the city was once the cradle of democracy, a synonym of democratic sociability. a social place of learning about and respecting others, too often today – in an inversion of values – it is a synonym of exclusion. indifference, isolation, hostility and violence. Citizenship and city life once went together but no longer do, We might even ask whether the great cities have not become anti-models of civic values and democracy, Even though the crisis of democracy is often a question concerning a whole nation or community in a country . it finds its strongest expression in cities, the potential loci for its renaissance.

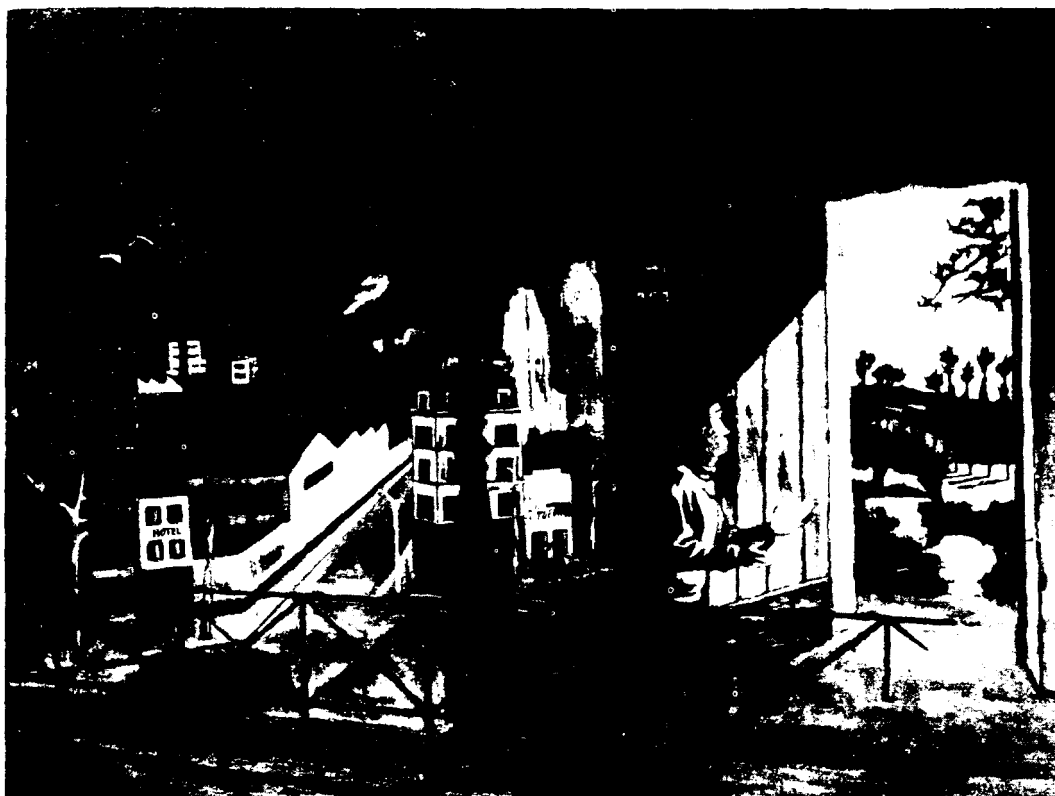
Neo-liberal society carries within it the threat of ghettoization, a combination of lack of social integration and cultural assimilation combined with the rise of racism and the extreme right, urban violence – the underside of modernity. The paradox is that the city continues to attract even though its lights do not shine for everyone, and its growth thus swells the ranks of the disappointed. The spiral, and the march of intolerance, must be denounced,

The revolution in values, socialization processes, and modern town-planning, especially zoning and disregard of the symbolic dimension of the city and its meaning, have contributed to the dislocation of collective action, the growth of a new individualism and the proliferation of 'non-places'.

Paradoxically, the new individualism is accompanied by a desire for sociability. the search for the bonds of civic life to counter unbearable isolation and, as a corollary, the growth of social organizations to compensate for the lack of identity and relationships (more than one French person in two is a member of a cultural, sports, parents', humanitarian. health. social, tourist, leisure. etc. association), in short, the desire for a 'livable' urban environment in the post-modern age.

Citizens in search of citizenship

Shattered citizenship, experienced as such by leading city dwellers, is making the demand for citizenship a worldwide phenomenon. This demand entails the recognition of new rights - civil, political and social - and attention to the way in which they are implemented.



*The Dream*. painting by Henri Jannot, 1954. ERL/Sipa Icono

With the consequences of increasing global interdependence and the crisis of the nation-State, it is likely that the future of democracy as a peaceful way of settling conflicts between citizens who share a desire for freedom, equality and human fellowship will be played out in cities. The city-world, a place of national and International integration, may soon be the integrating framework that the nation once was and will invent new forms of everyday citizenship.

Rejection of the idea of a two-speed or multispeed city and rejecting the increasing marginalization of the least privileged along with parts of cities or even whole urban areas which have in fact become 'non-cities', is not simply an act of solidarity; it is a contribution to the strengthening of economic and social cohesion in the urban environment. Making our cities both the driving force of economic development

and a mark of social solidarity would create the right conditions for genuine urban citizenship.

Citizenship must be propounded in all its inflections and find many modes of expression that respect the specific and unique relationship with its environment, the economy, politics, society, culture - but with a universal directive: the individual, the citizen, must be put back at the centre of choices and decisions and thus help re-establish the "plural" city, a place of interwoven activities, sociability, pleasures and self-expression, a multi-racial and multicultural vector of tolerance and cultural pluralism,

The need to renew methods and strategies of action

The challenges are not only conceptual: they also, I believe, involve research methods, ways

of thinking, the devising of proposals and the implementation of policies. In the face of urban expansion, the problem today is that of deciding not what to do but how to do it (as is illustrated by the assessment of urban policy in France, which is significant on both the financial and institutional levels). Rather than lay down what should be done, we should think about how urban desires operate. The city as locus of desires is the goal of the future. It is essential and potentially fruitful to allow this process of transformation, maturing and appropriation of the city by its inhabitants to take place.

A dismaying conclusion to be drawn from almost half a century of development policies and theories is that there has been a dramatic regression in development: the gap between the richest and the poorest not only persists but continues to grow. An illusion perpetuated about the Third World's development potential is that a simple recipe is all that is needed, each theory concentrating on the treatment of one aspect of the problem as a more or less effective panacea for the poverty that is constantly reproduced by the dominant mode of accumulation and economic growth through inequality. In fact no one has the answer. Experts have repeatedly made the mistake of trying to impose a theory that could be transmitted like a lesson, on a question that by its very nature is complex, contradictory and ambivalent, with a dimension at once collective and individual, conscious and unconscious. Expert analysis, however searching, cannot on its own solve the problems. It will never replace the conscious, responsible action of individuals - we cannot avoid 'appropriating the city'.

The scope of social urban development policies - however ambitious - remains limited also because they do not take account of the importance of affective, unconscious factors and impulses, nor of the meeting and interaction - conscious and unconscious - of individuals. The transformation of individuals and their relations is inseparable from social transformation.

It is perhaps by a work of 'reconstruction' combining different approaches and analytical methods of understanding the city and the wishes and behaviour of its users-cum-inhabitants (individual and collective, conscious and unconscious), people who are not yet used to working together (architects, town-planners,

economists, demographers, sociologists, psychoanalysts, doctors, social workers, politicians, representatives of public authorities, businessmen, etc. - inhabitants being the true subjects of study), around places and spaces where daily life takes shape (public space), that a new vision will be born. If this work is not done, local or more general revolts will multiply and the question of the city will arise in the climate of increasing violence and hatred so successfully filmed by Mathieu Kassovitz.

To give more force to these 'combinations' and 'co-operations', why do cities not make a 'pact for citizenship' or a city dwellers-citizens' pact with each other, committing themselves to act together, setting common goals and agreeing to hold periodic 'citizenship and solidarity meetings', at which they could take stock of their action, the progress they have made, the problems they have encountered and the strategies to be promoted?

## Tomorrow: humanizing the city

Breaking with the economistic view of the city

Present attitudes are dominated by the impact of the world economy on the urban system-and the strategic role played by large cities in that economy, at the risk of robbing them of their individuality and sacrificing their inhabitants' quality of life. Even if this trend towards the city becoming the servant of the economy and businesses - a city subordinated to economic needs - is inevitable, it must be countered and an ethic adopted that sees the city as serving human beings, an ethic that recognizes quality of the environment as being of prime importance, the fruit of a compromise between human-kind, city and nature,

Combating exclusion, with an array of public policies in support of local initiatives

In lieu of central provision, local ability to resolve urban problems and rethink the city must be strengthened by stimulating the initiat-

ive of those who actually construct and use it, not forgetting that the State has an essential role - that of increasing people's ability to take responsibility for themselves by providing them with the local resources they lack and by abolishing the legal and institutional obstacles that act as a brake on their initiative. Then, proactive urban development policies must be drawn up, policies capable of attacking the roots of social and ecological problems (in other words social exclusion and spatial segregation). and not simply reactive policies giving assistance after the event. The accent must be placed on access to land, infrastructures, city services and other public goods, credits, building materials and technical and legal assistance.

Various actors must be involved, linking various levels of power (international, national, regional and local), by seeking new forms of partnership between the main social actors in development: civil society, market forces and the State. Cities, which tend by their nature to grow outwards, worry States in search of an identity, and they can be built and rebuilt only if the State sacrifices its omnipotence in favour of individuation. It is essential for the future to innovate by forming new partnerships between public and private sectors and citizens. Cities are the schools of democracy for the twenty-first century and the precursors of a new social contract.

From rural self-help to urban solidarity

It is precisely in the context of the transformation of relations between authorities faced with popular demands and 'the people in movement'. or civil society, that the Brazilian vogue for the *mutirão* - an indigenous word meaning self-help in the sense of mutual aid - has appeared as a form of participation in projects for the construction of subsidized housing and urban management. Even though this practice has never accounted for more than a tiny part of the public promotion of low-income housing it has the merit not only of lowering the threshold of access but also of reviving the popular practice of building for oneself and self-help so common among the builders of the 'illegal city'.

Quite apart from purely economic considerations, so long as the State does not repudiate its

responsibility for making available low-income housing and, in the production of urban space, does not continue to discriminate against the inhabitants of poor, peripheral areas in favour of central, rich areas, the *mutirão* is a forerunner of new forms of partnership, in the context of a mixed economy, between the public sector, the commercial private sector and the non-commercial private sector that consists of the non-financial contribution of people who build for themselves.

*Mutirão*, or the way neighboring communities weave social relationships, is an apprenticeship in citizenship and development through urban life, which is why it is of interest to the world at large.

This example must be studied and used for European cities. Is it not time that our countries, which in the past established such effective rural solidarity (family associations, agricultural co-operatives, farmers' friendly societies, etc. ), established urban solidarity (self-managed or co-operatively managed public housing, support for the products of urban economic activities, etc. ) and invented flexible policies to support it?

Humanizing the city, the locus of desire(s)

In the twenty-first century the city must be the vector of humanism, the place where social transformations are invented and managed. The challenge is to humanize cities so that by their urban quality they promote and create citizenship and the interbreeding of cultures and thus become more 'civic'. The practice of giving priority to production and function must give way to one in which human beings come first, one in which their many modes of perception - feeling, thought, intuition, sensation - find a fine, propitious place where they' can flourish, and where the spatial, architectural language - the visible-perceptible - accords with the citizens' life in the city. By abolishing places in its universal space, the modern Utopia has destroyed the social link and the quality of places. Citizenship is constructed around the social links between the inhabitants of an area (citizenship can thus be seen as the construction of a territory) and contributes to the fashioning of a city, a place that is an expression of the



desire to live together. Humanizing the city is not a utopian dream but a reality on the scale of a project, a district or a city. The challenge is to develop policies to awaken the latent conditions that produce the creative instincts of the men, women and children who live in cities.

The city as the future of citizenship.  
citizenship as the future of the city

Humanizing the city means refusing a democracy limited to the few and giving everyone a say in the choice and creation of their surroundings, where as recognized members of a community (their city) they help to fashion it. Direct democracy will involve citizens in the construction of their own urban environment for daily life, pleasure, thought and work. If changes in the city are not to be rejected, or accepted on sufferance, they must be a matter of choice, a shared desire, a commitment that goes beyond the necessarily greater commitment of elected representatives. This is a way of laying new foundations for cities, which will again become creative, welcoming, friendly places. Direct democracy can create special occasions on which

the people who live on an estate come together to decide to act together, occasions when the people of a city come together to plan their collective future. Involving the inhabitants, now citizens, in the planning of their city and their future, is the challenge of the Age of the City.

Celebrating the city

To symbolize their willingness to meet these challenges and make a regular 'date' with all the people on the planet, in addition to their daily participation in the re-invention and re-founding of the city, the cities of the greatest possible number of countries should decide to hold a 'city festival' every year to mark the return of the citizen as someone who is active in his or her own city and to emphasize the alliances between - and synergy of combined action by - elected representatives, inhabitants, architects, businessmen, associations and so on. The festival would foster the formation of friendly relations among all the citizen inhabitants. The 'world city festival' would thus be a sign of hope for citizens at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

*Translated from French*

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