



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HABITAT II
CITY SUMMIT
ISTANBUL 3-14 JUNE 1996

HABITAT II

newsletter

Turkish Housing Development Administration
Habitat II Project Coordination Unit
Issue: 1 • January 1996

25 thousand people from 185 countries are expected in Istanbul for the Habitat II conference

Towards the largest summit of the 20th century



Making the world's...



...human settlements...



...safe, equitable and sustainable for people...



...with Habitat II City Summit.

The UN Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, which will convene in Istanbul between 3-14 June, 1996, will be the last global summit of the 20th century.

The Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, which will convene in Istanbul in June 1996, will be the last global summit of the 20th century. The Conference will also cover all of the issues discussed at previous global summits.

The objectives of the Conference are: to raise global and national awareness of the positive role of cities and towns as centres of major social, cultural and economic activities; to stimulate partnerships for more effective resource mobilization and investment; and to improve the environment in which people live through new, more effective investments in shelter and urban development.

Habitat II will address questions discussed at previous global UN conferences (namely: the UN Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat I, held in Vancouver in 1976; the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992; the Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993; the Population and Development Conference in Cairo in 1994; the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in

1995; and the Conference on Women and Development in Beijing, also in 1995) and the solutions reached will be debated on the basis of human settlements.

Common Solution

Another feature of Habitat II that makes it different from other UN conferences is that, following a change in the UN conference system, local authorities will now have a voice at the Plenary Session, where the interest and views of NGOs, academicians, trade unions, the private sector and professional organizations will be taken into consideration.

Thus Habitat II will introduce a new concept into UN conferences, namely the "Common Solution".

At Habitat I in Vancouver, it was widely believed that governments could resolve problems related to housing, urbanization and human settlements. In other words, the state was regarded as the main axis of the housing and settlement policy. At Habitat II one could say that civil organizations will take over the role

previously entrusted to the state.

The importance of broad-based participation has been stressed during the preparatory work for Habitat II and will continue to be an integral element of the Conference itself. The Conference stresses that the resolution of problems related to human settlements requires the effective participation not only of the state but of all the pertinent actors, namely local authorities, the private sector, professional organizations and NGOs. The Second Preparatory Meeting of Habitat II, which was held in Nairobi between April 24 - May 5 1995, resulted in important developments as regards the role of local authorities and NGOs. As a result of the new arrangements, representatives of local authorities will have a full say at the Plenary Session and Committee meetings of Habitat II.

Partnership Forum

In line with the relevant UN resolutions, a series of fora will be held in parallel to the Habitat II City Summit; and these are expected to attract the highest level of participation. The fora will include the following: the local authorities' forum, which will be known as the

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HABITAT II

newsletter

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Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali:

The question of human settlements is urgent

Three basic questions must be addressed by

Habitat II. First, the urgency of the crisis.

Second, the priorities for conference. Thirdly, the outcome of Habitat II and implications for development.

The question of human settlements is urgent. There must be no delay. The time for getting organized is over. The time to address substance is here.

Three basic questions must be addressed by Habitat II. First, the urgency of the crisis. Second, the priorities for conference. Thirdly, the outcome of Habitat II and implications for development.

Nearly fifty years after the creation of the United Nations, war, poverty and oppression continue to make the goals of the Charter elusive visions of the future.

Some fifty-five societies live in the midst, the aftermath, or the fear of conflict, civil or international. Absolute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy are the lot of one-fifth of the world population. The global environment has been weakened. Deforestation, desertification, of the sea, the topsoil and the atmosphere threaten life itself.

As a result, millions of people are fleeing from wars, famine, environmental devastation and natural disasters. Additional millions are migrating to find employment. The world community must now



deal with some 45 million refugees and displaced persons. We are in the midst of the largest migration in the history of humanity. It has begun to change the way in which societies are organized. It presents problem which have come to the top of international agenda.

The most visible consequence of mass migration is the phenomenal growth of urban areas.

Urban settlements will become the primary place for struggle for development. Cities will face the influx of vast new populations, clamoring for jobs and housing. Huge financial outlays for infrastructure and services will be needed. The impact of global urban civilization on the earth's natural resources must be understood if we are to enter the next century well prepared.

The mass exodus to cities already has led to more urban poverty, less housing and fewer services, unemployment and disaffection among youth. In the inner cities especially, ethnic tensions, violence, substance abuse and social disintegration are on the rise.

The emergence of mega-cities has

brought land degradation, traffic congestion and air, water and noise pollution.

The challenge of sustainable development is a challenge of urban settlements. The world's cities must become sustainable, safe, healthy, humane and affordable. Resources must be mobilized in a global plan of action.

Everyone must join in this battle for development. All levels of society are challenged. All levels of society must therefore act. Local, national, regional and international plans of action must be created. This needs the cooperation of municipal authorities, national governments, regional and international organizations. The role of non-state actors in development will be vital.

The topic of this conference, "The City Summit" encompasses many issues. There are hard questions to answers.

Excerpts from Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali's, Secretary-General of United Nations, opening address to the first Substantive Session of Preparatory Committee of Habitat II. Geneva 11 April 1994.

Dr. Wally N'Dow:

At the 'City Summit' in Istanbul, we must all join our hands together

This year's World Habitat Day celebrations center around the theme "Our neighborhood". What is the neighborhood, and what is relevance to World Habitat Day? How does it form and influence the individual and the community? The neighborhood is much more than a physical place in a city, town, or village. For a place becomes a neighborhood only when the people and families that live there develop close social, cultural and economic bonds. When people feel their individual homes as part of a larger community where they dwell, meet friends, feel at home as they relax or play, worship and work-that is what makes a neighborhood. And World Habitat Day is about improving our neighborhoods.

And just as we want to make a good home for ourselves and our families, so we must work with our neighbors to create a living space which we are proud to call "our neighborhood". Then only do we create a sense of togetherness and of belonging, beyond that, to that larger entity which we refer to as "the city".

What should such a neighborhood be like? A good neighborhood comprises many elements: a safe and healthy location, free of crime and violence, with easy access to social amenities such as schools, clinics and cultural centers. It should include ease of transport to and from other places near and far, opportunities for employment, and something which we may wish to call a sense of belonging. People, be they women or men, young or old, who share an identity with a common place, and pride in being part of a part-



cular town or city. But civic pride entails civic duties, already demonstrated by all those people, around the world, working in partnership at the neighborhood and community levels to build healthy, safe, productive and sustainable settlements.

Such efforts at community management and development may be aimed at improving the local environment, creating jobs, reducing poverty, or dealing with the devastation of disaster. They are undertaken by people from all walks of life. Especially exemplary, and deserving of our support, are efforts of the poor-men, women and children - who are struggling to improve their homes and neighborhoods in cities, towns and villages around the world. Those living in poverty constitute nearly one quarter of the world's population, with women disproportionately represented among them. But they are not necessarily poor in spirit or in pride. They can and will make their neighborhoods flourish if given access to affordable land and finance, security of tenure, building materials and training in construction and other skills with which they can earn a

living. Working together with administrators, planners and other professionals, with NGOs or organized in community groups, the poor can take control over their lives and learn how to plan, build and maintain their homes and neighborhoods. When encouraged and supported, the poor have proven time and time again that they can take the initiative to better their lot, make wise decisions and contribute to good governance at the local level.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as well as the United Nations as a whole sees such positive initiatives - in settlements large and small, in developed and developing countries - as examples to be emulated and to learn from as we head in a few years time into a new century where the great majority of the world's population will live in cities. Next June in Istanbul, at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the last in that continuum of United Nations

conferences of this decade - beginning at the Earth Summit in Rio to the just-concluded Women's Conference in Beijing - which is writing the global environmental and social and economic agenda of the 21st century, the world's attention will focus on tangible programs and strategies to support people around the world who are already pooling their talents and energies to improve their communities. At the 'City Summit' in Istanbul, we must all join our hands to theirs, working together towards the century of the city. Building 'our neighborhood' is the starting point of such an effort, so the benefits of city can be enjoyed by a world of neighbors - men, women, children and families.

Message of Dr. Wally N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General UNCHS (Habitat) and Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), on the occasion of World Habitat Day, 2 October 1995

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World Cities Forum; the Academics' and Professionals' Forum; the Private Sector Forum; the Trade Union Forum; the Parliamentarians' Forum; and the NGO Forum.

The eyes of the world will be on Istanbul

The Habitat II City Summit will be the largest and most comprehensive conference ever held in Turkey. Istanbul will host tens of thousands of people, including heads of state, scholars, representa-

tives of leading NGOs, private sector organizations, professional and financial organizations and local authorities.

Habitat II will place Istanbul and Turkey at the top of the global agenda. Turkey will contribute to Habitat II through the knowledge it has accumulated and the Conference itself will play a significant role in enabling Turkey to gain social, political and academic experience.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel :

For us Habitat is a question of pride

We are preparing for a momentous event. The Human Settlements Conference, or Habitat II, which is being organized by the United Nations, will convene in Istanbul from 3-14 June. It will be a global event, the last one of its kind this century.

After the devastation of World War II, which claimed 48 million lives, mankind resolved that such a catastrophe must never be allowed to happen again: the world had to learn to live in peace; people had to learn to respect and tolerate others, regardless of their differences, without resorting to the use of force.

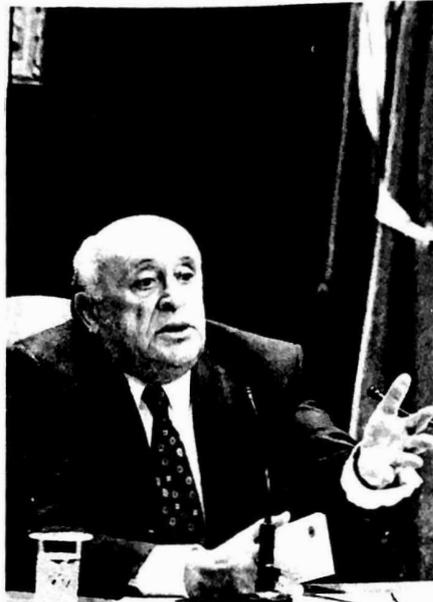
The world has changed enormously in the last 50 years, but it still faces many problems. Most of these problems tend to be regional, even global, in character, rather than being confined to a single country or society.

The recognition of this fact is the driving force behind the major meetings organized by the United Nations. One of these, the United Nations Children's Summit, produced the Convention on the Rights of the Child; another, the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, which was attended by the heads of state or government of 120 countries, adopted an Environmental Declaration and the Agenda 21 action plan. These documents constitute the foundations of the new world order as we enter the 21st century.

Other major meetings have included the Cairo Conference on Population, the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Another major summit is currently being prepared to address another important problem, namely the transition from an agricultural to an industrial society, and from an industrial to an information society. Urbanization has become a very serious problem. As they grow, cities become less viable and more difficult to live in. Life in cities must conform with the requirements of the age; and this is the reason for this conference.

Istanbul is a most appropriate venue for Habi-



tat II, not because it is ours, but because the city is unique in so many ways.

I have said this many times before, but I will nevertheless repeat it once again : for us, this conference is a question of pride. It has to be perfect; and ensuring that it is perfect is the goal of our preparations. I would like to congratulate Mr. Guloksuz and his team. They have the full support of myself, the government, parliament and the press. For the realization of this conference is not the responsibility of any single entity, but the responsibility of each and every one of us.

We have created a "Conference Valley" in Istanbul. We are proud of it. It was an excellent idea to convert the Lutfi Kirdar Sports Hall into an international conference centre and to make the various neighbouring buildings and facilities available for the conference; and it has worked.

We have another six months ahead of us. We will use that time to add the finishing touches.

There is also the conference itself. There will be national reports and plans of action, which will all be consolidated into a Global Plan of Action.

Turkey must have an excellent National Plan

"Turkey must have an excellent National Plan of Action. Turkey's preparation of the National Plan of Action was conducted in a manner worthy of a well-organized society. It may not be the first time we have undertaken such a project, but then neither is it something of which we have a lot of experience. I see it as an important example of the participatory nature of Turkish democracy".

of Action. It will be a monument to the National Committee. Turkey's preparation of the National Plan of Action was conducted in a manner worthy of a well-organized society. It may not be the first time we have undertaken such a project, but then neither is it something of which we have a lot of experience. Reports that are submitted to such meetings are usually prepared by government offices. But what we now have here is the development of a plan by a well-organized society; that is, to a large extent, by non-governmental organizations and other civil organizations. I see this as an important example of the participatory nature of Turkish democracy.

The National Committee has the sole responsibility as regards how and when to finalize the National Plan of Action. My responsibilities are confined to praising the excellence of the National Plan of Action, not only as a document to be presented to the international community, but also as a product of the pluralist, participatory democracy which we are developing in Turkey.

(Excerpts from President Suleyman Demirel's opening address to the Fifth Meeting of the Turkish National Committee on 15 December 1995).

Yigit Guloksuz, President of the Housing Development Administration (HDA), the Turkish focal point for the Habitat II preparation process :

The Istanbul summit has to reach beyond Rio and subsequent conferences

The Conference will finalize the work undertaken so far to determine general principles and formulate a Global Plan of Action to achieve these goals. The first goal was discussed at length at the Rio Summit and in its Agenda 21. The second goal, the Global Shelter Strategy towards the year 2000, was developed as a result of the UN Year for Shelter for the Homeless in 1987. It is for this reason that the Istanbul Summit should reach beyond Rio

and subsequent conferences in placing human settlements on the global agenda. It is therefore imperative that the Istanbul Summit produces a new theoretical and methodological framework and adopts plans of action and policies that will enable the objectives of the Conference to be realized in line with the principles of equitable, just, healthy and secure human settlements. The greatest contribution that Turkey will be able to make to

the content and objectives of the Conference will be through the diversity of its urbanization and housing supply processes, the vast experience acquired by central government and local administrations through the institutional and legal frameworks they have developed in connection with these processes, and the fact that those who come to Turkey for Habitat II will have the chance to learn about them at first-hand. Turkey's aim is not just

the successful organization of a broad-based, high-level conference in Istanbul, but simultaneously to raise global public awareness over the next 20 years by bringing human settlements onto its agenda and contribute to the Conference by ensuring that world leaders take action to make sure that the process of urbanization is sustainable, equitable, just and healthy.

Gustave Speth, Administrator, UNDP

People-centered development is at the core of our solutions

Habitat II is the culmination of a four-year series of United Nations Conferences that began with the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Each of the international conferences features a different theme - the environment, human rights, population growth, social development and women's rights. But they all had something in common: a recognition that people-centered development is at the core of solutions to some of world's most compelling problems.

Habitat II, also known as the "City Summit", focuses on the development challenges faced by urban areas. It will touch on all the themes of previous international conferences because the future of our cities will depend on managing population growth, control-



ling pollution and protecting the urban environment, making sure women have equal to income-earning opportunities - in short, making our cities truly livable. And as our cities grow, so does the need for adequate shelter.

All developing countries are facing the challenge of rapid urban growth. City services have to be developed, infrastructure built, jobs created and housing provided. Developing countries have an es-

pecially daunting task ahead of them because many lack the financial and technical resources to make their cities clean, safe, and productive.

Cities have become a major force of economic growth in the developing world. Development programs therefore need to pay increasing attention to urban areas. As United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said last year, "the question of human settlements is urgent.... The challenge of sustainable development is a challenge of urban settlements."

Cities indeed have enormous potential to lead countries along the path of development. Cities are backbone of countless economies - they are important hubs of production, employment and innovation.

The international community must join forces to help countries capitalize on cities' vast economic potential. But before we can do this, we must tackle the severe and global problems of housing shortages, inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure, environmental decay and worsening poverty. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has a long-standing commitment to working with developing countries to help them resolve these problems and harness the economic energy of cities.

UNDP recognizes the crucial role that cities will play in the economies and societies of the future. Development increasingly depends on cities. And the survival and sustainability of the cities of tomorrow will depend on our development efforts today.

Broad participation in the preparation of The National Report and Plan of Action

Turkey's draft "National Report and Plan of Action" was discussed at the fifth meeting of the Habitat II National Committee, which convened on 15 December 1995. The draft is the outcome of the National Committee's work dating back to October 1994, and classifies priorities under 29 headings.

A total of 90 organizations and institutions were invited to the inaugural meeting of the National Committee in October 1994. They included: 10 ministries, two parliamentary commissions, 11 public agencies, 12 universities and educational institutions, five high level local authority organizations, seven professional associations, three trade union confederations, two housing cooperative unions, seven housing and construction organizations, and 31 NGOs. The number of participating organizations at the fifth meeting in December 1995 was 159.

The opening address at the fifth meeting was delivered by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, followed by State Minister Ali Dincer and the President of the Housing Development Administration, Yigit Guloksuz. (Further details of these speeches are given elsewhere in this issue).

The draft "National Report and Plan of Action" is considered to be the most comprehensive document ever to address Turkey's housing and urbanization problems and the country's efforts to formulate appropriate policy responses to them. Comments on the draft are expected to be discussed at the next meeting in the

second half of February.

The priority areas identified in the draft include the following:

- * Increasing the internal and external linkage capacity of the national settlement system and its subsequent globalization;
- * Reinterpreting spatial equality and upgrading it into a decision-making criterion so as to reduce its impact on individuals' futures and prevent marginalization;
- * Ensuring a peaceful, terrorism-free, stable urban environment;
- * The regulation of urban revenues and the allocation of sufficient land to enhance actor capabilities;
- * Developing urban infrastr-

structure financing to enhance actor capabilities;

- * Developing housing financing possibilities to enhance actor capabilities;
- * Regulating and strengthening housing supply through cooperatives to enhance individuals' capabilities and developing new models to ensure accessibility by lower income groups;
- * Preventing illegal construction in order to avoid the abuse of individuals' capabilities;
- * The improvement of squatter areas;
- * The resettlement of those who have lost their dwellings and had to migrate due to social circumstances and measures adopted by the state or events instiga-

ted by unidentified persons beyond their control;

- * The preservation of features of historical value and the financing of multi-actor efforts to maintain and improve sanitation in existing building and housing stock;
- * Increasing awareness of quality in housing and the environment and ensuring that quality standards are implemented;
- * The development of intra-city transportation with a view to increasing the quality of urban life and enabling the population to manage time more effectively;
- * Providing individuals with adequate leisure and recreation activities and facilities.

UN General Assembly discusses the last conference of the c

New procedural arrangements introduced

The report and draft resolutions which had been adopted at the second session of the Preparatory Committee held in Nairobi in April 1995 were taken up at the UN General Assembly's Second Committee meeting, which was held on November 15-16 1995. Both the report and resolutions were adopted by the Committee and forwarded to the UN General Assembly. In December 1995 the resolutions, which include some new procedural elements, were adopted by the UN General Assembly. As a result of the amendments, representatives of local administrations will take part in the Main Committee discussions on the Global Plan of Action during the Habitat II Conference on an equal level with government representatives. In addition, representatives of local authorities,

NGOs, academics, experts in housing and human settlement, trade unions, parliamentarians and the private sector will present their views, comments and proposals to the Partnership Committee. The General Assembly also decided to convene the third Habitat II Preparatory Committee session in New York between February 5-16 1996.

Members of the Turkish delegation, which comprised the Habitat II Project Coordination Unit and Foreign Ministry officials who had travelled to New York to attend the Second Committee meeting, also took part in the Task Force and Preparatory Committee Bureau meetings and had contacts with UN officials. The extended Task Force meeting was held on November 8-9 1995. The partici-

pants included: the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, members of the Habitat Secretariat and the Habitat Project Coordination Unit, Foreign Ministry officials, members of various UN organizations, and representatives from organizations which will be holding parallel events. The meeting reviewed the preparations for Habitat II in detail and identified the measures to be taken. Preparations for the UN General Assembly Second Committee meeting were taken up at the Preparatory Committee meeting that was convened on November 10 1995.

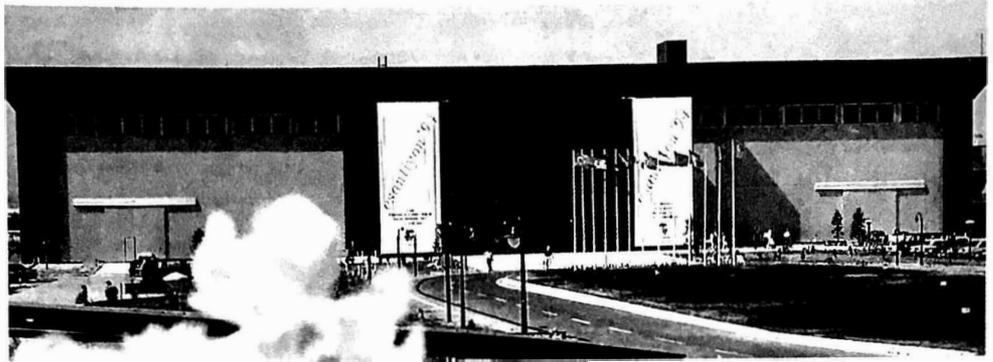
At a presentation made on November 13 1995 at the ECOSOC Hall at the UN, members of the Habitat Secretariat and the Habitat Coordination Unit and Foreign

The largest trade fair ever to be organized by Turkey

*Interview with Ceyda Erem,
President of CNR Inc., which is
organizing the Fair.*

Could you explain the scope of the Fair?

The International Trade Fair will encompass a large variety of products designed to improve urban life and offer solutions to urbanization, housing and settlement problems. It will include products aimed at rendering urban life easier, more comfortable and more pleasant. The products will therefore cover a broad spectrum from construction materials to communication technol-



The International Trade Fair will be the largest of its kind ever hosted by Turkey. Between June 3-10 1996 organizers expect \$10 million in hard currency revenues and 500,000 visitors at the World Trade Center near Istanbul's Airport.

ogies, in which environmentally-friendly products will predominate.

We have contacted 184 countries. So far India, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Australia and Canada have officially applied to participate in the Fair and many others have made reservations. Many domestic firms have also shown interest in the fair, which will be the largest ever held as far as Turkey is concerned. It will cover an overall area of 90 thousand square metres, 30 thousand of which is enclosed while the rest is open-air.

What stage have the preparations for the Fair area reached?

Work is near completion, but we are already making amendments to the original plan. Following our promotion campaign abroad, a wide range of visitors is expected at the fair. Some 25,000 people will attend the Conference and we are also expecting visitors from abroad in addition to local visi-

tors; altogether we expect something in the range of 500,000.

Can you tell us more about your promotional activities?

We have been conducting a campaign since April 1994 and have sent out information to almost every country in the world. We have made presentations in foreign countries and a similar campaign is under way inside Turkey.

How strong will the participation of Turkish companies be? What is the technological level of the construction sector in Turkey?

Turkey possesses fairly advanced technology, but it is not really indigenous. Turkey has managed to keep abreast of the latest developments mainly through technology transfer.

Will the Fair make any financial contribution to Turkey?

Indeed it will. Some foreign currency revenue will come

from the stands. There will also be revenue from the accommodation and local expenditures of visitors, resulting in a substantial inflow of hard currency. We estimate that it will be in the range of \$10 million.

Furthermore, the Turkish companies will have a lot to gain commercially. Top decision-makers will come here from all over the world. There will be procurement teams. There will be municipalities from many countries, in addition to those from Turkey. Add all these together and the Fair will be a golden opportunity for Turkish companies. It will be a unique opportunity, a unique gathering of a diverse, high-level clientele. There is no other fair anywhere in the world to rival it.

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or Habitat II

Ministry officials briefed members of the press and representatives of civil organizations on the preparations for Habitat II. The presentation also included two video films about the preparations.

Members of the Habitat II Project Coordination Unit and Foreign Ministry officials met with officials from the UN's Protocol, Security, Conference Services and Public Information departments to discuss organizational and logistical matters related to the Habitat II Conference. Members of the Habitat II Project Coordination Unit also briefed representatives of international newspapers and magazines such as Time, the Guardian, Business Week, L'Express and Diplomatic World on Habitat II and related work being carried out in Turkey.

Nineteen companies join forces for the organization of Habitat II

*Interview with **Erdogan Ozogul**, Project Coordinator of the VIV Habitat II Consortium, on the logistical and organizational aspects of the Conference.*

Mr. Ozogul, the VIV Habitat II Consortium has undertaken one of the most important roles in the preparation process for Habitat II. The VIV Habitat II Consortium will be responsible for all the logistical and organizational services. Can you give us some information about your activities?

Habitat II is a very important conference for Turkey. Everyone is fully aware of this fact, and it was with this in mind that 19 companies joined forces for this conference. The VIV Habitat II Consortium is perhaps the first example of such a coalition in the Turkish tourism sector. Leading Turkish travel agencies have also joined the consortium. Most of them are very experienced in specific fields such as congresses, conferences and other tourism sub-sectors.

It would not be appropriate to restrict the consortium's responsibilities to hotel accommodation or transportation services. For a conference as complex as Habitat II, the VIV Habitat II Consortium's responsibilities may be grouped together under four headings.

The first is touristic services, such as: hotel accommodation, welcoming and seeing off visi-

tors, transportation and sight-seeing tours both in Istanbul and elsewhere, such as in Cappadocia, Antalya and Bursa. These will either be day tours or for two or more days. The aim is to acquaint the conference participants with the unique natural and historical beauties of Turkey.

The second category involves cultural and artistic events and catering services during the opening and closing sessions as well as during the conference itself, which we have grouped under the title 'social services'. The other two categories are conference services and logistics. These cover the technical and infrastructural preparation of all the sites at Conference Valley. This also includes the training to the highest possible standard of 1000-1500 people who will undertake various duties during the conference.

Some 25,000 people are expected to participate in Habitat II. Are the hotels in Istanbul capable of providing accommodation for such a large number of visitors? How are your preparations progressing?

So far, reservations have been made for 5,500 rooms. In recent years there has been a boom in the number of 5-star hotels, particularly in Istanbul, where we have many hotels which are of world standard and better than those in most other countries. But not all the bookings have been made at 5-star hotels. They vary from

four to even two-star hotels. The number of reservations will increase rapidly.

Are all the hotel reservations in the so-called Conference Valley?

Most are in or around Taksim and in Aksaray, Beyazit, Laleli Sultanahmet. There will also be a trade fair and thus reservations for those interested in the fair are concentrated in hotels near the airport, close to the World Trade Center. In addition, the fact that, apart from the official conference itself, civil organizations will also hold separate meetings has meant that we have also had to provide less costly accommodation. People from all walks of life will be attending the meetings of the civil organizations. We are engaged in negotiations with municipal hotels, which will provide us with at least one thousand rooms. Our pamphlets will be completed and mailed by January. We will accept confirmed reservations until the end of February. In addition, we are also exploring ways of making use of school dormitories.

The VIV Habitat II Consortium is working in coordination with the Istanbul Organization Committee. What stage have the Committee's deliberations reached?

Istanbul is hosting Habitat II, so it would be wrong to assess the event only from a touristic point of view. This is a conference that should include the people of Istanbul as a whole;

and they, the state and public enterprises and the private sector should be the real hosts of this conference. Because of the multi dimensional character of the conference, the Governorate of Istanbul has set up a Steering Committee, chaired by the Governor. The Steering Committee meets every month. The meetings are attended by executives from public enterprises, representatives of the private sector, and organizations such as ours which are engaged in the organization of the event itself.

As I mentioned earlier, all the pertinent organizations are well aware of the event and the necessary arrangements are being made regarding security and traffic flow during the conference. For example, schools will close earlier than normal in order to alleviate the traffic to a certain extent. The municipalities are considering plans for the illumination of the city and other environmental arrangements. The aim is to prevent any hitch that may arise because of the problems attendant on an event of this scale and to display, for all the visitors, the full beauty of Istanbul.

What cultural and artistic events will place in Istanbul during the conference?

Apart from cultural and artistic events which to a certain extent the people of Istanbul will also attend, there will be a series of special performances. When you consider that the world will be watching Istanbul for these two weeks, all



Conference valley

activities assume a special importance. The opening and the closing ceremonies are extremely important. There are plans to use a number of sites in Istanbul for artistic and cul-

tural activities for the duration of the conference. The Istanbul Festival is just one of these activities. It has been rescheduled to open on June 10 to coincide with the conference.

Accreditation of NGOs to Habitat II

During the first two sessions of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II. (Prep Com) a total of 128 NGO's were accredited. The classification for "Non-Governmental Organizations Accreditation" includes all partners such as NGO's and CBOs, Parliamentarian groups, academic, scientific and research institutions, trade unions, women's groups, the private sector and professional associations.

As of 30 September 1995, 97 NGO's had finalized their documentation and were proposed to PrepCom III in New York for accreditation; in addition, 221 NGO's are expected to finalize their documentation by February next year, which will increase the total number of NGO's accredited to Habitat II. to approximately 500.

For More Information please contact:
Seyda Türkmemetoğulları
 Research/Accreditation Officer

Partners Liaison Team
 Habitat II. Secretariat
 P.O.Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya
 Fax: 254 -2-623 080

Procedures to Apply for Media Accreditation

Bona fide representatives of the mass media - press, photo, radio, television and film - will be accredited for coverage of the United Nations conference on Human Settlements Habitat II., to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 - 14 June 1996.

Completed application form must be accompanied by a letter of assignment, issued on official letterhead and signed by the Editor or Bureau Chief. It should be mailed or faxed to:

(Before 15 May 1996)
 Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit
 UN. Conference on Human Settlements - Habitat II.
 Department of Public Information

United Nations - Room S,250
 New York, NY. 10017 - U.S.A.
 Fax No: (212) 963 16 42

After 15 May 1996
 Media Accreditation Officer
 UN. Conference on
 Human Settlements - HABITAT II.
 United Nations Information Center
 197 Atatürk Bulvarı Ankara, Turkey
 Fax No: (312) 468 97 19

Application will not be acknowledged, for those who have applied by mail, passes will be issued at the Conference upon presentation of two forms of photo ID (passport, official national press pass, drivers license, work Id. etc.)

Those applying for the first time at the Conference site MUST fill out an application form and present letter of assignment on letterhead.

PLEASE NOTE: Application forms will be considered **ONLY** if accompanied by a letter of assignment. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.** Accreditation to United Nations Conferences is free of charge.

The "Partnership Committee" represents a major reform of The UN system

"The Foreign Ministry is coordinating with the UN in connection with Habitat II. In addition, in cooperation with the Interior Ministry, the Foreign Ministry is responsible for all the pre-conference preparations and security measures relating to the official delegations who will take part in the Conference".

What role will the Foreign Ministry play in the preparatory work for Habitat II?

In June 1994 the Office of the Prime Minister mandated the Foreign Ministry to conduct negotiations with the Habitat Secretariat and other pertinent international organizations and, given its expertise in the field, mandated the Turkish Housing Development Administration (HDA) to begin work on the preparations for the Conference, including the procurement and allocation of the necessary funds. HDA is currently working on the preparations for the Conference, primarily the preparation of Conference premises, whereas the Foreign Ministry is conducting discussions with the UN about the preparations. The Foreign Ministry is also a member both of the Task Force set up by the Governorate of Istanbul and the Cultural Advisory Committee which is planning the cultural activities that will be held during the Conference as well as at the opening and closing ceremonies.

The Foreign Ministry is involved, in cooperation with the Interior Ministry, in preparatory activities related to the official delegations that will participate in the Conference and helping to finalise the se-

curity measures.

What stage has the work carried out on international platforms regarding Habitat II reached?

To date, two Preparatory Committee meetings within the UN have been held in connection with Habitat II. The first meeting was held in April 1994 in Geneva and the second in April 1995 in Nairobi. The third meeting in the series will be held in New York between February 5-16 1996.

The declaration of principles and the draft Global Plan of Action, which aims to present proposals to solve the problem of housing in the 21st century, are discussed at the meetings of the Preparatory Committee. These documents will be finalized at the third meeting of the Committee and will then be presented for evaluation and approval by the state representatives who will take part in the Istanbul Conference.

Turkey has contributed to the formulation of a draft resolution pertaining to the organization and rules of procedure of the Conference. After its approval by the Second Committee on December 5, 1995, the draft was forwarded to the UN General Assembly. The UN General Assembly approved the draft resolution on December 20 1995.

Many international regional conferences and meetings have already been and are being held in connection with the preparations for Habitat II. The decisions reached at these meetings will be presented to the Istanbul Conference. One such meeting will be held in Turkey in cooperation with UNDP between April 19-21 1996.

Can you explain the importance of the Habitat II "Partnership Committee", a mechanism which has not formed part of previous UN conferences?

The rules of procedure adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 20 1995 introduced what can be considered a major reform of the UN system. As a result, the Istanbul Conference will include a second committee, in addition to the Plenary and the Main Committee. This second committee, which is called the Partnership Committee, provides for the direct and effective participation of various actors, such as parliamentarians, NGOs and local authorities, on a similar standing to the sovereign state members of the UN. Decisions taken in parallel gatherings will be conveyed to the Second Committee by the representatives of the bodies concerned and will, where necessary, be discussed with official delegates. This reform, which was approved at the 50th General Assembly, can be interpreted as a recognition by the UN system of the increasingly important role played by local authorities and NGOs throughout the world.

The signing of a Host Country Agreement covering exemptions, privileges, organizational and equipment requirements for an international UN meeting is a procedural matter between the UN and the country where the meeting is to be held.

The Host Country Agreement is formulated in accordance with the conditions and laws of the country concerned, based on the relevant prototype UN agreement.

Similar Host Country Agreements were signed for the 1976 Habitat I Conference in Vancouver, the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the 1993 Human Rights Conference in Vienna, the 1994 International Population and Development Conference in Cairo, the Social Summit in Copenhagen and the Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995; and each of these agreements contained different provisions.

Work is progressing on the NGO Forum

"The International Facilitating Group, which is composed of some 20 international non-governmental organizations, works at the international level to formulate the main programme of the Habitat II NGO Forum and to ensure the active participation of NGOs".

Work is underway for the organization of the NGO Forum, to be held between May 30 and June 11, within the framework of the UN Habitat II Conference. The organization of the NGO Forum is jointly conducted by the Host Committee (HC), the International Facilitating Group (IFG) and the NGO Forum Liaison Unit. At meetings held on December 11-12 1995, during the visit of the IFG members to Istanbul, it was agreed that the HC, the NGO Forum Liaison Unit and the NGO Forum Secretariat would work together to organize the NGO Forum. The number of actors involved reflects the amount of work which needs to be done in

order to organize the NGO Forum. The roles of the actors taking part in the organization of the NGO Forum can be summarized as follows :

The NGO Forum Secretariat, to be headed by Mr. Jan Birket-Smith, is responsible for planning the Forum. Habitat II will benefit from the experience of Mr. Birket-Smith, who was the Coordinator of the NGO Forum at the 1995 Social Summit in Copenhagen.

The HC, which is composed of various Turkish NGOs, will both facilitate and increase the participation of the national NGOs in Habitat II and provide resource consultants to NGO Forum Director Mr. Birket-Smith and to the Secretariat.

The NGO Forum Liaison Unit, which is officially responsible for the Conference, performs another facilitating task for the Forum by handling communications between HC and the International Facilitating Group on the one hand, and the relevant authorities, the UN and the Habitat II Project Coordination Unit, on the other. Dr. Sule Aytac is the Director of the NGO Forum Liaison Unit.

The International Facilitating

The Host Country Agreement which is being negotiated between Turkey and the UN will be no different than the agreements mentioned above.

As far as press reports are concerned, there appears to be a misunderstanding concerning the issue of exemptions refer-

red to in the agreement. The exemptions in question should be understood as the exemption to be accorded to those attending the official UN meeting in connection with "the conference-related activities in which they will be involved".

Group, which is composed of some 20 global non-governmental organizations, conducts work at the international level to formulate the main programme of the Habitat II NGO Forum and to ensure the active participation of NGOs.

Repair and maintenance work has started at Taskisla, the Faculty of Architecture building at Istanbul Technical University, which has been chosen as the location for the NGO Forum. Joint work is also under way between the NGO Forum Liaison Unit and Istanbul Technical University to create an office for the NGO Forum Secretariat; HC is being consulted to ensure that preparations are in line with the spirit of NGOs.

The Host Committee, the Forum Organizing Group and the NGO Forum Liaison Unit have jointly prepared a bulletin in English, with contributions from IFG members, and begun its dissemination at the international level. A similar bulletin in Turkish will be issued for dissemination to NGOs in Turkey.

Some 400 students are expected to assume various duties at the NGO Forum as part of the "Volunteers Project", which was drawn up under cooperation between UNDP and AIESEC. The volunteers will undergo a training programme prepared by these two organizations before taking up their duties at the NGO Forum.

Symposia on "The Housing Question of the Others" and "Inter-NGO Communication Problems"

were held during December as part of the preparatory process for Habitat II. The first symposium, which was organized by the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, discussed the qualitative aspects of the housing question. The topics discussed at the Symposium included: Women and Housing; Migrants and Housing; Disabled and Housing; Elderly and Housing; and Children and Housing. City dwellers were also encouraged to speak from their own perspectives and proposals were made.

Meanwhile, various groups continue their efforts for Habitat II. The Turkish trade union confederation, Hak-Is, the Child Foundation, the Science and Arts Foundation, the Architects and Engineers' Group Secretariat convened under the Chairmanship of Turgut Cansever and conducted discussions under the heading of "Thoughts on City and Housing". These discussions produced an alternative viewpoint that could contribute to the National Plan of Action.

Various NGOs in Turkey have set up working groups. NGO caucuses have been formed for: Youth, Women, Environment, Children, Universal Values and Health. NGO caucuses are conducting work not only inside Turkey but also outside the country. Thus, in addition to the host country NGOs, NGOs throughout the world are exerting all their efforts in order to prepare for the NGO Forum.

For more information on working groups in Turkey and related personalities, please call (90 212) 243 63 54.



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
HABITAT II
CITY SUMMIT
ISTANBUL 3-14 JUNE 1996

HABITAT II

newsletter



Habitat II Daily Schedule

FROM MONDAY 27 MAY TO FRIDAY 14 JUNE

	Mo 27	Th 30	Fr 31	Sa 1	Su 2	Mo 3	Tu 4	We 5	Th 6	Fr 7	Sa 8	Su 9	Mo 10	Tu 11	We 12	Th 13	Fr 14	
MORNING	Registration of each forum		HCC															
	UN Registration		ITU	ACC	ACC	QAT	MCB	Round Table 2, 3, 4, 5			UNESCO	Forum for Human Solidarity	17	Round Table 7				
AFTERNOON			Pre-Conf Consultation	25 Trade Fair		HIL	COMM 1	COMM 2 UN Local Author Private Sector Problems				18	COMM 1	COMM 2 NGOs Round Table 23, 24				
			7	4	8	Pre-Conf Consultation	CCH	12				19						
EVENING			7			Pre-Conf Consultation	COMM 1	COMM 2 UN Agencies Local Author Liaison Liaisons, Sponsors, Res.				20	COMM 1	COMM 2 NGOs Round Table				
							Round Table 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6											
			HCC			ILO				UNESCO	FAO							
			ITU															
			ACC				12				16	21						22
			ACC															
		2	5	9		11					16							22
		3	6				13											
	1			26	10					14								24

ROUND-TABLES

on the future of cities

(in the 21st century)

1. Employment and Production
2. The Form of Cities
3. Transport
4. Urban Physiology, Metabolism, Environment
5. Citizenship and Democracy
6. Rural/Urban Linkages
7. Cities and the Informational Society

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

1. Film Festival
2. Forum Opening
3. Hotel's TV/Habitat II.
4. Opening and Awards: The U.I.A. Exhibition on "Convivial Places"
5. Books' Exhibition and Sale
6. Photos' Exhibition
7. "Open Space Posters" Exhibition
8. Best Practices Exhibition
9. Historical Exhibitions on Anatolya and on Istanbul
10. Conference's Opening Event
11. Trade Fair: "Good Ideas For Better Cities"
12. Cities Video Theaters

13. Daily Electronic Public Consultations

14. Best Practices Award Ceremony
15. Children's Competition Awards
16. Photo's and One Minute Video Festival's Awards
17. Junior Citizens Caucus
18. Senior Citizen's Caucus
19. Environment Day's Awards
20. Street Activities: "Enjoy Your City"
21. Pop-music Concert
22. "Fountain of Solidarity" Dedication
23. Closure Public Event
25. Pre-inauguration
26. Corporate Best Practices Awards at Private Sector Forum

VENUES

- | | |
|-----|--|
| MCB | Main Conference Building
(Lütfi Kırdar Conference Hall) |
| CCH | Compound Concert Hall
(Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall) |
| HIL | Hilton Convention center |
| ACC | Atatürk Cultural Center |
| TEH | Tüyap Exhibition Hall |
| ITU | Istanbul Technical University |
| OAT | Open Air Theater |