



HABITAT

United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
May 31 to June 11, 1976

HABITAT FACTS

MARCH, 1976

Published by
Canadian HABITAT Secretariat
Vancouver, B.C.

TWO HABITAT CONFERENCES IN VANCOUVER

UN HABITAT _____ May 31 - June 11, 1976

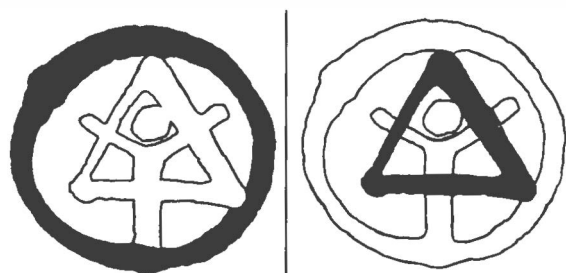
NGO HABITAT FORUM _____ May 27 - June 11, 1976

HABITAT is the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. It will be held at various locations in downtown Vancouver.

HABITAT FORUM is the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Conference on Human Settlements. It's to be held at Vancouver's outlying Jericho Beach on an old RCAF seaplane base; related meetings will be conducted at the nearby University of British Columbia.

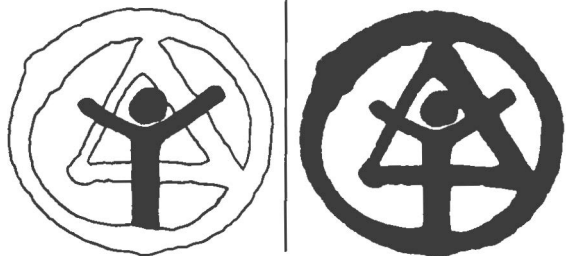
Both HABITAT and HABITAT FORUM are dedicated to presenting solutions to problems of human settlements. Although the two conferences are different in sponsorship, in structure and in format, there are mechanisms for the NGO HABITAT FORUM to make its views known to the UN HABITAT. The two will also be linked by closed-circuit television.

THE HABITAT SYMBOL



The symbol for Habitat combines three traditional forms to reaffirm man's belief that he can find answers to the problems of human settlements.

The circle emphasizes the universal nature of such problems.



The Δ represents shelter.

The human figure appeals for better ways to provide this shelter. The rough, graffiti style reflects mankind's urgent need for answers.

Basic Background information on HABITAT follows. There is a separate section on HABITAT FORUM.

HABITAT,

the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, is an outgrowth of the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June 1972 where it became apparent that urgent action was needed to meet the growing complexity of human settlement problems around the globe.

“HUMAN SETTLEMENTS” IS THE KEY

The term “human settlements” encompasses all the elements which make up our habitat, or human environment. These elements include food, shelter, energy, work, transport, communications, water, sanitation, health, education, law, protection, economic management, government, recreation and the arts.

REASONS FOR HABITAT

“The study of human settlements is an important interdisciplinary science of the future. It deals with the total relationship of every element that makes up the total picture of how and where we live.” — Dr. Margaret Mead, world-famous anthropologist.

“Tokyo, one of the world’s largest cities, will have 25 million people by 1985, more than Canada’s total population today.”

Author, economist, environmentalist Barbara Ward (Lady Jackson) sums it up in the prologue to her new book, *THE HOME OF MAN*, which puts HABITAT in the perspective of human needs on a global scale. This excerpt and those that follow were published in the October 1975 issue of the *HABITAT BULLETIN*.

THE WAY THE WORLD IS CHANGING

— It took at least 500,000 years for the first 100 million people to appear on Earth.

— By about 1500 A.D. there were perhaps 500 million.

— The great acceleration began in knowledge, power, resources, technology, mobility, conquest. The first 1,000 million mark in population was passed about 1830.

— The next 1,000 million took only 100 years, the next only 30.

— Today, with just over 4,000 million on the planet, the added 1,000 million has taken only 15 years.

— What we're concerned with today is the imminent doubling of our planetary numbers in less than 40 years.

— But before such increases could take place, hunger, war and plague would have wiped out the surplus.

— After some 15,000 years of organized human existence in recognizable settlements, the whole

character of this habitat is being radically transformed in less than 100 years.

— After 100 years or so of industrialization, the urban population accounted for 15 per cent of the world total, leaving rural peoples in overwhelming predominance.

— Now in just a century this millennial relationship is being overthrown with almost inconceivable speed.

— By 1960, urban populations had grown to 1,000 million in a world of 3,000 million.

— By the year 2000, there will actually be more urban dwellers than rural in a world population between 6,000 million and 7,000 million.

— By 1985, cities of over 1 million population will have jumped from 11 to 273 in less than a century — 147 of them in less-developed lands.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The main purposes of the HABITAT Conference are:

— To stimulate innovation, serve as a means for the exchange of experience, and ensure the widest possible dissemination of new ideas and technologies in the field of human settlements;

— To formulate and make recommendations for an international program in this field which will assist governments;

— To stimulate interest in developing appropriate financial systems and institutions for human settlements among those making financial resources available and those in a position to use such resources.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in HABITAT is on invitation or designation by the UN Secretary-General of the following people:

- Representatives of UN member states and selected non-member states;
- Representatives of interested UN organs;
- Representatives of specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- Observers from intergovernmental organizations;
- Observers from national liberation movements and organizations entitled to participate in the Conference;
- Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations.

GET INVOLVED

Although HABITAT is an official UN Conference intended for national delegations, its purpose and results involve all of us. Besides, you can:

- View the audio-visual presentations scheduled throughout the Conference at the Queen Elizabeth Playhouse;
- Feel the Conference pulse at the HABITAT Pavilion on Courthouse Plaza;
- Join in all the excitement of FESTIVAL HABITAT;
- Follow HABITAT proceedings all day long if you wish on cable TV;
- Attend and participate in HABITAT FORUM;
- Discuss such issues as land use, transportation, energy conservation, pollution and safe neighbourhoods with your family and friends.

ORGANIZATION

HABITAT is the first UN conference to be held outside a national capital. In New York, the UN Habitat Secretariat is headed by Secretary-General Enrique Penalosa of Colombia. In Ottawa, under the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, the Hon. Barney Danson, the Canadian Habitat Secretariat is headed by Commissioner-General James W. MacNeill. In Vancouver, operations are directed by Associate Commissioner-General Dr. Hugh L. Keenleyside. All will come together as the HABITAT opening draws nigh.

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

All HABITAT sessions and services will be centred in downtown Vancouver:

QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE
— Plenary Sessions and UN Exhibit

HOTEL VANCOUVER
— Conference rooms B & C, Host Broadcaster and Media Broadcast Centre

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL
— Conference room D, Project Presentation Centre (audio-visuals)

HOLIDAY INN CITY CENTRE
— Conference room E, Preparatory Committee

QUEEN ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE
— Public showings of audio-visuals

HABITAT PAVILION (Courthouse Plaza)
— Conference literature, delegate tour information, postal services

HABITAT OPERATIONS CENTRE
— Media Centre and administration, UN Secretariat, Conference Services, Habitat Hosting Corps, UN Office of Public Information

CANADIAN HABITAT SECRETARIAT
— (Bentall Tower III)

652 BURRARD STREET
— Delegate registration

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided at all plenary and committee sessions in the six official UN languages:

English French Spanish Russian Arabic Chinese

HABITAT PAVILION

HUB OF SERVICES

The HABITAT Pavilion will be the hub of Conference services with facilities for distribution of Conference literature, travel and tour information for delegates, and postal services. A closed-circuit system will provide live TV coverage of the Conference for the public.

LOCATION

The Courthouse Plaza facing Georgia Street.

DESIGN

The Pavilion will cover an area of 9,700 square feet. It will be made up of 112 modular units with roof shells constructed of papier mache. A display of UN flags will be featured.

CONSTRUCTION

The modules are being built by 2000 school children in the Greater Vancouver area, it taking 15 youngsters about 2½ hours to do one module. They will also decorate the underside of the roof shells to the theme of Human Settlements.

Arthur Erickson Architects designed the Pavilion; Bogue Babicki & Associates are the structural engineers; Frank Stanzl Construction Ltd. is supervising manufacture of the shells and will be responsible for erection; Wyn Davies, Art Co-ordinator of the Courtenay School District, is organizing the work of the school children.

The HABITAT Pavilion will play a central role in the total festive environment which the City of Vancouver is developing through the Habitat Festival Committee.

FORMAT & AGENDA

The HABITAT Conference in Vancouver will have before it three major issues for consideration and decision:

- DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
- PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL ACTION
- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Discussion will have a definite focus through position papers prepared by the UN Habitat Secretariat and reviewed by the 56-member Preparatory Committee at its meeting in New York, January 12-23, 1976. Background preparation was intensive, extensive and global in scope, including:

- A four-day symposium in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, in May, 1975, attended by 30 of the world's leading architects, planners, environmentalists and related experts, to lay the philosophical basis for Human Settlements as an inter-disciplinary science;
- Four regional meetings in Cairo, Tehran, Caracas and Geneva in which more than 100 countries participated;
- Some 30 special studies commissioned by the UN Habitat Secretariat;
- Two meetings of the Preparatory Committee;
- Workshops, covering global regions, to assist countries in preparing their audio-visual documentaries.

IN FORMAT, HABITAT will be organized into four bodies meeting in parallel:

- **Plenary Session** — Meeting throughout; National Statements for 6½ days; consideration and approval of Committee Reports.
- **Committee I** — Discussion of Declaration of Principles and Program for International Co-operation.
- **Committee II** — Recommendations for National Action (policies and strategies, planning and institution and management).
- **Committee III** — Recommendations for National Action (shelter, infrastructure and services, land and public participation).

In addition there will be numerous ad hoc meetings, caucuses and press conferences.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

HABITAT will be solution-oriented — and answers to settlement problems do exist. Most countries are bringing with them to the Conference audio-visual presentations of how they solved their particular problems. That's 220 presentations from 120 countries, including three from Canada. They will be available to delegates in the Project Presentation Centre in the Hyatt Regency Hotel and will be shown to the public at the Queen Elizabeth Playhouse.

In plenary sessions, three-minute versions of each country's audio-visual presentation can be called up on a five-metre optical TV screen to illustrate a speaker's point. These capsules will also be available in two of three committee rooms on small colour receivers adjacent to the delegations.

This will be the largest and most diverse audio-visual presentation of human settlements solutions yet assembled. Some titles:

CANADA	Management of Urban Growth and Land Use Design Innovations for Cold Climates Governing Human Settlements
ALGERIA	The Green Belt and 1000 Socialist Villages
BOTSWANA	Rural-Urban Drift
COLOMBIA	Invasion of Colinas (squatters)
EGYPT	Greater Cairo
GREECE	New Towns Dealing with New Needs
HUNGARY	Thermal Water Utilization
IRAN	Pardisan — A Persian Garden
ISRAEL	Conquest of the Desert
KUWAIT	Resettlement of the Bedouin
LIBERIA	From Mats to Mattresses
MALI	The Village of Djoliba
RWANDA	Delivery of Community Services to Farmers
SUDAN	Squatter Improvement Program in Port Sudan
TOGO	A New Togolese Approach to Urban Renewal
USA	Citizen Involvement in Public Decision-Making
USSR	Mass Housing Construction in Vilnius

All will be recorded on video-tape and versions made in the six UN languages.

HOUSING DELEGATES

Accommodation for some 6000 persons has been block-booked in hotels and motels as close as possible to the city centre. Advance reservations are being made through the Canadian Habitat Secretariat. Transportation is being provided from the airport direct to the hotels and motels, as well as between these points and the Conference sites.

TWO ROLES FOR CANADA

Canada is both the host for HABITAT and chief participant in it. As host, Canada has set up the Conference infrastructure, arranged meeting facilities for delegates and news media and booked 6000 hotel rooms for delegates, observers, officials and journalists. As participant, Canada has prepared three audio-visual presentations and will conduct study tours to enable HABITAT and HABITAT FORUM participants to view national achievements in human settlements.

THE COSTS — PLUS

The estimated direct cost of HABITAT to the Canadian Government is \$14-million — \$9.2 million to set up the Conference and \$4.8 million to participate. About \$8.5 million (60 per cent) of the total will be spent in Vancouver. The regular UN budget appropriates U.S. \$2.77 million for HABITAT, of which Canada's share as indirect cost is U.S. \$88,086 (3.18 per cent). The Greater Vancouver Convention and Visitors' Bureau estimates that HABITAT-related visitors will leave behind some \$20-million.

STATION HABITAT

A number of local cable companies will act as HABITAT's own community TV network from 0700 hours to about midnight, May 31 to June 11. Programming will include:

- Live and videotaped replays of conference proceedings;
- Full-length audio-visual projects on a scheduled basis;
- News and a limited amount of magazine-type programming such as interviews and commentary.

CANADIAN EXHIBIT

The Canadian National Exhibit, to be housed in four modules on the Pacific Centre Plaza at Georgia and Howe Streets, is intended to educate the Canadian public about the human settlements issues that are expected to be a major part of the national political dialogue from now to the end of the century.

HABITAT FORUM

As the parallel non-governmental conference concurrent to the official UN HABITAT Conference, HABITAT FORUM will bring together architects, engineers, environmentalists, economists, planners, sociologists and representatives of hundreds of citizen organizations from all over the world to discuss the pressing issues of human settlements. Events will range from a formal plenary session to exhibits of appropriate technology for developing peoples, a digester unit producing methane gas from organic wastes and a working self-sufficient family dwelling unit of geodesic domes, windmill and solar panels.

Renovations at the former Jericho Beach seaplane base rely heavily on recycled and donated materials. Boardwalks will connect the five hangars (two of which are among the largest wooden structures in British Columbia) and provide cover from wet weather with roofs of corrugated metal. The seafront is edged with 2,400 feet of old iron railings from Vancouver's landmark Lion's Gate Bridge. A portable sawmill has been producing lumber on the spot from stray logs, so plentiful on B.C. coasts.

LOCATION

The NGO activities will take place at Jericho Beach, four miles from downtown Vancouver, with related meetings at the University of British Columbia nearby.

Facilities and hosting are being arranged by the Association in Canada Serving Organizations for Human Settlements (ACSOH).

DATES

HABITAT FORUM will start May 27, 1976, four days before the UN Conference opens May 31. Both wind up on June 11. Various related activities are expected to extend a week or so before and after these dates.

PARTICIPATION

The NGO HABITAT FORUM is open to any representatives of organizations and individuals who have an interest in the issues of human settlements. By February, 1976 more than 250 international organizations had indicated their desire to participate.

- ACCOMMODATION** Beds for about 2,500 delegates to the FORUM have been block-booked at the University of B.C. residences. Additional delegates and all other visitors will be assisted at the HABITAT Housing Referral Centre, 3396 West Broadway. Home owners wishing to offer rooms or backyard camping space should contact this centre at Tel. 732-1191.
- REGISTRATION** Registrations (and reservations) should be made through Sandy Marriage or Jane Woods, HABITAT FORUM, Box 48360, Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1K8.
- TRANSPORT** Transportation is being provided from Vancouver International Airport to the University, between the University and Jericho Beach, and between downtown and Jericho.
- MEETING ROOMS** Facilities for the business sessions and display areas of HABITAT FORUM can be arranged through ACSOH. This applies to both the official HABITAT FORUM and to meetings of independent organizations being held in Vancouver during the HABITAT period.
- There will be no charge for HABITAT FORUM facilities; independent organizations holding private meetings will be charged for the space they use.

OPEN CONFERENCE

HABITAT FORUM activities will be available to all who wish to participate or simply observe or listen. In addition, those at Jericho will be able to monitor the UN sessions by closed-circuit television.

HABITAT FORUM PROGRAM

The preliminary program for HABITAT FORUM outlines a briefing each morning from 0900 to 1000 hours on the official UN HABITAT Conference. Afterwards, panel discussions and debates will be held in plenary sessions on some of the major human settlements issues. Emphasis will be laid on methods of improving the living conditions of the most deprived groups in both developing and developed countries. Nine principal subjects have been selected as day-long themes for the Conference:

- National Human Settlement Policies
- Land Use and Ownership
- Participation in Planning Implementation
- User-Oriented Human Settlements Technologies
- Human Settlements and the New International Economic Order
- The Man-Made and the Natural Environment
- Human Settlements in Rural Areas
- Social Justice and the Question of Differing Values and Cultures
- Community Involvement in Improving the Quality of Life

*** Workshops** of two or three sessions each will take place on such topics as:

- Low Cost and Self-Help Housing
- The Role of Women
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Settlement Problems
- Employment Problems
- Transportation
- The Building Industry as Promoter of Economic Development
- Financing the Development of Human Settlements
- International Co-operation for Human Settlements Research
- Conservation of Energy and Other Resources
- Metropolitan Areas and the Problems of Megalopolis
- Population Policies
- Education
- Governmental and NGO Co-operation, Ways and Means
- Case Studies of Human Settlement Policies

In addition there will be:

— NGO demonstration projects dealing with solutions to human settlement problems — social, technical, political and economic — presented through films, video and audio tape, posters and models.

— Environmental equipment and services pavilion; exhibition of goods and services relating to human settlements.

— Independent professional and academic meetings of those concerned with human settlements; architects, town planners, urban psychologists, etc.

— Distinguished Lecture Series by well known speakers and writers on human settlement issues, arranged by the University of B.C.

— **FILM HABITAT**, an international film festival on human settlements.

FESTIVAL HABITAT

The City of Vancouver, through its Habitat Festival Committee, is developing a five-week festival program to start May 21 and run to July 5, 1976. It includes a theatre series at **Vancouver East Cultural Centre** and **David Y.H. Lui Theatre** of the best young stage groups from Canada's various regions. The new **City Stage** plans to reopen with special **HABITAT** performances and there'll be special participation by the **Arts Club**.

A concert series will include classical, pops, new music and early music at **Christ Church Cathedral**.

A **STREET FESTIVAL** program will use **Granville Square**, **Pacific Centre Mall** and **Alexander Park Bandstand** to feature special bands. A musical composition will be created specifically for the downtown acoustic environment. Folkart mini-festivals will be staged in **Gastown** and **Chinatown** on the weekend of June 4-6. The Chinatown festival will include a lion dance and classical music and opera. Gastown events will feature ethnic acts, a 100-mile bicycle race from Hope and native Indian dancers.

A two-week **FILM HABITAT** festival will use three locations: **National Film Board** for futuristic and Canadian feature films, **The Western Front** for experimental films and **HABITAT FORUM** for a look at change and alternatives.

The **Vancouver Art Gallery** will have 'The Night Shift' with doors remaining open from 1000 to 0200 hours to feature events with local artists. And local artists Jack Shadbolt, Michael Morris, Sheri Grauer and Gordon Smith are contributing designs for city street decorations.

Some 300 billboards — virtually every one north of 25th Avenue and west of Main — have been donated for a public contest.

The **HABITAT CRAFT FESTIVAL** will have three major components:

— An Exhibition of Outstanding Canadian Crafts, from May 21 to June 20 in the **C.P. Rail Station**, will include Inuit, Indian and contemporary Canadian collections;

— A Concourse Fair also inside the **CPR Station**, from May 21 to July 5, will be quality-controlled and juried;

— A Plaza Fair on the open **Granville Square** from May 21 to July 5 will be open to experimental and developing craftspeople on a rotating basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Want to know more? Then contact the following:

HABITAT INFORMATION CENTRE

131 Water Street, Gastown, Vancouver, British Columbia
Telephone (604) 666-8641.

UN HABITAT SECRETARIAT

485 Lexington Avenue - 26th floor, New York City, N.Y. 10007, U.S.A.

HABITAT FORUM

P.O. Box 48360, Bentall Centre, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1K8 (by mail)
4397 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. (in person)
Telephone (604) 228-9011.

FESTIVAL HABITAT

601 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C.
Telephone (604) 682-6941