

Habitat II



Press Release

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HUMAN SOLIDARITY FORUM CRAFTS GUIDELINES FOR A SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANET

The first *Guidelines for a Sustainable Urban Planet Through Human Solidarity* were presented to Committee II of the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul today.

The guidelines - seven refreshingly practical recommendations emphasizing the importance of human solidarity to solving global urbanization issues - emerged from the Human Solidarity Forum held at the historic Ciragan Palace this weekend.

"The Human Solidarity Forum brought together a group of the world's leading thinkers to focus on the capacity of the human spirit to cope with rapid global urbanization and its terrifying implications," said Dr. Wally N'Dow, Habitat II Secretary-General. "Unless urban problems are viewed through a prism of human values and resolved through a strong sense of solidarity, the civic disengagement and social malaise that eat at the heart of cities will not disappear."

The all-day Human Solidarity Forum, moderated by American television journalist Robert MacNeil, included Brazil's First Lady Ruth Cardoso, eminent historian Arthur Schlesinger, UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor, World Bank Vice President Ismail Serageldin, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados Billie Miller, and others. More than 600 people were in the audience. The Forum was made possible by a grant from George and Jane Russell of the Frank Russell Company of Tacoma, Washington, USA.

In crafting the *Guidelines*, Forum participants identified the critical elements of human solidarity. These include: civic leadership based on ethics, spiritual values, and the political will to anticipate and respond to change; cooperation based on common responsibilities, interests, attitudes, and goals; social trust that enables people of divergent cultures and customs to live in harmony; and civic pride and political morality that give cities their intrinsic value.

"Given the raw fury of the urban population explosion," Dr. N'Dow said, "human solidarity may ultimately be our planet's only salvation."

Guidelines for a Sustainable Urban Planet Through Human Solidarity and a list of Forum participants are attached.



UNCHS (Habitat) New York Office
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya Room DC2-0943
Tel: 254-2 623719, Fax: 254-2 623080 United Nations - New York, N.Y. 10017
habitat2@unep.no Tel: (212) 963-4200 and Fax (212) 963-8721