

Habitat II Preparations in Turkey

January 1996
Monthly Progress Report No:3¹

I - Second Habitat II Planning Mission

Within the context of the Habitat II preparations, under the leadership of Mr. Wilhelm, the Deputy Secretary General of the Habitat II Conference, a Planning Mission visited Istanbul from 24-26 January. The mission was composed of Habitat II and UN Secretariat senior staff in the areas of security, conference services, public information, electronic and conference engineering, communications and architectural planning. The mission examined the venues for the conference and parallel activities as well as the Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul in light of expected conference and security requirements. In addition to the meetings with their relevant counterparts, the mission met several times with the Habitat II PCU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Istanbul Security and UNDP. Agreement in principle was reached on the following main areas:

- a Memorandum of Understanding on security issues should soon be ready for signature;
- the second visit of the UN Deputy Chief of Security to Istanbul is planned for March;
- layout plans of the UN offices at the Harbiye Cultural Center, adjacent to the main Conference Hall, as well as the

plans of the annex, to house the media center and DPI offices;

- all exhibitions coordinated by UNCHS/Nairobi will be located at the Sali Pazari docks area;
- UN system special meetings as well as other non-UN meetings, approved by UNCHS, will be located at Istanbul Technical University's Gumussuyu campus;
- the Conference registration center will be located at the Sali Pazari docks area;
- UNDP/Turkey will be handling customs clearance for all in-coming UN printed and other materials for the Conference;
- UNDP/Turkey will disseminate to all UNDP country offices in the world the latest brochure issued by the VIV consortium;
- DPI, UNCHS/Nairobi and the local advertising consortium will coordinate their strategies for global public relations and advertising.

On 26 January, the last day of the mission, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Yigit Guloksuz, President of the Housing Development Administration (HDA) held a press conference to brief the press on the latest developments.

II - Conference Organization

The VIV consortium, which is responsible for the organisation of the Conference has received a large number of applications for the estimated 1,000 professional personnel who will be employed prior to and during the Conference. Interviews have already begun for some of the professional categories and training programmes are being developed.

The VIV consortium has printed two brochures for worldwide dissemination to potential participants, at the end of January. The first brochure includes general information on hotels, reservation forms, visa, office reservations and car rental services, as well as a preliminary programme of Conference events. The second brochure includes information on tourism opportunities, including special tours.

Based on agreed upon plans, the VIV consortium will undertake the necessary interior remodeling of the UN and DPI offices at the Harbiye Cultural Center in May, once the buildings have been handed over for the Conference.

The Braehler firm, which provided simultaneous sound system equipment for the Copenhagen and Beijing Conferences, has again been selected to provide this service for the Habitat II Conference.

The construction of the Lutfi Kir-dar Conference Hall is progressing well and should be completed by the end of March.

III - International Trade Fair

CNR, the firm organizing the Trade Fair, has allocated 2,000 sq. m. of exhibition space free of charge to the Habitat Secretariat for the participation of LDCs. A few LDCs have expressed interest in this opportunity, including Sudan,

which has already requested exhibition space.

During the recent African Regional Ministerial Meeting in Johannesburg, the availability of space to LDCs was brought to the attention of participants: central and local governments, NGOs and the private sector. The response was quite positive.

For further information on the Trade Fair, please refer to Annex II - *Habitat II International Trade Fair - Questions & Answers*.

IV - Advertising & Public Relations

The second phase of the national publicity campaign will start in March. The intention of the Lowe-Adam-Yorum consortium is to focus the campaign on the content of the Conference, including encouraging citizens to become more active members of, and contributors to, their communities.

Burson Marsteller, the public relations firm hired by HDA and based in New York, is continuing its efforts to raise awareness internationally about the Habitat II Conference.

The first and second issues of the monthly Habitat II newsletter in Turkish have been disseminated in December and January. UNDP/UNIC Ankara are preparing an English-language version of the newsletter, which is expected to be available at PrepCom III in New York.

V - National Preparations for the NGO Forum

The organization of the NGO Forum is being undertaken jointly by the Host Committee, the IFG and the NGO Forum Liaison Unit within the HPCU. Mr. Jan Birket-Smith arrived in Istanbul on 15

January to begin work as the NGO Forum Director. Having been the Coordinator of the NGO Forum at the Social Summit in Copenhagen, Mr. Birket-Smith brings a wealth of experience to the job. The NGO Forum Director is responsible, *inter alia*, for fundraising and for planning the activities of the Forum.

A local sub-contractor has been selected and has begun work on maintenance and repairs in the Taskisla building of the Faculty of Architecture of Istanbul Technical University, where the NGO Forum will be held.

In order to determine a mailing list for the NGO Forum, preliminary registration forms were sent out to approximately 6,000 NGOs listed on the data bank of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in Geneva. Several thousand additional NGOs have been reached through the mailing list of the NGO Rooftops Canada. In February, the final registration forms will be sent. These will allow NGOs to request accommodation, exhibition space, meeting facilities, etc.

A UNDP project has been launched with the participation of AIESEC and with funding from the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The project is designed to provide the NGO Forum with approximately 400 student volunteers, who will provide information services and assistance to Forum participants. The project includes a training programme for the volunteers.

VI - Istanbul Organization Committee

The Executive Board of the Istanbul Organization Committee met on 22 December. This meeting was attended by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Greater Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul, the chairmen of the Turkish Unions of Hotels and Travel

Agencies and the VIV consortium. The meeting reviewed the hotel requirements for the Conference participants to ensure that adequate rooms would be reserved.

VII - National Report and Activities at the Municipal Level

The fifth national committee meeting was held in Ankara on 15 December to discuss the latest version of the national report. The meeting was attended by the President of the Republic. 159 members representing associations, NGOs, CBOs, Ministries, the academic and scientific communities were present.

The draft national report which was debated at the meeting is considered to be a comprehensive analysis which emerged as a result of joint efforts to resolve Turkey's housing and urbanization problems and to define appropriate policies.

At the initiation of HDA, a series of regional meetings of the municipality unions is being held. These meetings provide a venue enabling mayors to present ideas and proposals for inclusion in the national report. On 12 January, the Marmara Municipalities' Union brought together 300 mayors in Istanbul. On 20 January, the Mediterranean Municipalities' Union met in Antalya with some 250 mayors in attendance. On 27 January the Aegean Municipalities' Union met in Izmir with some 300 mayors in attendance. The Black Sea and the Eastern and South Eastern Municipalities' Unions are also scheduled to meet in the coming weeks.

VIII - Regional Preparations/ Activities for Habitat II

The Regional Task Force for Habitat II, (CIS and Central Europe including Turkey) established in October, held its first meeting in Ankara from 23-26 Janu-

ary. The meeting was attended by delegates from 11 countries. Bosnia-Herzegovina attended the meeting upon special invitation from the Turkish Government. The objective of the meeting was to produce and adopt a report on regional priority issues identified during discussions under the agenda item on regional development and cooperation modalities in the area of human settlements.

The identified priority issues will be presented at PrepCom III in New York during 5-16 February and later as a report at the Habitat II Conference.

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS organized a Habitat II related painting competition for the countries of the region. The 3 best paintings from each of the 24 countries will be exhibited in Istanbul during the Conference. The first prized painting of each country will appear on the cover of their National Human Development Reports.

In Turkey, 96 artists entered the competition. A jury composed of well known Turkish art critics, the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey, and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs selected 30 paintings to be exhibited at the National Museum.

IX - Cultural Activities

An advisory committee has been established to develop and promote cultural activities to take place during the Habitat II Conference. The committee is composed of well-known Turkish writers, musicians, opera, theater and ballet personalities. This committee will also coordinate and designate venues for the various cultural activities being proposed as well as ensure linkage with the cultural activities which take place in Istanbul in June each year such as the music and theater festival. This year there will also be a Youth Festival sponsored by Yapi Kredi Bank.

X - Parallel activities

The Coordinator of the "Best Practices" exhibition at the Habitat II Secretariat, Mr. Nicholas You, visited Istanbul from 20-23 January to identify exhibition space requirements. It is planned to have this exhibition at the Sali Pazari docks area which is located two kilometers from the Conference valley. The site consists of large buildings on the shores of the Bosphorus and suits the needs of the space requirements of the Best Practices exhibition of 4,000 sq. meters. Two "hotel ships" are planned to be anchored at the docks to provide additional accommodation.

XI -Future Activities

The following are some of the important upcoming activities:

An international Task Force meeting will be held in New York from 31 January to 1 February. The agenda of the meeting includes, *inter alia*, the following:

- Conference facilities
- NGO Forum, the various fora
- Registration and protocol issues
- Hotel arrangements
- The Trade Fair
- World Environment Day and Youth activities.
- Host Country Agreement
- Security
- Issues related to PrepCom
- Invitation to the Conference
- Third Planning Mission to Istanbul

The Third PrepCom will take place in New York between 5- 16 February.

Note: Monthly Progress Report will be distributed to:

- UNDP Headquarters and country offices in the world,
- UN Secretariat
- UNCHS/Nairobi
- Embassies accredited in Ankara, consulate Generals in Istanbul
- Turkish Government

ANNEX I - LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIIESEC : International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce.

CIS : Commonwealth of Independent States.

CNR : The Consortium to which HDA has awarded a contract for the organization of the International Trade Fair on Housing and Construction Technologies and Human Settlements.

HDA : The Housing Development Administration of Turkey, the organization designated for the coordination and implementation of preparations for the Habitat II Conference.

HPCU : Habitat II Project Coordination Unit based in Istanbul.

IFG : International Facilitating Group , set up in June 1995, is made up of about 15 NGO representatives from different regions and coalitions with the aim of facilitating NGO inputs into PrepCom III and increase NGO involvement in the Habitat II process.

LDCs : Least Developed Countries

NGLS : Non-Governmental Liaison Service

TICA : Turkish International Cooperation Agency.

UNCHS : United Nations Center for Human Settlements

VIV : The consortium to which HDA has awarded a contract for the organization of the Conference.

HABITAT II INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
PEACE MINISTRY
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION

WHAT IS THE HABITAT II INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR ?

The Habitat II International Trade Fair, which is being organized within the Habitat II "City Summit" frame, is attracting governments and companies from around the world, to exhibit their goods and services during the Habitat II "City Summit". The exhibitors will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to exhibit their goods and services to the more than 25.000 expected attendees to the Habitat II conference. The attendees of the City Summit are all respected leaders and professionals in their field of activity and all of them are decision making people in the field of Human Settlements and Construction Technologies from their respected region of the world. So many decision makers from around the globe have never been gathered together before, and it is unlikely that they will do so again in this century.

WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING ?

Some countries were fast in grabbing this opportunity and have already reserved the spaces for their national pavilions at the Trade Fair, and some are still at the decision making stage.

Canada, Australia, India and the Walloon Federation (Southern part of Belgium) have already booked their spaces at the Habitat II International Trade Fair.

Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Israel, South Africa, The Netherlands, Brazil, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Romania, Slovenia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Turkey, Denmark, Finland, The Czech Republic are among the countries preparing for the national participation at the Habitat II International Trade Fair.

WHERE WILL THE HABITAT II INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR BE HELD ?

In Istanbul. The venue for the Habitat II International Trade Fair is the World Trade Center - Istanbul. A brand new venue offering world class facilities to exhibitors. In fact, the WTC-I is constructing a new building for the Habitat II International Trade Fair, thus expanding the available exhibition area to 35.000 sqm indoors and 60.000 sqm outdoors. The World Trade Center Istanbul is located ideally at the Ataturk International Airport Istanbul and easily reachable from the Center of the City via two highways. During the conference, transportation will be established by means of continuing shuttle bus service and a dedicated bus service.

CNR International Fair
Organizations Inc. Dünya
Merkezi - Istanbul
Ataturk Havalimani karşısı,
Yeşilköy - 34830 Istanbul
Phone: (0-212) 663 08 81
(100 Lines)
Fax: (0-212) 663 09 75 - 73

bus connection between the conference valley and the Trade Fair. The fairgrounds offer excellent facilities for private meetings, such as seminars, round table meetings, dinner and lunch meetings, presentations press conferences etc.

WHEN WILL THE TRADE FAIR BE HELD ?

The official opening to the Habitat II International Trade Fair will be on the late afternoon of June 3, 1996. There will be a soft opening organized on June 2, so that participants attending conference activities prior to the official conference opening will also have a chance to visit the Trade Fair.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE AND HOW?

Participations to the Trade Fair in forms of country pavilions as well as individual participations from companies are very welcome. Institutions in the fields related to human settlements should rent their exhibition space, in order to make the necessary connections with possible to market their goods and services worldwide. Furthermore to the availabilities of global connections, the Habitat II International Trade Fair is the best way to reach turkish businessmen, for companies seeking to establish business relations in Turkey.

The UN defined LDC (Least Developed Countries) will have free of charge space available, reserved by the United Nations.

To participate at the Trade Fair companies and institutions have to contact the fair organizer company, or the Habitat II Project Coordination unit.

The Habitat II International Trade Fair is organized by:

CNR International Fair Organizations Inc.
Contact: Bülent Boytorun
World Trade Center Istanbul
Opposite Atatürk Airport
Yeşilköy, Istanbul - Turkey
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