

Habitat 21

Habitat Dialogues for the 21st Century

**The City Summit
3-14 June 1996
Istanbul**



United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements
Istanbul, Turkey
3-14 June 1996

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United Nations

Habitat Dialogues for the 21st century

Introduction

This series of thematic dialogues for the 21st century will bring together eminent thinkers, public personalities, business leaders, practitioners and professionals to discuss and exchange ideas on Trends for the Future of Human Settlements. Each dialogue is designed to capture attention and raise awareness on crucial issues which will affect how we live on our urbanized planet.

Each dialogue will be set up by a steering committee, with the participation of UNCHS (Habitat), partner United Nations agencies and public and private organizations, one of them taking the lead as organizer.

Each dialogue will benefit from a background paper prepared by expert(s), and involve eminent presenters facilitated by a prestigious chairperson. A group of special guests will serve as respondents, with an interactive audience of several hundred.

Full media coverage of this six-day event, parallel to the Conference, will raise worldwide interest. Each dialogue will last a whole day, including coffee and lunch breaks.

Dialogue 1: Land and Rural-Urban Linkages in the Future

Time:	Monday, 3 June 1996
Chair:	To be determined
Background paper:	To be determined
Agencies and organizations:	To be determined

Some key issues:

- *Land policies in transition: what are the costs of speculation and dysfunctional land markets, and who pays?*
- *Are not enforceable property rights fundamental to sustainability, as well as to social and economic development?*
- *What changes do we foresee in employment, population and production structures in rural areas, and what will be the nature of rural-urban linkages?*
- *What social and cultural values and roles will we attach to rural space and settlements? What will be the impact of transport and communication technology on rural areas around large cities?*
- *How can urban administrations best interface with rural administrations?*
- *With the increase of urban functions in rural areas and rural functions in urban areas, how can national land policies transcend urban-rural polemics?*

**Dialogue 2: Water for Thirsty
Cities and Towns**

Time: Tuesday, 4 June 1996
Chair: To be determined
Background paper: To be determined
Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues:

- *How will cities face water scarcity in the next century?*
- *How will changing consumption and production patterns affect city water supplies?*
- *How can water rights be allocated and adjudicated between urban and agricultural uses: should efficiency of use not be the a common denominator in the allocation process?*
- *How much water is wasted through urban leakage and pollution compared with agricultural irrigation and fertilizing practices?*
- *How might urban systems operate more efficiently through appropriate organizational and technical measures?*
- *What are the potential re-uses of water? Sewage?*
- *Are technical measures sufficient or are value changes essential?*

**Dialogue 3: Energy for the
21st Century**

Time: Thursday, 6 June 1996
Chair: To be determined
Background paper: To be determined
Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues

- *What are the energy alternatives for motorized transport, for industry, for air-conditioning and heating?*
- *What are the potentials for cooperation in generating and distributing energy?*
- *Are legal and technical measures sufficient or are value changes essential?*

**Dialogue 4: Economy and
Employment in the Near
Future**

Time: Wednesday, 5 June 1996
Chair: To be determined
Background paper: To be determined
Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues:

- *What changes can we expect from an increasingly globalized economy?*
- *What are the new production processes that will result from technology change, especially electronic communication ?*
- *How will these processes affect future employment structures and the location of industries and services?*
- *What are the likely scenarios for the international division of labour?*
- *What role and impact do we foresee for the informal sector?*

- *What economic and social role can we expect from transnational corporations and financial markets?*
- *What roles might labour unions play?*

Dialogue 5: Transport in the
City of Tomorrow

Time: Thursday, 6 June 1996
 Chair: To be determined
 Background paper: To be determined
 Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues:

- *What changes can we expect in the mobility of people, goods and services? How will these affect the city of tomorrow?*
- *What trends can we see in public and private transport? What will the role of the motor car be? What mass transport systems can we envisage?*
- *What are the likely technological developments in fuel consumption and energy use? How will these affect the urban environment? What alternative energy sources will we use for transport?*
- *What will be the impact of telecommunications on the transport of goods and services and where people work?*
- *What regulations could be developed to match the number of vehicles with the carrying capacity of roads and parking ?*

Dialogue 6: Citizenship and
Democracy in the 21st
Century

Time: Friday, 7 June 1996 a.m.
 Chair: To be determined
 Background paper: To be determined
 Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues:

- *What will be the role of women in human settlements development?*
- *How will participation, partnerships and a new social contract affect the political structures of civic society and of cities?*
- *What roles do we foresee for local government? How will the global networking of cities proceed?*
- *What will be the nature of public-private partnerships in infrastructure and services development? What are the qualities of "good" public/private partnerships?*
- *What new forms of representation, decision-making and politics will emerge, and what will be the role of organized groups and political parties?*
- *Is corruption a failure of governance, of government or of the governed?*
- *What forms will governance take in the next century?*

**Dialogue 7: What will Cities
look like in the Next Century?**

Time: Friday, 7 June 1996
Chair: To be determined
Background paper: To be determined
Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues:

- *What types of urban structures will prevail — urban regions, metropolitan regions, networks of cities and towns?*
- *How can the physical structure of the city become more compatible with ecologically sustainable urban development?*
- *Are mega-cities the future of large cities?*
- *What developments can we foresee at the edge of cities and in suburbia?*
- *What will be the ecological footprint of the cities of tomorrow? How will they affect the world?*
- *Will urban growth be manageable? If so, what administrative and legal changes will be needed to manage urban growth?*

**Dialogue 8: Cities,
Communication and the
Media in the Information
Society**

Time: Saturday, 8 June 1996
Chair: To be determined
Background paper: To be determined
Agencies and organizations: To be determined

Some key issues:

- *Will the future role of the media be as a source of entertainment or a facilitator of participatory governance?*
- *How will information technology affect how and where people live?*
- *What impact will the information highway have on production and consumption patterns? How will it affect banking? Education? Public services in developed and developing countries?*
- *How will information technology affect social exclusion and marginal groups?*
- *What will be the future cultural and social role of the city in an information age?*
- *What will be the social role of Internet and similar networks?*



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