

# Habitat II

**How to participate in the preparatory process**

**How to attend the Istanbul Conference**

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



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

**(January 1996 draft)**



United Nations

# HABITAT II

## How to participate in the preparatory process

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The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, known as HABITAT II, was designed as a partners' conference. Who are the partners? All the stakeholders, the actors, the builders, operators and users of human settlements, from small villages to huge mega-cities. In other words: governments at all levels, from central to local authorities; the private sector; academics, researchers and professionals; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs); non-profit foundations; labour unions and parliamentarians.

Each partner has a role and a specific way of participating, both in the preparatory process and during the Conference and its parallel activities in June 1996.

### Governments

The decision to convene the Conference was made by Governments. Due to the critical importance of the issues to be addressed by the Conference, they also decided that the Conference should be held at the "highest possible level of participation". During the preparatory process, they have set up National Committees, with the representation of all partners. In addition to national activities and consultations, they have prepared, National Reports presenting their National Plans of Action, aimed at achieving better housing and better cities, with a focus on specific actions to be taken over the next five years.

They will participate in the Conference following the United Nations rules of procedure, with each country's delegation participating, and voting on all decisions taken at the plenary and through the Committees set up by the Conference.

### Local Authorities

This level of government has a special role in this Conference, for it is directly concerned with the management of human settlements. Local authorities are knowledgeable about the issues to be raised and their support will be crucial for the implementation of the main decisions to be taken by the Conference.

During the preparatory process, they can apply to be represented on the National Committee, whose focal point is often the Ministry of Housing, Public Works, Local Government or Foreign Affairs. Local authorities can also organize their own meetings and prepare their contributions to be sent to the National Committee. Many local authorities have already organized regional and international thematic seminars and workshops, with the direct support of the Habitat II Secretariat.

In addition to the opportunity for local authorities to participate in the Conference itself there will be a major parallel activity of direct relevance to representatives of local authorities: the "**World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities**" (30 and 31 May).

The World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA) is being organized by a secretariat set up by local authorities and their associations.



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**G4+ Local Government  
Habitat II Steering Committee  
c/o IULA, Wassenaarseweg 39  
2596 CG The Hague  
The Netherlands  
tel.: 31 70 32 44 032  
fax : 31 70 32 46 916  
e-mail: iula@iula-hg.nl**

### **The Private Sector**

The private sector — including commerce, industry and services — comprise important actors in human settlements. Their role in the Conference is to establish participation in development such that it is sustainable and socially just.

In the preparatory process, many corporations are taking a sponsoring role and are also providing an intellectual contribution to the complex economic and social issues of financing urban development and housing. Many have participated in seminars and are supporting other partners' activities.

At Istanbul, they may be part of their countries' delegations and may also participate in the "**Private-Sector Forum**" (30 May to 2 June) being organized by:

**Progressio Foundation  
Parklaan 51  
3941 RD Doorn  
The Netherlands  
tel.: 31-65313 2441  
fax : 31-34302 0030**

### **Academics and Researchers**

Their role is to use their knowledge and critical thinking to ensure the intellectual force of the Habitat Agenda.

During the preparatory process, dubbed "our learning year" by the Secretariat a number of academics and researchers participated on a board of some 500 advisers — offering suggestions on the first drafts of the Habitat Agenda, as well as taking part in more than 60 thematic seminars and workshops.

In Istanbul they may participate in their country's delegation, in the "Habitat Dialogues for the 21st Century" (registration after March 1996), or attend the special **Forum on Human Solidarity** (again apply after March 1996). A **Forum of Academies of Sciences** (31 May to 1 June) is also being organized by the Inter-Academy Panel on Scientific Issues (IAP), which has recently been established by the world's academies of sciences. More information can be obtained from:

**The National Academy of Sciences  
Office of International Affairs  
Suite 2050  
1050, Thomas Jefferson Street  
Washington, D.C., U. S. A  
fax : (1-202) 334-3094**



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## Professionals

Professionals linked to urban issues can be observers at the Forum of Academies of Sciences. Efforts are also underway to organize a Forum of Professionals, as well as various thematic meetings, which can be put on the parallel activities' schedule, through the Habitat Secretariat. For more information on the activities forum of Professionals, contact:

**Ms. Aydan Erim**  
**Turkish Chamber of Architects**  
**Konur Sokak, 4/2**  
**Kizilay - Ankara**  
**Tel: (90-312) 417 37 27**  
**Fax: (90-312) 418 03 61**

## NGOs and CBOs

Non-governmental and community-based organizations will play a major role at the Conference in representing the third sector of society, the citizens who comprise civil society.

In the preparatory process, they are often represented on the National Committee, and may organize their own meetings, send reports to that Committee, or take them to Istanbul.

They may attend the Conference, as part of their national delegations, ask for accreditation as observers, or participate in the activities of the NGO Forum from 30 May to 11 June, at a special venue within walking distance of the Conference buildings. The conveners of this important forum are:

**NGO FORUM '96 ISTANBUL**  
**Jan Birket-Smith, Forum Director**  
**230 Mecidiyekou 80303**  
**Istanbul, Turkey**  
**Tel: 90-212-243-6354**  
**Fax: 90-212-252-9350**  
**Email: NGO96@IBM.NET**

For information on NGO participation in the official Conference, contact:

**HABITAT II SECRETARIAT**  
**Partners Liaison Team**  
**fax: 254 2 623080**  
**e-mail: habitat2@unep.no**  
**Regional NGO focal points are:**

**AFRICA**  
**ENDA - Tier Monde**  
**fax: 221 235 157**  
**e-mail: rup@endadak.gn.apc.org**

**ASIA**  
**Urban Poor Associates**  
**fax: 632 927 7001**  
**e-mail: co-train@phil.gn.apc.org**

**LATIN AMERICA**  
**Fedevivienda**  
**fax: 571 287 1941**  
**e-mail: fede@colnodo.apc.org**



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**NORTH AMERICA**  
**US Network for Habitat II**  
**fax: 1202 783 0444**  
**e-mail: donedwards@igc.apc.org**

**WESTERN EUROPE**  
**International Council of Women**  
**fax: 31 01 18 586 223**  
**e-mail: sascha@xs4all.nl (Attn.Ms.Boogert)**

**Foundations**

Their role has become increasingly important in offering intellectual, organizational and financial support to researchers, academics and NGOs and CBOs in enhancing the policy dialogue on urban issues.

A number of foundations have been supporting the Secretariat and National Committees in the preparatory process, and may well increase their support as we approach the Conference.

At Istanbul, foundations may participate as part of their country's delegation, in activities of the NGO Forum, at the Forum for Human Solidarity, or by organizing a special "**Forum of Foundations.**" For more information foundations should contact:

**Mr. Zekai Baloglu**  
**Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV)**  
**Cemil Topuzlu Cad. 68/9, Gotztepe 81080, Istanbul,**  
**Turkey,**

**Tel.: (90-216) 302 45 35 - 411 42 40**

**Fax : (90-216) 302 45 38**

**or**

**Mr. John Richardson**  
**European Foundation Centre (EFC)**  
**51, Rue de la Concorde, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium**

**Tel: (32-2) 51 28 938**

**Fax:( 32-2) 51 23 265**

**Labour Unions**

Workers and their representatives make critical contributions to the process of urban development. In the preparatory process they are participating in their National Committees and efforts are currently underway to organize a "**Forum of Labour Unions**" at Istanbul from 31 May to 1 June. For more information contact the Habitat II Project Coordination unit:

**Mr. Gürel Tüzün**  
**National Coordinator for Habitat II, Istanbul, Turkey**  
**Tel.: (90-212) 5599755**  
**Fax: (90-212) 5590509**



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## Parliamentarians

Many human settlements problems are linked to legislation; therefore, the participation of parliamentarians interested in these issues is critical.

Many parliamentarians are participating in their National Committee and will be part of their country's delegation. A number of international associations (including the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and Parliamentarians for Global Action) are organizing a specific "Forum of Parliamentarians", in Istanbul, 31 May to 1 June. For more information contact:

**Global Parliamentarians on Habitat  
c.o. Senator Oscar López Velarde Vega  
Chariman, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat  
Chairman, Commission of Urban Development and Housing  
Senate of the Republic of Mexico  
Reforma No. 10, Piso 11, Privado 9, Col. Centro,  
Deleg. Cuauhtemoc  
06018, Mexico, D.F. Mexico.**

**Tel: 525 535-1413 ext. 3059**

**Fax: 525 535 1413 ext. 3543**

**or**

**c/o Ms. Aura Silva,**

**Fax: 525 254 2473**

**Ms. Nuran Talu (Environment Commission  
Turkish Parliament)**

**Tel.: 90 312 420 5592-93**

**Fax : 90 312 420 5297**

**Hon. Imren Aykut M.P.**

**Istanbul Milletvekili**

**Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi**

**Bakanliklar, Ankara, Turkey**

**Tel: 90 312 286 5055/6/7**

**Fax: 90 312 286 5024**

## Individual Participation

To be effective, interested persons should seek participation through one of the above groups or categories of partners. Each specific forum will give accreditation to their activities, through their own rules of procedure.

## Other Parallel Activities

From 27 May to 14 June there will be over 20 parallel events open to the public or subject to ticketing these include a film festival, video theatres, exhibitions, awards ceremonies, best practices demonstrations, opening and closing events, celebration of the city events, a youth and senior citizens caucus, and a trade fair on the topic "Good ideas for better cities".



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**For more information:**

**Habitat II Secretariat**

**United Nations Centre for Human Settlements  
(Habitat)**

**P. O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Tel: 254-2-62 30 33**

**Fax: 254-2-62 30 80**

**e-mail: habitat2@unep.no**