

# Habitat II

## Organization of the Istanbul Conference

### Participants' Guide



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



United Nations

(January 1996 draft)

# Istanbul HABITAT II Description of Events (30 May to 15 June 1996 )

The present description of events, activities and procedures is based on the tentative schedule, as of January 1996, in which daily activities are laid down.

It describes the Conference activities, the parallel activities, the public events and the interface procedures between these events.

## Registration

All United Nations accreditation and registration for delegates will start on Monday, 27 May in a centralized process.

Registration for all other meetings will start the same day at their respective venues.

## Conference Activities

The pre-Conference consultations will start on Friday, 31 May and, if necessary, continue on Saturday, 1 June.

The opening session of the Conference will be on Monday, 3 June, and the plenary will convene daily to the end (Friday, 14 June) with the exception of Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 June. The closing session will be on Friday afternoon, 14 June.

The high-level segment will be held during the plenary sessions from Wednesday, 12 to Friday, 14 June.

Committee I, dealing with the Habitat Agenda and its Global Plan of Action (GPA), will start on Monday afternoon, 3 June; Committee II, "the hearing committee", dealing with the contributions of all partners, as well as with the contributions of the thematic Habitat Dialogues for the 21st Century, which will also start on Monday afternoon, 3 June.

## Parallel Activities

Prior to the Conference opening, the following parallel activities will be organized and operated by the Conference partners:

Parallel activities will begin on Thursday, 30 May with the forums described below.

1. The "**World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities**", assembling local authorities and their associations, will be convened by the Local Authorities Habitat II Steering Committee "G4+", established for this purpose by the main global and regional associations of cities, mayors and local authorities. It will meet at a special venue on Thursday, 30 and Friday, 31 May, approving a statement for presentation to Committee II.
2. A "**Forum of Academies of Sciences**" will convene on Friday, 31 May and Saturday, 1 June and will also approve a statement and commitments for Committee II.
3. Representatives of the private sector will attend the "**Private-Sector Forum**" on Thursday, 30 May to Sunday, 2 June and will also approve their statement and commitments for Committee II.



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4. Public and private non-profit foundations linked to urban issues will convene a **"Forum of Foundations"** on Friday, 31 May and Saturday, 1 June, to approve a statement and commitments; they will also participate in the NGO Forum.
5. Meetings of the **NGO Forum** will start on Thursday, 30 May and end on Tuesday, 11 June with an interruption during Sunday, 9 June. They will develop a scheduled programme of presentations by organizations and will also approve a statement for Committee II.
6. Organizations of Parliamentarians will convene a **"Forum of Parliamentarians"** on Friday, 31 May and Saturday, 1 June, approving their statement and commitments for Committee II.
7. Labour unions will hold a **"Forum of Labour Unions"** on Friday, 31 May and Saturday, 1 June, to approve their statement and commitments; they will also participate in the NGO Forum.
8. A special **"Forum on Human Solidarity"** will be held on Saturday, 8 June, and will convey its results to the Conference at a special venue.
9. On Sunday, 2 June, all the partners plus the delegates, on a voluntary basis, will join in a caucus debate followed by a brunch, from 10:00 to 15:00, cross-cutting the debate and exchanging points of view.
10. A series of Special Meetings, Workshops and Round-Tables organized by the United Nations system and by other organizations, will be held at specific venues throughout the Conference.

As venues for the above meetings we will use the following facilities: the Lüfti Kırdar International Conference Centre, the Atatürk Cultural Centre, the C.R. Rey Concert Hall, the Harbiye Cultural Centre, the Hilton Convention Centre, the M.E. Theatre, the Taskisla Building of Istanbul Technical University, and the ITU Macka building, all within walking distance of each other. For the Sunday meeting and brunch there are two possible venues: the Open-Air Theatre and boats on the Bosphorus.

**Public Events** These are all part of the Istanbul Conference but open to the public

1. The exhibition "Good Ideas for Better Cities" will have at its core a trade fair with rented space; it will open at the World Trade Centre on Monday, 3 June at 17:00 and close on Monday, 10 June, in the evening. A preview for mayors will be held on 1 June.
2. Other exhibitions considered for inclusion in "Good Ideas for Better Cities", or at other venues, are:
  - 2.1. a UNEP exhibition and round-table on urban environmentally-sound technologies
  - 2.2. a WHO exhibition on sewerage alternatives
  - 2.3. a UNICEF-supported exhibition of children's competition(s)
  - 2.4. The exhibition on "Best Practices for Improving the Living



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- 2.5. Other exhibitions on urban innovations
- 2.6. An "Open space" for poster exhibitions
- 2.7. Paintings exhibition
- 2.8. "Focus on your World" a UNEP photo exhibition

The above events will be held at the World Trade Centre, the Technical University, at the Atatürk Centre. In the lounge of the main Conference building there will be a United Nations inter-agency exhibition.

**3. Special exhibitions being prepared are:**

- 3.1. "Settlements and Housing in Anatolia";
- 3.2. "Istanbul: From the Past to the Future" — both at a renovated historical building;
- 3.3. "Convivial Spaces", a competition for architects and planners; and
- 3.4. "Convivial Spaces", a competition among schools — both organized by UIA - Union Internationale des Architectes, at the Atatürk Cultural Centre.

**Other Events**

4. An opening event will be held on the evening of Sunday, 2 June and a closing open-air event will be held on the evening of Friday, 14 June; a reception for delegates and guests might be held at the Dolmabahçe Palace on the evening of Friday, 14 June.
5. A film festival might start the week before the Conference at several movie theatres; small "cities video theatres" will be set up in the above-mentioned buildings, featuring, on a scheduled basis, videos from countries, institutions, cities and NGOs; the one-minute video festival on urban life will also be shown at these cities' video theatres;
6. A video conference-channel for hotels will be set up by a local TV channel to function from Sunday, 2 to Saturday, 15 June; it could feature both the Conference main events plus some of the videos on best practices and the one-minute videos on urban life; it could also be used to make announcements.
7. A daily public electronic consultation on crucial themes being discussed, implying a yes/no vote by all accredited persons, could be set up to function from Tuesday, 4 to Monday, 10 June (five consultations).
8. Awards ceremonies will be scheduled on weekends. The Best Practices for Improving the Living Environment Awards ceremonies will be held on the evening of Tuesday, 4 June. On Sunday, 9 June "World Environment Day" 1996, dedicated to the urban environment will be celebrated, and the UNEP awards ceremony will be held.
9. Sunday, 9 June will be dedicated to youth; a system of "listening to junior citizens" as well as "listening to senior citizens" will be implemented both in Istanbul and via worldwide TV networking. This interactive TV programme might be entitled "The celebration of our city", and will be a worldwide celebration.



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promoting and stimulating cities to take part and show how their public spaces can be used and enjoyed.

10. Finally, eight Habitat Dialogues for the 21st Century will be held, from Monday, 3 to Friday, 7 June, to debate through a "panel-with-audience" format, the perspectives of human settlements in the 21st century; the provisional titles of these Dialogues are:

- 1.1 Land and rural-urban linkages in the future;
- 1.2 Water for thirsty cities and towns;
- 1.3 Energy for the 21st century;
- 1.4 Economy and employment in the near future;
- 1.5 Transport in the city of tomorrow;
- 1.6 Citizenship and democracy in the 21st century;
- 1.7 What will cities look like in the next century?;
- 1.8 Cities, communication and the media in the information society.

*The findings and recommendations of these Dialogues will be presented to Committee II.*

Among the innovations presented by the Habitat II Conference, the following should be mentioned: (a) partnership is the format for setting up and running the Conference, reflecting the need for civic engagement in implementing changes and developing society (towards a new "social contract"); (b) a special role will be played by local authorities, as the governmental level that directly and on a daily basis deals with the substantive issues addressed by the Conference; (c) non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will convene in their own specific fields, and there will also be cross-cutting consultations.

**Interface Procedures** To run the Conference on the following basis:

1. Delegates appointed by their governments; will hopefully reflect the composition of their national committees, including different urban actors;
2. Accreditation will be given to NGOs following the rules approved by the Preparatory Committees;
3. Special accreditation will be given to 30 representatives of local authorities, mostly mayors of cities and towns, nominated by their national and international associations;
4. Representatives of the partners' forums and of the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities will make their statements and commitments to Committee II, in the following Suggested order in early June:

  
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Tuesday 4 morning	Cities' and Local Authorities Assembly
Tuesday 4 afternoon	Cities' and Local Authorities Assembly
Wednesday 5 morning	Private sector
Wednesday 5 afternoon	Foundations
Thursday 6 morning	Academics, Professionals and researchers
Thursday 6 afternoon	Parliamentarians, Labour unions and ILO
Friday 7 morning	UN agencies (specific statements)
Friday 7 afternoon	UN agencies (specific statements)
Monday 10 morning	NGOs and CBOs
Monday 10 afternoon	NGOs and CBOs

The presentation of statements will be followed by questioning and debate with the delegates, in order to clarify positions. The Committee's recommendations on these statements will be drafted in a Report, adopted on Wednesday, 12 June and taken to the plenary.

5. Representatives of the eight thematic Habitat Dialogues for the 21st Century will take their findings to Committee II, in the format of "recommendations for implementation strategies" in each considered field, in the following order:

Tuesday 11 morning Dialogues 1, 2, 3, 5

Tuesday 11 afternoon Dialogues 4, 6, 7, 8.

Delegates will ask for clarifications, but no debate is foreseen on these technical issues as delegates will have participated in the Dialogues. The Committee's report on these recommendations will be drafted and adopted on Wednesday, 12 June in the afternoon and taken to the plenary.

The official document to be approved by the plenary of the Conference, the "Habitat Agenda", will have the following components:

1. Preamble, goals, principles and commitments
2. The Global Plan of Action: the implementation strategy.  
The following documents might also be published as the "Istanbul Papers", for the general public:
  3. National Plans of Action: an overview
  4. Report incorporating statements and commitments of partners and associates.
  5. Agreements on specific issues
  6. Commitments on specific issues, signed at a "Table of Commitments"
  7. Declarations by Heads of State
  8. Statements made by partners' forums
  9. Statement made by the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities
  10. The five-year first-stage commitments presented by all national reports.

For the purpose of voluntary public signatures of specific declarations or commitments in Istanbul, by any government, local authority or non-governmental organization, a "Table of Commitments" might be set up and offered to interested parties.



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