

# Villes en développement



June 1995 - N°28

## Habitat II

“By the year 2000, half of humanity will be living in cities». This observation led the United Nations to organise another conference on human settlements, which will be held in Istanbul in 1996, twenty years after the Vancouver conference. «Habitat II», as it has been dubbed, will aim to assess as precisely as possible the challenges of urban growth.

This «city summit» will be the last of a series of major world conferences which began in Rio in 1992. The Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences were milestones on the road to Istanbul. This conference will provide an opportunity for the various approaches to the question of urban growth to be translated into a medium-term «global action plan» aimed at setting overall guidelines and at helping each country better to master the development and functioning of its urban areas while respecting its specificities.

At the first meeting of the «Habitat II» preparatory committee in Geneva in April 1994, France showed its will to play a dynamic part in preparing for this event. The French ministry of foreign affairs, which has the political responsibility and is in charge of coordinating all French contributions, has set up a national concertation system to mobilise the various government departments involved and their main partners, local elected officials, professionals, the heads of private companies and of non-profit organisations etc. M. Georges Cavallier, ingénieur général des Ponts et chaussées, has been appointed to head this system. During his official visit to Paris last February, Mr Wally N'Dow, the Secretary General of the «Habitat II» conference, showed particular interest in the system set up and the efforts



Une mégapole : Mexico

Mark Edwards

made by France to involve all the operators concerned.

Thus, at the second meeting of the «Habitat II» preparatory committee, which has just been held in Nairobi, the French delegation was able to take an active part, underscoring the importance France attaches to the success of the Istanbul summit.

Acting in its capacity as the current president of the European Union, the French delegation took the right initiatives to bring the 15 member countries to adhere to a collective, well-targeted approach to the two major themes of «Habitat II»: first, a

home for everyone; second, sustainable cities. In addition, the French delegation was among the first to call for the autonomous participation of local authority associations in the «city summit», on the grounds that local elected officials play a major part in the framing of urban policy and that it is necessary to foster the practice of decentralised development aid.

**Michel Vandepoorter**

*Representative of the ministry of foreign affairs on the French interdepartmental steering committee for «Habitat II».*

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# The Participation of Local Authorities in «Habitat II»

*At the meeting of the «Habitat II» Prep. Com. in Nairobi, it was the first time that representatives of local authorities from all over the world participated in their own right and distinctly from the NGOs in a preparatory committee for a United Nations conference.*

This important change was decided on under the «Lisbon Protocol» signed by the Secretary General of Habitat II and the Presidents of the city and local authority international organisations that make up Group 4<sup>1</sup>. The signatories of this Protocol have committed themselves to close cooperation in preparing, holding and following up on the City Summit in Istanbul in June 1996.

This is a milestone in the process, initiated at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, of acknowledging the decisive part local authorities must play in the joint efforts to achieve sustainable human development. The Habitat II conference will also permit the convening of the first world assembly of cities and local authorities which will present the United Nations and national governments with the unified viewpoint and proposals of the world's local authorities. These authorities will ultimately have to be permanently and formally associated as partners in the framing and implementing of development aid strategies and programmes.

Like any international conference, the work of Habitat II runs the risk of being fragmented into a large number of sectorial technical analyses, which, although necessary, are no substitute for an overall, comprehensive approach implemented by local authorities as key players, along with grassroots communities, the private sector and national governments. As such, the local authorities will contribute to the drawing up of both the general plan and the national plans. They must also be represented by their own international organisations in the national bodies charged with preparing Habitat II, and in the national delegations that will be attending it in Istanbul. This is already the case in France.

But over and beyond these negotiations on the representation and involvement of local authorities in the United Nations system, Habitat II must really make it possible to specify the role of local authorities in implementing an overall action plan. Inevitably, it will first be necessary to discuss the very purpose of decentralisation and

local autonomy, which cannot be reduced to the idea that municipalities and local governments are close to citizens and users. Nor can it only be a matter of merely redistributing powers and responsibilities between the local and national or international levels, on the assumption that the local level is more suitable for implementing certain strategies.

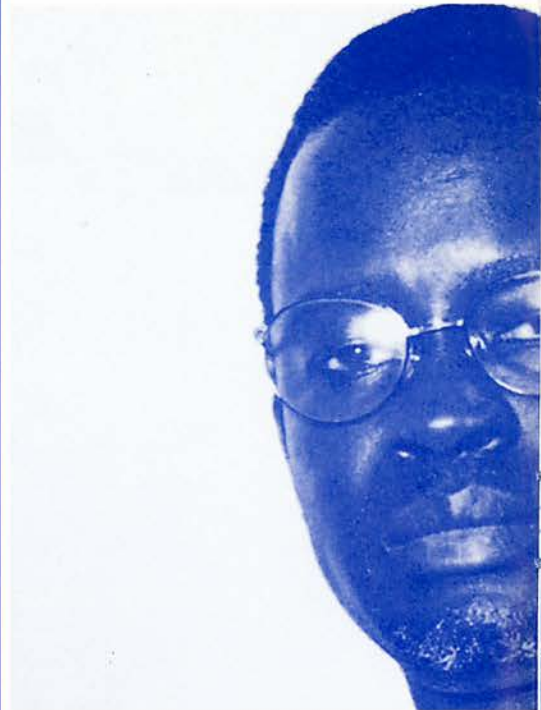
Rather, is not the local level the most appropriate for an overall approach, for unity of action, for arbitration, conflict-solving, and the dovetailing of initiatives and potentialities? Is not the local level the most appropriate framework for social and political innovation? Is it not necessary to seek a different model of linkages between the international, national and local levels, whereby one level does not predominate over the others, and without the rigid dividing up of prerogatives between them?

It is in these areas of reflection that the *Cités Unies* movement intends to contribute to the preparation of Habitat II. Various work-groups will be set up. Ideas will also be submitted to various city and local authority regional gatherings convened by regional city organisations, such as those held in Rio and Accra, for example. ■

**Jean-Marie Tétart**  
*Director General of FMCU*

<sup>1</sup> Group 4 comprises the World Federation of United Cities, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the World Association of Great Metropolises (METROPOLIS) and the Large Cities of the World Conference (SUMMIT). Group 4 has broadened its membership to include regional city associations such as Citynet for Asia, the Organisation of Arab Cities, the Union of African Cities, Eurocité, the Network of National Associations of Latin American municipalities, etc.

## Preparing



*Dr. Wally N'Dow, Secrétaire général de la Conférence Habitat II*

*Istanbul, June 1996: the «City Summit» will take place in barely a year's time. The preparatory work, which began a long time ago, is intensifying, and must now go at full speed.*

The second meeting of Habitat II's preparatory committee, which has just been attended by representatives of 123 countries in Nairobi, marked the beginning of a decisive phase. The conference's objectives and organisation were clarified, and the debate on what action to take after the conference was started. As the result and synthesis of the series of major specialised summits organised by the United Nations since the Rio conference, it is also intended that Habitat II should usher in a new era, characterised by the decisive importance of urbanisation, and by the worldwide dissemination of urban values. Its aims are no less than to define the «right» urban policies for the 21st century, and to ensure that the urban fabric no longer changes only according to opportunity and circumstances but as a result of an effective and explicit will to anticipate change and to master it.

All the members of the UN have been invited to contribute to the achievement of

# the French contributions to «Habitat II»



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these aims. Each of them must take part in the discussions, which have already begun, on two important questions: how can we ensure everyone has a decent home? How can we make urban development viable over the long term? Each member-country is also expected to produce a national evaluation report, a battery of quantitative indicators and a selection of «best practices».

To make sure France holds its own in this vast project, our country has set up a novel organisation, which attracted the attention and interest of Habitat II's secretary general himself during his official visit to Paris last February. Instead of setting up a national committee in the form of a single body, which would have resulted in either an outsized assembly or arbitrary choices, we set up a system comprising several bodies operating as a network: a sponsorship committee, a steering group for government departments, and eight forums for meetings between partners.

An essential factor of success is to make public opinion aware of the reality and the stakes of urban problems. So this system had to be headed by a body of famous, high-profile people. Hence the formation of the sponsorship committee to act both as a

moral guarantor and as a sounding-board for the event.

The complexity of urban problems calls for comprehensive, integrated, multidisciplinary approaches. So we have gathered together in a steering-group the dozen central government departments involved and their main partners, such as Caisse des Dépôts, Crédit foncier de France, Caisse française de Développement and ISTEED. This permanent steering-group is the linchpin of the system.

The active support of all the players or operators who contribute to the welfare of a city must obviously be truly mobilised. So we have fostered the establishment of eight forums for meetings of partners of the same category. The first four bring together elected local councillors, researchers, urban development professionals and representatives of the economic sector, be they customers or suppliers. The four other forums bring together the NGOs and non-profit organisations, which are grouped by main field of activity: housing, urban management, protection of the heritage; decentralised development aid.

These forums can autonomously decide what to think about. The results of their thinking may either be communicated directly through international networks or indirectly through the inter-departmental steering-group.

Indeed, this steering-group works in close cooperation with the partner forums, exchanging information and proposals. They have been working together on the national contributions to Habitat II.

All this preparatory work has been structured around three major objectives.

First, to ask the really important questions. This means going beyond nostalgia or destructive criticism, and endeavouring to go beyond the limits of current urban problems. Indeed, all too often they bear the marks of amnesic fashion, and are cluttered with standardised mental pictures. The difficulties inherent in the urbanisation process, but also the development opportunities it provides, must be rigorously identified.

Next, to prepare a sort of show-case of French know-how for display in Istanbul. So we have been working on ways of highlighting our most convincing experiences under about a dozen themes:

local housing policy; urban management; urban social development; the struggle against delinquency; protection of the historical heritage; urban transport; the prevention of major risks; urban ecology and decentralised development aid. The emphasis will be on cooperation between the public and private sectors, as well as on the new jobs and approaches on which the effectiveness of urban policies depends.

Finally, the third objective is to make the most of the various seminars, symposia and conferences in France or on the European level that cover the same fields as «Habitat II».

As the president of the European Union until the end of June, France has been highly involved at this level. Even though the themes of the Istanbul summit do not fall within the competence of the European Union, we have always pressed for a concerted approach by EU member-countries. In fact, at the Nairobi meeting, they harmonised their proposals. A draft joint issues paper was even successfully presented based on a few key ideas: to make everyone feel personally responsible, by giving a real political dimension to the conclusions drawn from the Istanbul summit; to ensure these conclusions are realistic and selective by avoiding the drawing up of too exhaustive a catalogue; and to make sure they are adaptable to the specific problems faced by the groups of comparable countries. ■

**Georges Cavallier**

*Ingénieur général des Ponts et Chaussées  
Coordinator of French participants in  
«Habitat II»*

# Defining the Urban Policies of the 21st Century

*«Habitat II - The City Summit» will be the last major conference this century. It will conclude a series of global meetings, which began in Rio with the Earth Summit and was followed by the Population Conference in Cairo and the Social Summit in Copenhagen. The aim of Habitat II is to define urban policies for the 21st century. No less. It must also highlight the positive relationships between urbanisation and development, given that, in a few years' time, most of humanity will be living in an urban environment.*

Preparations for the City Summit began in Geneva in April 1994. The Preparatory Committee met for the second time in Nairobi in April 1995, and it will meet for the third time in New York in February 1996. The **United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)**, the UN agency responsible for housing and urban development, is acting as the conference's secretariat. The Director of the UNCHS, Dr. Wally N'Dow, is also the Secretary General of Habitat II.

## A Global Plan of Action

The main purpose of these preparatory meetings is to draw up a **Global Plan of Action (GPA)** for the next 20 years, covering all urbanisation and housing problems. At the same time, each country must prepare its National Plan of Action by involving all concerned actors : central government departments, local authorities, the private and professional sector, researchers, NGOs, etc. This indispensable partnership is one of the key-ideas of Habitat II, the first UN conference at which local authorities will be represented in their own right.

Most countries have set up national committees charged with **taking stock of past policies**. These assessments are organized in three parts. First, a qualitative analysis of the effectiveness of the policies implemented in different fields: the financing of housing, infrastructures and urban services ; decentralisation ; improvements to the urban environment ; laws governing land ; community participation ; housing for the most disadvantaged; the struggle against social exclusion, etc. Next, a quantitative assessment of the current situation by means of a set of 46 indicators defined by UNCHS and applicable to both developed and developing countries, at national level as well as at the level of each urban area. Finally, the identification and dissemination of «best practices» defined according to three main criteria: the impact on living conditions;

the involvement of and cooperation between several stockholders ; and the sustainability of the changes made.

Such systematic assessments should make it possible to draw up detailed national plans of action modifying the institutional and regulatory framework, and leading to sometimes radical revisions of priorities. In particular, issues such as governance, the reduction of poverty and environmental improvement are expected to figure more prominently in national policies.

The national and global plans of action will, of course, mutually reinforce each other. The global plan will comprise universal guidelines and will define the role of **international cooperation**. The latter will be of paramount importance to, for example, the reconstruction of cities destroyed by armed conflict, such as Kigali, Sarajevo, Kabul and Grozny. It will also be of decisive importance to fostering the exchange of «best practices», assessment tools and methods, and new technologies, and to helping tdeveloping countries implement their national plans of action.

The Habitat II conference will feature a large number of events and meetings. In addition to the intergovernmental summit, the world assembly of local authorities, researcher and professional forums, NGOs, parliamentarians and private sector will be meeting in Istanbul. There will also be round-table discussions on urban patterns, intra-urban transport, migrations, governance, etc. In preparation for Istanbul, scores of political and technical meetings will be held worldwide, such as the African ministers conference in South Africa (October 16-18, 1995), the Dubai international conference on best practices (November 19-22, 1995) or the conference on partnerships in Nantes, France (January 1996). This gigantic **exchange of ideas** should result in urbanisation policies being taken more into account by government decision-makers for the purpose of increasing economic efficiency and fostering social equity.

## Issues under discussion

In the process of preparation for Habitat II, three subjects are being discussed in detail. The first one is as old as development aid: the relationships between **city and rural development**. Whereas Istanbul will be the first «City Summit», i.e. a summit on the future of the world, we still come across surprisingly ruralist viewpoints among national delegations and in some development aid agencies. Nevertheless, the majority view that seems to be emerging is that urban growth must be considered not only as inevitable but also as a precondition of socio-economic development, even in rural areas.

The second subject of debate centres on the role of **local authorities** in city development. Although most governments accept to delegate responsibility for urban management to deconcentrated or decentralised bodies, this does not mean they are prepared to transfer the corresponding resources and powers. Moreover, the mayors of large cities are often leaders of the opposition to the central government. This inevitably causes tensions between central and local governments, as noticed during the discussions on the representation of local authorities at the City Summit.

The third subject of debate is relatively new to the UN, namely the concept of «**good governance**». This can be defined, in short, as a participatory, transparent, rational and efficient way of governing. In a way, good urban governance is urban **management plus local democracy**. As each country has its own definition of democracy, the debate on governance is eminently political. Some say good governance is the true key to development. Others pretend it is first and foremost a reflection of the level of economic development. Plenty of scope for discussion here! The UNCHS has proposed that the implementation chapter of the global plan of action should be divided into three parts: urbanisation, housing, and governance. But there is no consensus on this proposal yet.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that there have been no polemics about the cost of the Global Plan of Action, whereas financing is usually a major subject of controversy at UN conferences. In the case of Habitat II, there is general recognition that urban problems must be dealt with at national

level by mobilising local resources. Indeed, urban growth requires such large investments that external financial aid is always marginal by comparison with endogenous, public, private and informal mechanisms for producing urban space. So the object is not to finance the Global Plan of Action, but rather to design and set up adequate national systems for financing urbanisation and housing. To date, this crucial subject, which is at the core of any urban policy, has aroused no controversy. ■

**Daniel Biau,**  
*OIC, Technical cooperation division,  
UNCHS, Nairobi*

## The French ministry of development aid and the «Habitat II» conference

*The participation of the French ministry of development aid (ministère de la Coopération) in preparations for the Habitat II conference is taking several forms.*

It is participating in the French national commission presided over by M. Georges Cavallier, where it has been contributing to the drafting of the French national report and to the formulating of «French positions» on the conference's policy directions and official documents. It has contributed mainly to the «experience» and «strategies» side of international development aid to third-world countries. France is obviously expected to adopt a firm stance on this issue at the conference, as Secretary General N'Dow and his delegation reminded us when they came to Paris last February. The French ministry of development aid has set up a system designed to stimulate thought on, and to assess prospectively, its action in the field of urban development aid. This should provide material for presentations and discussions at the conference.

Two approaches have been adopted.

- First, to deepen the research work conducted under the West African Long-Term Prospective Study (WALTPS) into the mechanics and logic of urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa. Led by Michel Arnaud, who wrote the «urban» chapter of the WALTPS, experts (researchers, consultants etc.) will be focusing on the main themes of the WALTPS (demographic and economic

analysis, the relationships between human settlement and development etc.), in order to consolidate the scientific basis of this work, and to help define a long-term «vision» of French development aid in relation to the urban scene in sub-Saharan Africa.

- Second, to conduct a forward-looking assessment of the action taken in urban development aid since the joint publication in 1990 by the French development aid ministry and Caisse française pour le Développement urbain of the seminal report entitled: «Coopération française pour le développement urbain» («French aid in the area of urban development»). This assessment will be based on the various studies or surveys which have supplemented and enriched this report's conclusions, and on confrontation between these «theoretical» approaches and realities in the field. In particular, it will incorporate «decentralisation» and approaches in terms of «districts» and the urban environment. In cooperation with the UNCHS, the French ministry of development aid has been helping its partner-countries to prepare their national reports to be discussed in Istanbul. Backing up the UNCHS's own recommendations, this form of support consists of helping the national commissions to focus their work, and of mobilising local experts to collect the data required by it. Such support will be given in close synergy with the action already being taken on the ground by the French development aid programme.

All this shows that the French ministry of development aid is investing a lot in preparing for the Habitat II conference. Over and beyond what is at stake at the conference, the purpose of this effort by the ministry and its main French partners is to consolidate their achievements in the field of urban development aid, to explore new courses of action and, finally, to mobilise and to unify the work of the various operators (local partners, French professionals, decentralised development aid teams, etc.) by renewing their strategic vision. In other words, the Istanbul conference has provided an opportunity to give a well-prepared boost to urban development aid. ■

**Felipe Starling,**  
*head of the local authority and  
urban development office,  
French ministry of development aid*

Kinshasa



Claude Baehrel

# NGOs commit themselves to Habitat II

*Most of the NGOs present in Nairobi represented groups that are members of the HIC, the Habitat International Council, as well as African, and especially Kenyan, NGOs. Several NGO representatives attended as members of their national delegations, which was the case of France and many other countries from the North, but also some from the South.*

As soon as France's proposal to redraft the conference document was made, the NGOs supported it enthusiastically and energetically. They also want the Istanbul conference to be an opportunity for states to make a strong commitment and not just to produce a more or less exhaustive catalogue of measures that will never be implemented. In fact, it was thanks to NGOs' support for this process that the presence of two of their representatives was accepted in the group charged with rewriting the document. NGOs' support does not mean they have given up their critical standards. A statement prepared during the Nairobi meeting sums up their demands. The starting-point for their approach is the precariousness of the conditions in which many populations live, particularly in terms of housing. Hence their insistence on everyone's right to a home, coupled with equitable redistribution and judicial/legal protection systems. NGOs insist that governments must remain responsible for human settlements and infrastructures. They denounce the effects of the globalisation of the market economy, which aggravates social marginalisation and destroys the cultural environment. They demand that each society be free to find its own original solutions.

The NGOs warn of the danger of the «City Summit» forgetting the rural dimension, which remains the living environment of most populations in developing countries. Paying greater attention to rural human settlements should help reduce the problems of cities. So a strategy for the city and a strategy for the country must be implemented concurrently.

Everybody agrees that it is indispensable for people to participate actively. But, according to the NGOs, this is possible only if certain conditions are met. First, security, in every sense of the word, must be ensured. The right to a piece of land on which to settle without any fear of arbitrary expulsion must be legally recognised; this land must have the security of a healthy environment with minimum services.

Against this background, technical support and training can be provided to increase people's ability to participate in the concerted action that concerns them and to do so as full-fledged participants. A special place must be reserved for women, who, because of their traditional responsibilities, are often more well-advised in managing the home. This means that their rights must be fully recognised, and that they must be able to exercise them without any restrictions.

The NGOs are of the opinion that the active involvement of people and their organisations does not mean they can do without other operators such as the state and local authorities. Indeed, to make effective solidarity possible, the right institutional framework must be established at these two levels, the local and the national. Even when non-profit organisations perform public service tasks, this can only be

provisional. The NGOs do not wish to take over from the state. On the contrary, they want everybody to play his part fully, transparently and democratically. In the discussions on the importance to be given to the representatives of local authorities, the NGOs' position was that all the participants had to play a greater part in the Habitat II process. They thought it legitimate to recognise that local authorities had their specific responsibilities. But the NGOs wish to be recognised in the same way. They reminded us that they support groups who are the victims of both national policies and local authorities. So they do not accept to see their contribution to the overall process reduced. They would prefer that all the «main groups», as defined in agenda 21 in Rio, should be put on an equal footing. ■

**Michel Faucon,**  
*the representative of French international solidarity organisations at the United Nations*

*Community initiatives in a shanty town in Madras*



Mark Edwards

### ◆ Appointments

. Jean Brunot de Rouvre, *Ingénieur général des Ponts et Chaussées*, has taken up his appointment at the DATAR Mission in Hanoi, where he will be working with the Development Strategy Institute of the State Planning Committee of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

. Michel Gérard, *Ingénieur en Chef des Ponts et Chaussées*, is now working for the 4th (Economic) section of the General Civil Engineering Council.

In addition to special assignments (e.g. auditing the Mediterranean high-speed train project), the DAEI (international economic affairs department of the French ministry of public works) has asked him to help the ministry to position itself better within the international development aid community and to enhance the effectiveness of its policy of exporting French know-how in the field of urban development.

. François Noisette, *Ingénieur des Ponts et Chaussées*, is now working for the Scientific and Technical Relations department of the ministry of foreign affairs, where he coordinates initiatives in the sectors of urban development, town and country planning and transport.

. Jean-Michel Maurin, *Ingénieur des Ponts et Chaussées*, has been appointed to the post of regional adviser to the central and western African municipal development programme. He will be based in Cotonou, Bénin, as from July 10, 1995.

### ◆ URBADISC CD-Rom

The Urbadisc CD-Rom published in February will be updated for the second time in the summer of 1995.

Using your micro-computer with a CD-Rom drive and DOS or Windows, you can access several bibliographical data-bases devoted to urban matters: 400,000 reference documents from data-bases in Britain (London Research Centre), Italy (Coordinamento nazionale delle biblioteche di architettura), Spain (Consejo superior de investigaciones científicas) and, of course, France, including the URBAMET data-base. About 50 French documentation centres participate in this Urbamet data-base, including government centres, educational establishments and consultancies all working in the fields of urban planning, housing, architecture, the environment and transport in France, Europe, the world's large metropolitan areas and developing countries.

The *Villes en Développement* documentation and information centre is Urbamet's coordinator for the countries of the South. The price of the year's two editions: FRF5,000 (incl. VAT) for the single-station version and FRF9,000 (incl. VAT) for the multi-station version.

Contact: *ISTED-Villes en développement, Arche de la Défense, 92055 Paris-la-Défense Cedex 04, France.*

### ◆ EAMAU

The partners involved in the African school of architecture and urban development (EAMAU) held a meeting in Paris on December 19 and 20 1994, eight months after the adoption by the board of directors in Lomé in April 1994 of the new plan for reforming this inter-state school.

The reform steering committee, led by Monsieur Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, organised a series of workshops in Abidjan, Cotonou and Lomé, out of which emerged an implementation plan for the opening of the new school in 1995.

The participatory approach initiated by Xavier Hoang and continued with the help of ISTD has made African authorities and French experts partners in the implementation of this reform, which should be effective in the autumn of 1995. The appointment of a new headmaster, Monsieur Sidi ASKIA (a former head of urban development in Niger), made it possible to start the implementation process as early as in 1994.

A workshop bringing together the African managers of projects supported by the ministry of development aid and their technical advice counterparts was held in LOME in April 1995.

The main aims of the project that the French development aid ministry and its partners are going to support are to emphasise the school's regional role and to strengthen the continental network of training institutes.

## Municipal development programme. Western and central African module

The fifth in the series of volumes of PDM seminar proceedings has just been published under the title: *Decentralisation in West Africa*. This document reports on a seminar held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from April 5 to 8 1994. Representatives of about 10 West African countries met to exchange ideas and experiences relating to process management in French- and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Here is a list of the four preceding volumes in the series, which were published in 1994:

- I. Community participation in municipal management.
- II. African municipalities and local economic development.
- III. Land information systems and local taxation.
- IV. Managing the growth of West Africa's coastal cities.

A video on theme IV (the growth of West African coastal cities) was made in 1993 by Top Movies, and is distributed by ISTD «Villes en Développement».

## September 3-7 1995 The Hague (Netherlands)

**A world of municipalities:** the local way to innovation in international Cooperation. The world congress of the International Union of Local Authorities.

Contact : IULA World Congress Secretariat, c/o Municipality The Hague, PO box 80000, 2508 GA The Hague, The Netherlands. Fax: (31) 70 353 25 28

## September 6-8 1995 Talence (France)

**Environment management practices in Tropical Countries.** The 6th tropical geography meeting.

Contact : Mme Perrin, Institut de Géographie Louis Papy, Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux 3, 33405 Talence Cedex, France. Fax: (33) 56 84 51 34

## September 10-14 1995 Belfast (Northern Ireland)

**Accommodating differences.** The international congress of the International Federation Housing and Planning (IFHP)

Contact : IFHP Congress section, 43 Wassenaarseweg, NL-2596 CG The Hague, The Netherlands. Fax: (31) 70 3282085.

## Book Review

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### **Coopérer avec les collectivités locales.**

(Cooperating with local authorities). The proceedings of the 1-day debate organised by the Association of Urban Development and Development Aid Professionals on September 9 1994 - Paris: ADP, 1995, 74p. Development aid projects involving local authorities were presented during three round-table discussions from various viewpoints: that of technical assistants employed by local authorities; that of experts and of representatives of donors involved in multi- or bilateral municipal development aid projects; and that of elected councillors or technicians involved in decentralised development aid.

The proceedings of the September 3 1993 seminar are also available under the title «L'Espace et le temps de la ville» (Space and Time in Cities). Price: FRF100.

### **Villes en développement. L'intégration**

**des quartiers irréguliers.** (Developing cities. The integration of informal neighbourhoods). This document takes stock of the state of the debate in Asia and Latin America. Paris: Interurba, 1995. 127p. (Coll. Pratiques urbaines, 12).

This document, in addition to reporting on the Mexico seminar in 1993, summarises the conclusions drawn by the participants, on the basis of Asian and Latin-American experiences: - legalisation must not be limited to security of land possession; - the obtention of such security does not necessarily imply the granting of individual forms of tenure; - access to services and to credit is part and parcel of legalisation programmes as much as security of land possession. This document is also available in English. Price: FRF60.

### **Catalogue national des formations continues d'ingénieurs de l'eau.**

(National catalogue of continuing training programmes for water engineers). Paris: Office international de l'eau, 1995.

This catalogue gives water sector professionals a clearer view of the very diverse and comprehensive supply of training courses available on various water-management themes. It presents the 21 higher educational schools and institutes concerned and provides a selection of 198 training courses on specialities useful to water engineers. Price: FRF200.

Contact: Office international de l'eau, Direction de la documentation et des données, rue Edouard Chamberland, 87065 Limoges, France.

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