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Villes en développement



Rio de Janeiro

## Beyond Istanbul

Yet another trifling grand celebration or a truly epoch-making Summit? The formal conclusion of a cycle of events or a promising opening to the new century? Only nine months after Habitat II, it is too soon to decide and claim to make any significant assessment of the conference.

It is true that some find it best to profess disdainful scepticism for any United Nations thematic summit as they think that States feel obliged to take part in such events to ease their conscience, but in no way to try and find solutions to problems which, incidentally, are beyond their capabilities.

Whatever these "doomwatchers" may think, the Istanbul Summit held its ground. While it did not meet all the expectations of the participants, it did however help them to get an insight into the global trend of urban development. Each one of them is now more aware of the decisive significance of urban-related challenges for our future - it is in the towns of the world, for the most part, that our developmental capabilities, the cohesiveness of our societies and even the environmental balance of the world will be decided.

The countries which met in Istanbul agreed on a global agenda for the future of cities and towns. They stressed the importance of local action for a balanced and sustainable urban development, focusing on the need for "good governance" at local level, i.e. efficient and democratic. They also affirmed that the right to decent housing was one of the universal human

rights, and committed themselves to gradually work towards that objective. They redefined the respective role of the various local development partners, and stressed the need for appropriate co-operation among Governments, the private sector and civil society. In order to promote such form of co-operation, they also advocated a new role for the State - which should become a facilitator, a regulator and an animator of partnerships. Two other major objectives were also put forward : to recover the urbanity of our towns; to strengthen the urban component in the assistance provided to developing countries. Are these decisive steps? The more pessimistic will say that it is not much in view of the challenges of today, the limited resources available and the non-binding nature of the agreement reached. The more optimistic will argue that it is quite a lot if viewed as the initial step towards a new form of governance in the world - an event that gives a new meaning to the concept of globalization, too often seen as a faceless unaccountable process. The optimists will also say that a strong dynamic process was launched and that anyone can now contribute to the success of Habitat II, on the basis of his/her knowledge and power. And, as anybody knows, while pessimists are always right, optimists move the world forward. ■

Georges Cavallier  
*Co-ordinator of French contributions  
to Habitat II*

# After Habitat II, what form of cooperation? —

by Michel Prevost, consultant, member of the ADP committee

## **The World Summit of Cities and Towns firmly confirmed the decisive role of towns in the economic social and cultural development of the countries of the South. What conclusions can be drawn for French international intervention in urban development?**

### **International co-operation in the context of economic globalization and global urbanisation**

About 90% of urban population growth in the next 25 years is expected to take place in the cities and towns of the South, 75% of which in Africa and Asia. In the absence of economic and social infrastructure to attract private investment, these cities and towns may well be faced with civil disturbance resulting from unemployment and poverty. Also, while globalization opens new opportunities of growth, it is not without risks because of the unequal levels of development it generates in the countries of the South and the North, and among them.<sup>1</sup>

Cities and towns can generate wealth if organised in such a way that their productive activities are actively supported by regional and global trade. It therefore is vital to determine how to finance the development and management of efficient towns. However, growth and the distribution of wealth are not independent parameters: indeed, distribution patterns directly impact on savings and employment (what is valid for national economic policies may well apply to international economics?)

In such a context, the goal of co-operation policies, as an expression of international solidarity, should be to go against inherent economic inequalities through the development of North-South investment flows aimed at facilitating the mobilisation of savings.

In addition, as the urbanisation of the South offers wide-ranging

new market opportunities for firms, urban services and financial markets from the North, investment in the towns of the South is of direct economic interest for France.

Overall, those are the two major reasons why French co-operation should intervene in the urban development of the South.

### **French co-operation in the context of urban management and policies**

In recent years, French urban co-operation aimed at supporting urban economic development through investment in infrastructure and support to independent market-oriented public services, as well as promoting decentralisation in town management through capacity-building and training of urban technicians and managers.

What lessons can be drawn from the experience? First of all, while community-based administration is still to be built in order for town management to get closer to economic realities and democratic processes, this cannot go without strengthening State efficiency or without private sector and civil society mobilisation. Secondly, the specific cultural, social, and administrative framework of the various countries do not allow for a mere transplantation of French or any other local government patterns; "the most that can be done is to mutually learn from one another from common problems and the lessons learnt from past experience, whether successful or not."<sup>2</sup>

Thirdly, while it is necessary to initially stabilise, then increase

local government resources, foreign investment must also be attracted to the major cities and towns of the South.

But it is not enough to just string urban projects together on the basis of these technical orientations in order for our partners to be in a position to identify their problems, develop their policies, set their objectives and develop their towns. In other terms, French urban co-operation must not be restricted to technical assistance services. It should aim at capacity-building for the negotiation of urban policies and programmes.<sup>3</sup>

### **Urban culture and partnership**

Given the globalization of the economy, which translates into further regionalisation of trade and increases competition among regions, towns have new responsibilities in the economic, social and cultural development process. This is why the two major strategic directions of French co-operation in the urban context should be assistance to urban economic activities and decentralisation of town management.

On a sectoral basis, there should be four major priorities:

- creating linkages between urban policies and country-wide economic development in order to facilitate both the domestic integration of national economies and their opening to the outside world;
- setting up partnerships between municipal authorities, civil society organisations and private sector enterprises in order to identify and implement local projects in the area of urban

development, urban service management and urban cultural life;

- capacity-building to improve urban space development programmes and land use management in partnership with the private sector;

- increasing local resources through mobilisation of external funding.

However, to face up to the rapid urban development process in the South, French co-operation should also switch from a supply-based to a demand-based logic. Thus, beyond its traditional, public, private and multiform technical assistance sectoral approach, it should attempt to promote an urban culture upstream of sectoral interventions in order for its partners to create linkages between technical management, social and cultural life, promotion of economic activity and national development. Thus, co-operation links could be established on the basis of the negotiation of programmes and priorities identified in partnership with France. ■

<sup>1</sup> «L'inégalité du monde - Economie du monde contemporain», Pierre-Noël Giraud, Gallimard, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Jean-Pierre Elong M'Bassi, preparatory workshop to the Istanbul conference, Bamako, May 1996.

<sup>3</sup> Jean-David Naudet, «Trouver des problèmes aux solutions», Septembre 1996.

Récife



Villes en développement

# Coordination among the towns of the world —

by Jean-Pierre Elong M'Bassi, Secretary-General of CAMVAL

## Setting up and development of an international co-ordination mechanism for cities and towns

**Given the current context of doubt as to the role of international organisations, was it appropriate to set up a global co-ordination mechanism for cities and towns? Is this an improvement in the current global environment?**

### Cities and towns in the global environment

Our contemporary world is characterised by deep socio-political and economic changes. Today, the effects of these changes are more obvious in cities and towns - they will be even more so tomorrow. In today's world, towns are at the bridge of all contradictions, where universality meets diversity, global dynamics meet local societies - the starting point of conflicts among communities and among nations (which are nowadays rarely dealt with at local level). Towns are faced with the difficulty of addressing local issues without any reference to global challenges. They realise that they are responsible for translating policies defined by the State and the international community into concrete local action.

Thus, cities and towns have become both one of the major challenges of globalization and one of the most dynamic actors at international level.

In recent years, co-operation among towns has grown in an unprecedented manner. This new decentralised form of co-operation was based on the need for towns to exchange views and create alliances, gradually building a common view among local governments on major contemporary issues.

In this context, a new form of "para-diplomacy" was progressively introduced among towns, which can no longer be overviewed in international relations. This led to a growing conviction that the world would most certainly be a better place if the views of towns and local

authorities - the entities closest to the citizens - were taken into consideration in the management of world affairs. This conviction, which is largely shared by the world municipal movement, led municipal leaders to air their views on the international scene.

### From Rio to Istanbul : the institutional emergence of towns on the international scene

Through the collaboration of the major international associations of towns, towns could for the first time speak in a single voice at international fora. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the four major international associations of towns<sup>1</sup> got together in what they agreed to call «the Group of Four» (G4) to speak on behalf of local governments at that Summit. This led to the adoption by the international community of a local version of the Agenda for the Environment and Sustain-

able Development, still known as the Local Agenda 21.

Their collaboration then expanded during the preparatory process for the Habitat II Summit in Istanbul. Six regional town associations and networks merged with the G4 to create the G4<sup>2</sup>. This informal group actively took part in the development of the partnership approach proposed for the Summit. On May 30 and 31, 1996, it organised the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities (AMVAL). AMVAL got together over 500 mayors and local representatives at all levels of local government and from all continents. The Istanbul Declaration, which was adopted at the end of the meeting, recommended, inter alia, the creation of a permanent structure, initially as a joint body for contacts between cities and various partners, in particular the United Nations, and secondly, to federate all associations of cities and towns in the world.

As a follow-up to the commitments pledged at Istanbul, the Presidents of the associations in the G4+ met in Paris on September 7, 1996 (only 3 months after AMVAL) to formally establish the Co-ordination mechanism among the world assembly of cities and local authorities (CAMVAL). They confirmed on this occasion Mr Jaime Ravinet, the Mayor of Santiago, Chile, and Chairman of IULA, as the first President of CAMVAL, appointed Mr Jean-Pierre Elong M'Bassi, Co-ordinator of the Municipal Development Programme for West and Central Africa as Secretary-General and chose Geneva as headquarters. The Paris meeting also identified the following priorities for the transitional period :

- preparing the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure;
- negotiating the conditions of establishment of the headquarters in Geneva;
- preparing for the participation of cities and local authorities in the proceedings of the UN Committee on Sustainable Development of the Commission on Human Settlements;
- discussing with the various international organisations about their work programmes

Djibouti



Groupe Huit

involving a participation from towns;

- creating institutional links with UNCHS;
- drawing up a budget and mobilising the corresponding resources from CAMVAL members and their partners.

CAMVAL was effectively set up in Geneva in February 1997. It has started developing consultation mechanisms upstream with its various partners and follow-up/assessment activities of the various international co-operation institutions and

agencies, including local government associations. On October 29, 1996, in New York, for the first time in the history of the institution, the United Nations invited cities to speak at the General Assembly. Through Mr. Daby Diagne, head of his delegation, CAMVAL confirmed that it wished to establish a partnership with the United Nations. CAMVAL also takes an active part in all the initiatives linked to the implementation of the Global Agenda adopted at

Istanbul. It participated in the meeting of partners organised in preparation of the 16th session of UNCHS to be held in Nairobi in April 1997. At the next meeting of the Presidents, also to be held in Nairobi on April 25 and 26, 1997, CAMVAL will adopt its Statutes and Rules of Procedure, define its work plan and budget. By then, CAMVAL will be fully operational and a constructive dialogue will be launched with all its partners. ■

<sup>1</sup>United Towns Organisation (FMCU); International Union of Local Authorities (IULA); Conference of Major Cities of the World (SUMMIT); World Association of metropolises (METROPOLIS)  
<sup>2</sup>The following regional organisations joined the G4 : Arab Town Organisation (ATO); Citynet (Asia and Pacific); Eurocities; Major Local Government Associations of North America; Red de Asociaciones de Municipios de America Latina; Union of African Towns (UVA).

## NGOs and the follow-up to Habitat II

by Mohammed Soumaré, Programme Co-ordinator, ENDA-Tiers Monde

### ***For many observers, the participation of non governmental organisations (NGOs) to the Habitat II conference represents a milestone in NGO/UN relations***

During the Istanbul conference, as well as throughout the preparatory process, the NGO community was very actively involved and organised alternative fora both at national and international levels where a debate of high quality developed around various aspects of the future of human settlements. But with Habitat II, what may well be a milestone is the fact that, for one of the very first times in history, civil society organisations were authorised, admittedly under yet restrictive conditions, to take a direct part in the deliberations of a UN conference.

This international recognition of NGOs as equal partners in the debate and action on the future of human settlements is certainly due to the existence of structured NGO networks in the area of housing since the first Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver, but also, and above all, to NGO deep knowledge of field work and their day-to-day commitment for the benefit of the poorest who

are faced with unemployment and under-employment, lack of housing and of access to basic social services.

Indeed, one of the major challenges of Habitat II was just that : how to think and act to improve life in cities and towns and even in semi-urban areas within a framework of international competition and economic globalization, while at the same time respecting the principles of sustainable development, equitable access for all to global resources and basic individual and community human rights. At the Istanbul conference, NGOs did not merely denounce - and rightly so - laws and regulations, administrative practices and economic policies which result in situations of social exclusion or de facto discrimination against women, youth and some social groups within their own environment; they also demonstrated, through various concrete presentations on "good urban practices" selected by UNCHS, the effectiveness and relevance of their approach in the area of participatory urban ma-

agement, partnership with local governments or the private sector, or use of alternative technology adapted to local needs.

#### **Follow-up to Habitat II**

Most observers agree on the overall positive results of Habitat II, despite uncertainty as to the capacity of mobilisation of adequate funding and the effectiveness of the follow-up mechanisms that will be set up. Before leaving Istanbul, NGOs hailed the spirit of partnership and holistic approach to urban development issues that prevailed throughout the conference and pledged to work jointly with Governments, local authorities and specialised UN institutions to follow-up the implementation of the Global Habitat Agenda. The group of African NGOs which got involved throughout the conference and the preparatory process noted the on-going democratisation and decentralisation process in most of the countries of the continent and pledged to continue their

efforts to publicise the outcome of the conference and to reinforce their links with grassroots communities and local governments to implement local action plans for the benefit of the poorest who live at the periphery of major African towns. ■

Muhalla



Villes en développement

# Global strategy, national action

by Daniel Biau, Head of Technical Co-operation Division,  
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)

**At the Istanbul Summit, a Global Action Plan called "Habitat Agenda" was adopted, which includes both the commitments made by the international community and the strategies recommended to improve living conditions in cities and towns around the world.**

In parallel with the preparation of the Habitat Agenda, 139 countries prepared national reports, 129 of which include a National Action Plan. Most of these national plans were developed by Governments in consultation with other urban development partners (local authorities, private sector, NGOs...). In the same manner as in the Global Agenda, the national plans contain specific commitments (by Governments and their partners), and proposals for action based on the assessment of current situations. The National Plans (see frame) are diverse in terms of quality but the identified priorities are usually similar to those included in the Global Agenda: housing and basic services; urban poverty alleviation; urban management; improvement of built-up environment. They vary more in terms of their strategic orientation. Indeed, the key underlying principles in any partnership - decentralisation, institutional development and participatory governance - are not necessarily included in all these national plans. In the first period after the Istanbul conference, many countries must initially review their national plans in order to include these key principles - unanimously adopted at the conference by the Member States of the UN. This implies launching political discussions at national and municipal levels as well as strengthening the National Committees established to prepare for Habitat II. Tens of countries are already engaged in this process, in conformity with UN General-Assembly Resolution 51/177 on the follow-up

to Habitat II (adopted on December 16, 1996). Then, it will be necessary to identify priorities among recommended actions and to draw up appropriate strategies for resource mobilisation (some of the national plans are not realistic in this respect).

UNCHS prepared guidelines to assist countries in implementing their National Plans during the 1997-2001 period. Guidelines were also drawn up for the UN system, aimed at increasing the level of assistance to developing countries in the area of human settlements. Once adapted, these guidelines could also be used for bilateral co-operation.

UNCHS also prepared several regional programmes to assist in the implementation of national plans. The first is for Africa and aims at providing African countries with appropriate technical support to review their national plans and to implement the required legislative and institutional reforms. Bilateral co-operation agencies were invited to help finance this initiative.

UNCHS also set up a Global Urban Observatory, which should facilitate the follow-up and evaluation of national efforts. This Observatory links up two dynamic initiatives of the Habitat II preparatory process related to "urban indicators" and "best practices". The indicators are currently being revised and expanded to allow for a quantitative follow-up of Habitat II. "Best practices" will be exchanged through international networks aimed at sharing experience and will also be self-evaluation tools. Of

course, the Istanbul Conference did not solve all the problems. The media did wonder whether political leaders were committed to give urban development its rightful place among national priorities. Some asked whether the key principle of Istanbul - i.e. partnership - was not a convenient way for Governments to escape their responsibilities. The answer to these questions will essentially depend on civil society, on the pressure urban

dwellers/citizens will exert on local authorities and central governments, on the implementation and concretization of the participatory and transparent governance which was so often referred to in Istanbul.<sup>1</sup>

Governments are primarily responsible for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. They decided that the UN General Assembly would carry out in 2001 an overall evaluation of the results of Habitat II. When in Istanbul, they thought in global terms; now, they must act in local terms, together with their partners, for the implementation of the strategies jointly developed during the Summit. See you then in four years time for the Istanbul+5 evaluation. ■

<sup>1</sup> In this context, the fact that the term itself of "gouvernance" (governance) was adopted in 1996 by the French-speaking community is a very good sign.

Singapour



Villes en développement

## National Action Plans

Most of the 139 national reports received by UNCHS include National Action Plans. This figure is significantly higher than for other similar international conferences, with 50 out of 53 countries for Africa, 27 for Asia, 21 for Latin America and the Caribbean, 21 for Central and Eastern Europe, and 20 for European and other industrialised countries.

For the quality of their report and of the consultative process they have launched, let us mention: in Africa, the 3 Maghreb countries, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Senegal and Tanzania; in Asia, the countries in the Indian Sub-Continent, Indonesia and the Philippines; in Latin America and the Caribbean, Barbados, Brazil, Columbia, Cuba and Guatemala; in Central and Eastern Europe, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia; and finally, among industrialised countries, Germany, Canada, Denmark, France and the Netherlands.



Financement de projets d'environnement et de développement urbain. A guide for NGOs from the South. Paris : Enda-Preceup, 1996. 233 pp. + Annexes (Série Coopération)

A review of various financing instruments available to NGOs from the South within the framework of bilateral (France, Germany, UK, Netherlands, Italy, Spain), multilateral (EU, UNDP, World Bank) or decentralised (local governments and non governmental organisations) co-operation. Methodology for preparing and presenting funding requests. Case studies on Columbia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Morocco.

Price : FF. 120

Contact : Enda-Preceup, 5 rue des Immeubles industriels, 75011 Paris, France

Les grandes métropoles du monde et leur crise by Raymond Guglielmo. Paris : Armand Colin, 1996. 270 pp. Bibliog. Glossary (Coll. U, série Géographie)

Accelerating urban development essentially benefits major metropolises, most of which today are located in the Third World. There are growing discrepancies today between metropolises from developed and from developing countries. The power of major metropolises today, which in the past was based on the control they had over a given territory, is essentially due today to the fact that they have turned into nodal points in a global telematic network. The crisis they are currently going through, which translates into increased socio-spatial segregation, is a concrete result of the dual nature of contemporary societies.

Price : FF. 135

Contact : Armand Colin, 5 rue Laramiguière, 75241 Paris cedex 05, France

Ville et nature dans les agglomérations d'Afrique et d'Asie by Pierre-Marie Tricaud. Paris : Gret, 1996. 103 pp. (Coll. Etudes et travaux)

Talking about nature within towns amounts to questioning traditional definitions, which draw a straight line between town and cultivated space, or between town dwellers and farmers. Where do towns end and where does the countryside begin? Who is a town dweller and who is a rural resident? Because it is difficult to give straight answers to all these questions, the urban/rural interface is not seen as a straight contact line but as a whole range of spatial and economic relations. Many examples are given to explore the issue : Dakar, Freetown, Ibadan, Brazzaville, Cotonou, Kinshasa, Cairo, Tunis, Ahmedabad.

Price : FF. 75

Contact : GRET, 213 rue La Fayette, 75010, Paris, France.

## Scientific research after Habitat II

by Emile Le Bris (ORSTOM)

### **Could we reasonably expect from the singular event of the Habitat II Conference a reawakening of urban thinking?**

It soon appeared during the preparatory process that the major challenges of the last major summit of the century were essentially of a political nature and treated as such : right to housing, recognition of cities and towns as full actors on the international scene. Was it possible to "stick to" these challenges, in particular within the framework of the French preparatory process, in order to reformulate them in scientific terms?

Without referring back to the specificity of French urban research mechanisms - i.e. an institutional (not to say epistemological) break between the North and the South - I chose, for understandable reasons linked to the nature of this publication, to stress the South-oriented approach. However, some general issues relate to research circles as a whole :

- can researchers be viewed as autonomous actors with their own strategies?
- where does "social demand" originate from? and should it fully determine programmes?

### **A diluted presence of researchers in Istanbul**

Prior to the official conference, researchers were involved in the forum of national academies. English-speakers could voice their concerns in the GURI (Global Urban Research Initiative) workshop around the theme "towns and governance" - which was also the theme selected by French-speakers within the context of the Taksim Talks on research. Researchers were also able to speak up in the thematic workshops steered by UN organisations (particularly on land tenure and citizenship). The NGO forum was also open to research concerns, as shown by the session

on local development initiated by Programme Solidarité Habitat and ENDA. In addition, Habitat II University organised works-hops from June 11 to 13, which were generally thought to be extremely disappointing. As a whole, there were many fora opened to researchers but, as we all know, when you want to be everywhere, you end up being nowhere.

### **Some views confirmed in Istanbul**

1. Decision-makers and operators do not have much to ask from researchers who, on their part, are reluctant to get involved, beyond their empirical research, into scientific criticism of the foundation of current urban patterns. The hearing of the forum of academies by Committee II clearly illustrated this dialogue of the deaf. The representatives took that meeting as an opportunity to denounce once again the monopoly of the North over scientific matters.

2. In the field of science, vocabulary, key ideas and major pressure groups are Anglo-Saxon. The GURI workshops confirmed it in a nearly caricatural way. It all happens as if the scientific movement was more than ever split into contradictory trends : on the one hand, because of globalization, universal themes emerge (improvement of management at local level, participation of the greatest numbers to local decision-making); on the other, because of the specificity of the various territories, extremely specialised skills are required in order to grasp the full diversity of urban life - despite growing "megapolization" and expanding poverty.

While it is true that this very diversity provides answers to the difficult questions posed by

"governance", it must also be recognised that concepts have different meanings depending on the approach chosen.

3. Is urban research no longer the privilege of professional researchers only? NGOs in particular claim they have a say in (or even a monopoly over) the production of knowledge and meaning. Let us be cautious: this "popular research" should not result in a reification of the poor; and let us call on all researchers (barefooted or not) to hoist the quality of their demonstration tools to the height of the freedom of thought they so rightly put forward.

What place for research in the Habitat II agenda?

The Istanbul conference did not produce the "international programme on urban research" we had hoped for. During the preparation of the conference however, European researchers got closer. Established at the end of the September 1995 meeting, the N-AERUS network held its third meeting in London on March 21 and 22, 1997, attempting to develop a joint platform. In this regard, the Habitat II conference opened new perspectives. The programme on urban indicators launched at the end of the conference will itself have to develop according to the dual approach (globalization vs. urban diversity).

Finally, I would like to restate the wish expressed by P. Viveret: in the follow-up to Habitat II, which is almost exclusively organised by the World Bank, there is a need for "beacons" - an "indisputable scientific college" could carry out such function. ■

**François Geindre, aged 50, has been the mayor of Herouville-Saint-Clair ( a town of 25 000 people in Greater Caen) for 25 years. He is the Vice-President of the National Council of Towns, a 40-member structure, including 25 mayors, with the Prime Minister as its President, which is responsible for advising French Government on urban issues. Michel Gérard interviewed him for "Villes en développement".**

**MG :** What did Istanbul change for you?

**FG :** Towns asked to be recognised as authentic actors in international fora and they achieved it prior to the conference itself, so they could take part in the conference. Then, during the conference, 500 mayors from the five continents unanimously adopted a declaration on towns. This text is of high quality when compared to those usually adopted at such meetings. I thought this was a great achievement.

**MG :** What was the background to that document?

**FG :** It all started with Jorge Sampaio, who is now the President of Portugal, but who was before Mayor of Lisbon and Chairman of United Towns Organisation, and with Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, who drafted the text and who had been thinking about all these issues for a long time.

**MG :** Why is that text so important in your view?

**FG :** Because, breaking away from a backward-looking debate, it states that towns are an advanced form of economic development and civilisation. Mayors know very well that, while urban problems are more concentrated than in rural civilisation, where everything happens more gradually, they are not necessarily more formidable. One example : violence has always been more manageable, hence less significant, in towns than in the countryside...

For you and I, these ideas are not new. But for the first time ever, at the Istanbul conference, they were accepted on a global level. This is a decisive step forward.

**MG :** In concrete terms, what does Istanbul mean?

**FG :** Towns can and must play a part on the international scene. They will be represented at UNCHS. CAMVAL is their own co-ordination mechanism. In the longer term, their aim is to access global programmes and resources.

**MG :** What is the attitude of the States vis-à-vis CAMVAL?

**FG :** Before Istanbul, the participation of towns was a critical issue. CAMVAL, which was created during the conference, is not confronted with difficult attitudes from Governments because it brings an assurance that initiatives will be orderly. This being said, I think that its current organisation is too dependent on personal relations. In France, the Minister in charge of towns should get involved in the establishment of the institution.

**MG :** In fact, that ministry seems to be mainly in charge of difficult neighbourhoods!

**FG :** This is true, but if there hadn't been difficult neighbourhoods, we would not have a ministry in charge of towns. And it is because there are difficult urban problems all round that we do talk about cities and towns.

**MG :** The Ministry might fear a Medea-Mantes-La-Jolie co-operation.

**FG :** Precisely, this is what we call for. On three occasions already, I have sent 20 youth from the Herouville ZRU (zone of urban revitalisation) in the 15 or so villages with which our town is twinned (in the Matam region). They got involved in the building of a local school. They don't all turn into saints but they all end up looking differently at life, at their neighbourhood, at themselves.

**MG :** How can the Ministry go about it?

**FG :** The Interministerial Delegation in charge of Towns (DIV) got the excellent idea to launch "tenders for projects" on unusual issues such as nutrition, sport etc. and the bids were sometimes quite interesting. So, with its interministerial capacities, DIV could call for new projects on innovative themes in the area of decentralised co-operation among ZUS (Sensitive Urban Areas) and neighbourhoods of towns located in the South or in the East. For the State, decentralised co-operation is essentially interesting because it is a continuum. I won't dare imagining what would have happened to our investment in the Senegal valley if we had not worked with local village people for years.

**MG :** One year after the Istanbul conference, would you say that mentalities have changed?

**FG :** Yes indeed. Towns are now seen as an advanced stage of civilisation (and not as a disease thereof), which naturally leads to thinking about proper management. In this regard, the concept of "sustainable towns" was reinforced.

**MG :** What do you mean?

**FG :** The fact that town dwellers and municipal authorities take into account the four natural cycles which are disrupted by the existence of towns : air, water, power and waste.

**MG :** Do you have a wish?

**FG :** I told you before : I hope that the French Government is going to involve its institutions into the follow-up to Istanbul. ■



Available at the Documentation and Information Centre of "Villes en Développement"

### Mekong

In 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked GERPA (Group of Research on Resources/Prospective/Land Planning) to carry out a study on "territorial prospective" for the whole of the Mekong countries. It is now ready and published under the title "Mekong 6 by the year 2000". A prospective vision of the evolution of the six Mekong countries in terms of development and land planning. Exploratory approach and pilot methodology.  
Price : FF. 50 (add postage)

### Workshop Minutes

The PDM (Municipal Development Programme) Module for West and Central Africa has just published a new issue in its workshop series, PDM-VIII, "Solid waste in urban areas in West and Central Africa : towards sustainable management", minutes of the workshop held in Abidjan from February 14 to 16, 1996, under the auspices of the African Institute of Urban Management (IAGU), the UNDP/World Bank Programme on water supply and sanitation (GREAO) and the PDM-West.  
Price : FF. 150 for correspondants in France and Europe. Others should contact directly the PDM Module for West and Central Africa, BP 01-3445 COTONOU, Benin.

### ADP

The minutes of the seminar of the Association of urban development and co-operation professionals (ADP) held on September 6, 1996, on "Current issues in major urban projects" are out.  
Price : FF. 100

### Bibliography

The Villes en Développement information and documentation centre compiled a list of documents related to the Istanbul Summit held last June, classified per categories : official UN and UNCHS documents; French documents; national documents; press etc.

## New FAC projects on urban development :

Decentralisation and support to local authorities in Benin.

In addition to capacity-building of the Home Ministry and the National Decentralisation Committee yet to be established, the following is planned :

- setting up of a commune consultative unit to help reflecting on the mobilisation of local resources and local government development strategies. German Co-operation will be involved;

- experimentation of new space and land management tools, through the development of benchmark urban development plans for Porto Novo and Parakou and a housing scheme design for Cotonou.

Computerised co-operation scheme for major towns in French-speaking Africa.

This programme, which covers about 50 towns members of AIMF (International Association of mayors and authorities in charge of partially Francophone capital cities and metropolises), already benefited 21 towns. This project is the third phase of the programme and concerns 13 towns, where the following will be done :

- computerisation of income and staff management (Brazzaville, Cotonou, Lome, Ouagadougou, Pointe Noire and Porto Novo);

- computerisation of accounts and payments (Bamako, Kaolack, Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Victoria);

- installation of registry management systems (Abidjan, Libreville).

## Urban works, cities, development and international expertise

Workshop, Paris, France, March 24 to May 23, 1997

The 8-week cycle, jointly organised by IFU, ENPC and ISTD, is meant for professionals with responsibilities in the administration or urban management departments, elected representatives, qualified representatives of civil society organisations.

Themes :

- Globalization and "metropolization", urban development territorial policies, actors, institutions, professions, international comparisons, urban economics, urban planning, informal sector, local authority and decentralisation, World Bank and urban development, international migrations and urban integration, urban project ownership and housing policy, urban service management in African towns, urban policy in South-East Asia, identification and packaging of projects, evaluation of urban projects.

*Registration : ENPC, Manuel Rodriguez, 28 rue des Saints Pères, 75343 Paris cedex 07, France. Tel : 33 01 44 58 28 26 Fax : 33 01 44 58 28 30*

# News on cooperation

## Boosting the outcome of Habitat II

The urban observatory of IFEA (French Institute for Anatolian Studies) in Istanbul contributes to follow-up efforts to Habitat II: this year, the theme selected for its cycle of talks is developing towns. From October 1996 to May 1997, urban planners, architects, geographers, sociologists or experts on developing towns will come and talk about the issues raised at the Istanbul conference. There will be presentations of case studies (Istanbul, Teheran, Beyrouth, Cairo) as well as more thematic talks (the notion of heritage in developing towns by Yves Dauge, expert at UNESCO, or a summary assessment of Habitat II by Georges Cavallier, co-ordinator of French inputs to the Istanbul Summit, and Francis Godard, deputy-director of PIR-Villes). A publication will sum up all these presentations (in the six-monthly bulletin of the IFEA Urban Observatory.)

*Contact : IFEA (Urban Observatory of Istanbul), Laurence Ammour, Philippe Blacher, Palais de France, Nuru Ziya Sokak, 22, Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey. Tel : 212 244 33 27 Fax : 212 252 80 91*

## Follow-up to Habitat II and EU programme

The Ministry in charge of Co-operation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ISTD took part in a workshop aimed at reviewing proposals for inclusion of the outcome of Habitat II in DG VIII operations.

Various analytical reports and proposals were submitted to experts delegated by Member States.

During this 2-day meeting, it became clear that the assessment of the various co-operation agencies of the Member States were similar as regards major urban challenges and the focus of programmes financed by the Commission. The fact that most of the experts took part in the discussions helped define common European positions.

This upstream work should continue; participants asked for the discussion to be expanded to other areas of intervention of the commission (DG1A and 1B).

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## Glossary

The Ministry of Communication, Transport, Posts and Construction of Laos has just finalised, in collaboration with the National Administration and Management School of Vientiane and with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a glossary of urban development terms (French/English/Lao; Lao/French/English).

## DAU

The activity report of the international affairs department is out. It includes a list of the various themes selected to facilitate capacity-building of French professionals in the area of urban planning :

- project contracting and ownership; urban and territorial planning; operational urban development; legal know-how; document preparation; urban professions (training, information, promotion); research;

It also gives the country distribution, as well as the list of the missions carried out abroad and the foreign delegations received.

*Contact : Ministère de l'équipement, du Logement, des Transports et du Tourisme, DAU, SAI, Francine Gibaud, Arche de La Défense, 92055 Paris-La-Défense cedex, France. Tel : 33 01 40 81 11 94*

## CDROM SUD

Published by IBISCUS and AUPELF, this second edition contains some 100 000 bibliographical entries with summaries on countries of the South, notes on the economic situation of French speaking African countries (co-produced with CHEAM), over 400 descriptions of French and foreign organisations involved in co-operation assistance, a list of publications on development.

Price : Europe and North America FF. 2600 excluding tax; countries of the South FF. 1000, excluding tax  
*Contact : IBISCUS, 1 bis rue du Havre, 75008 Paris, France. Tel : 33 01 42 94 24 34 Fax : 33 01 42 94 25 91*

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