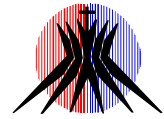




**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION**
Brasilia, September 11th to 15th, 2005



Participants of the International Congress on Environmental Planning and Management – Environmental Challenges of Urbanization, held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 11th to 15th, 2005,

Having considered Urban Environmental Planning and Management as the prime instrument to ensure the sustainable and harmonious development of urban settlements,

Underlining local population identity and diversity as an important element in achieving that goal,

Recommending, on a case by case basis, that the respective social, cultural, economic and environmental features be taken into account in proposing the institutional structures capable of implementing the necessary changes and the establishment of a democratic decision making process,

Recognizing that although world population is growing at a faster rate in urban settlements than elsewhere, thus justifying the carrying out of specific actions, the environmental planning and management approach to be adopted should consider the state of human condition in rural areas, and also the use and protection of natural resources at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Pointing out that a relevant proportion of the urban population do not have adequate access to housing, safety and security, leisure and work, as well as to basic services such as education, health, water sanitation, energy and transportation,

Taking note of the symbolic role played by Brasilia, World Cultural Heritage, designated Capital of Brazil in a strategic decision to socially and territorially integrate the Nation, as host city for this International Congress,

Decide to adopt the following Charta of Brasilia, inspired on the presentations and the papers submitted, and on the outcomes of the discussions that took place during the event:

Charta of Brasilia

Planning for implementation, expansion or restoration and specific initiatives aiming at improving the quality of life in urban settlements or ensuring an equitable condition for different social actors, would require a coordinated effort on the part of urban planners, sectorial experts, those responsible for the drafting, adoption and enforcement of public policies, and representatives of organized society,

The process of urban environmental planning and management should be implemented in a continuous cycle and successive steps of proposal, action, appraisal and feedback, using as reference previously established indicators on social, economic, ecological and institutional aspects,

Environmental Planning and Management shall, among other objectives, promote environmental justice and social inclusion, especially of the poor and underprivileged,

A broad research program should be developed through the cooperative effort of scientific and academic institutions of many countries, with the purpose of considerably expanding the knowledge and data collection on the carrying capacity of urban ecosystems, and allowing for a critical analysis of the complex phenomena involved in the urbanizing process, thus providing the necessary scientific and technical basis for sustainable urban planning and environmental management.

The analysis of causes and consequences of migrant flows should be an integral part of the research program, in order to provide guidance, while respecting the individual right of mobility, to urban and regional development planning and management,

Design, revision and updating of land use and city master plans should contemplate the integration of surrounding rural areas and other settlements, the control of protected areas and those subject to risk caused by natural disasters or human action, while observing existing planning and zoning regulations and in conformity with decisions taken by related watershed management bodies. Sectorial plans should be incorporated into the master plans, and care should be taken to preserve as much as possible the urban environmental identity.

Historical, cultural and artistic assets are significant elements of urban identity, and their conservation should be assured, and complemented by measures and practices that enhance the social function of private property,

Urban environmental planning and management includes the provision of healthy housing, especially for the lower income population, of socializing spaces, of accessibility for the handicapped and those that require special attention, and preservation of the social character of public equipment and services,

Planning criteria for land occupation and use, and also construction standards, should take into account the physical, climatic, economic, social and cultural features of each region, Public-private partnerships and other forms of social organization should aim at promoting those initiatives that relate to sustainable development, such as conservation of public parks, protected areas, water resources, and the implementation of urban mobility and public utility projects,

Environmental education adds a new ethic to the relationship between people and the environment. Therefore, human attitudes, habits and standards of production and consumption should be revised and public policies be adopted aiming at natural resource conservation and compliance with international commitments.

Standards of land occupation and use should be established so as to encourage the setting up and conservation of green spaces, to respect areas of permanent preservation and otherwise to be protected, and to control human occupation of areas exposed to risks, as required by environmental impact evaluation reports and the carrying capacity of ecosystems,

Urban environmental planning and management should aim at encouraging low income groups to develop their power of initiative and creativity towards solving their own problems, to enhance their self-confidence and citizenship rights. At the same time they should attempt to create conditions for the onset of economic activities that would provide income generation and social inclusion.

The water resources management policy must be harmonized with other sectoral policies, in order to facilitate the integrated management of watersheds. The preservation of wetlands associated to biodiversity conservation measures will contribute to the reduction of environmental costs and to damage prevention,

The world wide trend towards integration in political, economic, commercial and technological terms, should provide for the exchange of knowledge, technology and information, regarding the design and implementation of planning and environmental management programs. Such technical and financial forms of cooperation among nations are particularly relevant in complementing national efforts to eliminate poverty, social exclusion, economic and institutional vulnerability, in order to improve human condition of present and future generations everywhere on Planet Earth.

Brasilia, September, 15th, 2005.