



**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES OF URBANIZATION**
Brasília, September 11 to 15, 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 Brasília, 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 Charter of Brasília, inspired by the presentations and the papers submitted, and by the outcomes of the discussions that took place during the event:

Charter of Brasília

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 to urban and regional development planning and management to urban and regional development planning and management, while respecting the individual right to mobility.

The 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. Sectoral plans should be incorporated into the master plans, and care should be taken to preserve urban environmental identities to the extent possible.

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 should include the provision of healthy housing, especially for the lower income groups, of spaces for socialization, of accessibility for the disabled and others with special needs, and should preserve the social character of public equipment and services,

Planning criteria for land use and 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 promote sustainable development, for example through efforts as conserving public parks, protected areas and water resources, and implementing 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.

Land use regulations should encourage the creation and conservation of green spaces and protected areas. They should restrict human occupation in risk areas, as required by environmental impact reports and by the ecosystem's carrying capacity,

Urban environmental planning and management should encourage the initiative and creativity of low income groups who seek to solve their own problems, to enhance their self-confidence and promote citizenship rights. At the same time it should attempt to create conditions for the expansion of economic activities that generate income generation and social inclusion.

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

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

Brasília, September, 15th, 2005.