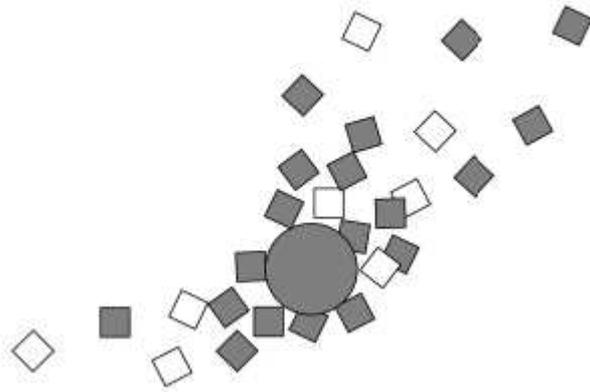


URBAN 21



Global conference on the Urban Future

Venue and date

International Congress Center in Berlin,
4-6 July 2000 Excursion to the
World Exposition EXPO 2000 in
Hanover,
7 July 2000

Host

The Federal Republic of Germany,
supported by its partners in the
Global Initiative on Sustainable
Development:
Brazil, Singapore and South Africa

Organizer

Federal Ministry of Transport, Building
and Housing - BMVBW

Preparation and organization

Federal Office for Building and Regional
Planning - BBR

Urban 21

The Global Conference on the Urban
Future, is an event organized within the
framework of EXPO 2000 and will be
taking place from 4-6 July 2000 in Berlin.
After the transfer of the Federal
Parliament and Government from Bonn
to Berlin,
URBAN 21 will be the first major
conference to which Germany,
supported by its partners Brazil, South
Africa and Singapore, will be extending
invitations to the new capital.
Berlin will present itself to an
international public as a meeting point

of nations, as a market place for ideas, as a major city of culture and as a focus of both political and social change.

Rising population figures, economic development and social change are the chief causes of increasing urbanization. Increasingly growing urban agglomerations are spreading throughout the world. Towns and cities are the focal points of social and ecological problems at present. At the same time, they are the essential engines of economic development and offer an opportunity for a growing number of people to live in a relatively small area with economic and ecological efficiency under humane conditions.

Towns and cities offer the hope and provide the opportunity for politicians, the public and experts to join forces to solve existing problems by combining global and local action and for people worldwide to take steps to promote sustainable development.

At the Earth Summit in 1992, the international community agreed to take concerted action to work towards achieving the goals of global sustainable development. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in 1996, deepened this dialogue, especially with regard to housing and settlement issues.

Following on from these two conferences, the Global Conference URBAN 21 should identify concrete solutions and, at the same time, generate an appropriate vision and action-oriented strategies for achieving worldwide sustainable development in the 21st century. Therefore, the aim of URBAN 21 is to constitute a further milestone in the efforts to achieve global sustainable development and put the goals set out in Agenda 21

and the Habitat Agenda into more concrete terms.

The global initiative for sustainable development

URBAN 21 implements one of the cardinal points of the Global Initiative for Sustainable Development undertaken by Brazil, Germany, Singapore and South Africa. The four partner countries have agreed to hold regional conferences in their respective regions to prepare for the Global Conference URBAN 21:

World Conference on Model Cities

Singapore, 19-21 April 1999
European Metropolitan Regions

Strategies for a Sustainable Development

(limited number of participants)
Essen/ Germany, 15-17
September 1999

Latin American Preparatory Conference

Rio de Janeiro / Brazil, 27-29
March 2000

African Preparatory Conference

Johannesburg/south africa,
march 2000

As a further element of the global initiative, a conference bringing together the mayors of the megacities will be held in Berlin immediately before the Global Conference URBAN 21 on 2-3 July 2000.

World commission Urban 21

The World Commission URBAN 21, comprising eminent persons from all parts of the world, will present a World Report on the Urban Future to the conference.

This will analyse the current global trends in urban development and propose concepts for urban development in the 21st century. The World Commission will also present a Draft Declaration for the Sustainable Development of the Cities of the World, which it is planned to discuss and «adopt» to be discussed and «adopted» at the conference.

From the Joint Declaration made by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl (Germany), Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong (Singapore) and Vice-President Thabo M. Mbeki (South Africa) on 23 June 1997 at the 19th Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

World Commission URBAN 21
World Report on the Urban Future.

Regional conferences

Within the framework of the Global Initiative on Sustainable Development, the partner states Brazil, Germany, Singapore and South Africa have committed themselves to stage regional conferences.

Decentral Events in Germany

Special events-meeting congresses, series of lectures, exhibitions, competitions and others on the subject of «sustainable urban development» can be carried out under the general auspices of URBAN 21.

Nationaler Städtebaukongress

The German National Urban Development Congress will be held on 17 – 19 November in Berlin. Its aim is to take stock of the German policy on urban development at the millennium and the definition of future tasks.