

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



GPN
GLOBAL PLANNERS NETWORK
Sharing new ideas about communities across the world

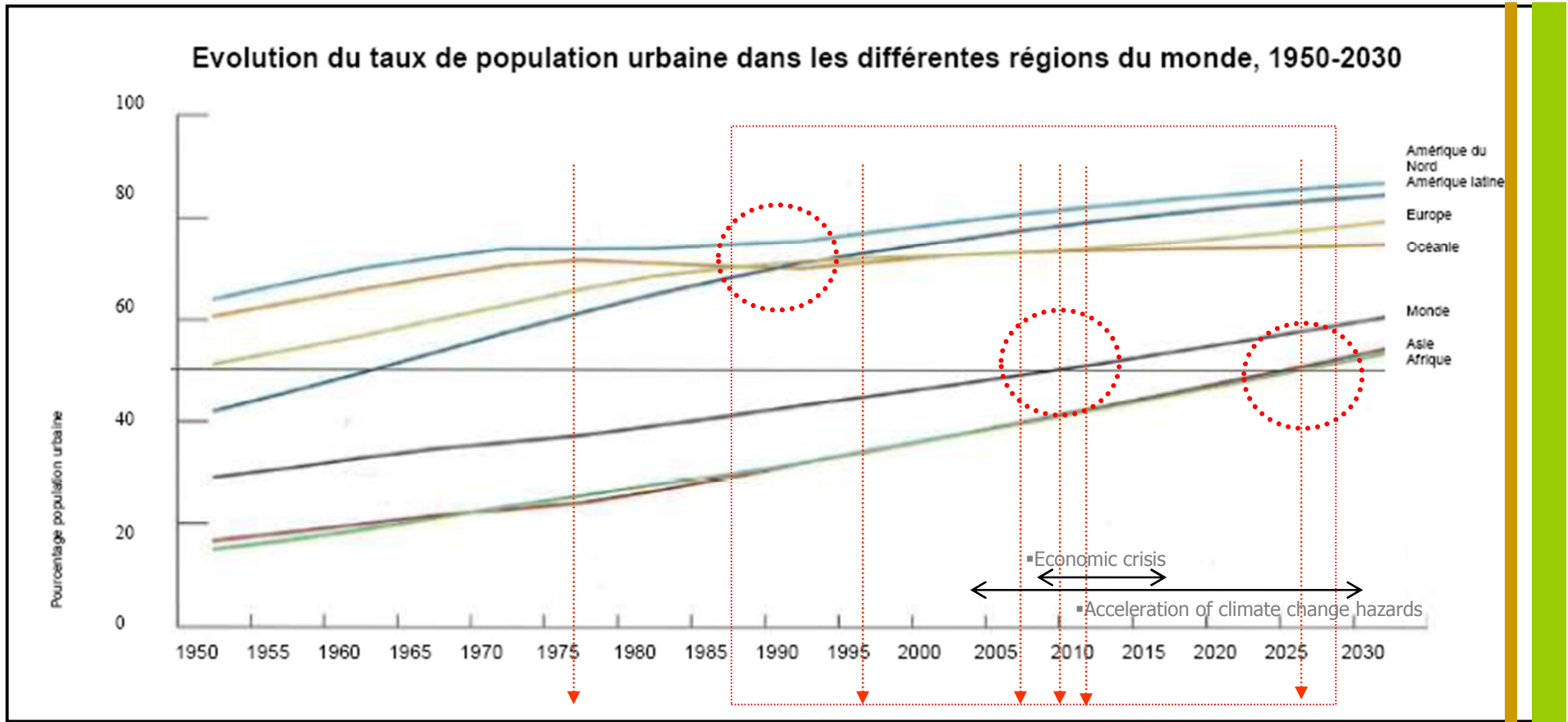


**The Habitat Professionals
Forum : a critical and forward
looking review from the Global
Planners Network**

April 12th, 2011

Nicolas Buchoud - CFDU

At first, a profound re-assessment of contemporary urbanisation trends



Habitat I. 1976

Habitat II. 1996

FUM III Vancouver

FUM IV Nanjing

FUM V Rio

2016?

Habitat III.

Source: UN Habitat. *State of the World's Cities*. 2006- Chiffres établis 2003

2006-2011: five years of constant and dedicated advocacy of GPN

**Update planning education and skills and better recognition of the strategic role of planners/
Planning nationally and globally**

2006 - Vancouver Declaration + Reinventing planning paper (and related 10 principles)

2006 – 2007 Launching sequence of the African Planning Association (APA) / Recognized by UN Habitat in 2010
+ links between Anglophone and Francophone (and others) national African planning associations

2008 – Zhenjiang congress: Zhenjiang Communiqué + Zhenjiang Milestone
Holistic approach, partnerships, Habitat Agenda, capacity building

2009 - 2010 – 2011 Habitat Professionals Forum Charter

« The role of human settlements professionals in delivering a sustainable and equitable future »

4 key principles: social, economy and environmental harmony, pro-poor and inclusivity, heritage culture and sense of place, impacts of climate change and disasters + partnerships and market responsiveness

2010 – Montreal Congress: Montreal Declaration (*Climate change and communities, a call to action*)

“We note that human settlements are a particular focus for attention as urban areas contribute up to 70% of greenhouse gases. There can therefore be no doubt that human settlements need to be at the centre of adaptation and mitigation strategies.”

2011- 2012 : global shift, need for concrete action

Drawing proposals and taking initiatives: 2011 APA Congress + high level dialogue with the Lincoln Institute, 2012 GPN events to be discussed (LA, Paris...), 2014 congress to be launched...

GPN and HPF: professionals and their organization need to base their future strategies not only on declarations and assumptions. They need to take action based upon data, evidence, and facts and illustrate how they can contribute to global efforts against global warming and more balanced urban policies

Recalling the conclusions of HPF roundtable at WUF V (source: Report of WUF V)

- _ Highlights of the Habitat Professionals Forum roundtable (Emerging issues (p58))
- _ Highlights of the business roundtable

What is needed is to incorporate the Charter within an explicit sustainable development strategy for HPF, based upon evidence and facts, and not just assumptions through:

- _ Integrated vision of urban development
- _ Promoting green cities raises efficiency and productivity: integration, a challenge for habitat professionals
- _ Urban targets: professionals need to know and need to focus
- _ The key role of urban innovation: constant upgrading of professionals profile, and especially planners, constantly in the next 20 years!

Being down to earth and practical

- _ Move on from what already exists and which is in the pipes

Some temporary conclusions and orientation for action

- _ Connection needed between habitat professionals and the private sector, especially regarding large scale implementation of urban innovation

- _ Professionals' agendas must be evidence-based and no longer only declaration driven

- _ Strong re-assertion of the need to support network-based strategies and organisations, much more flexible AND reliable than XIXth-XXth century centralised structures (model of the Global Planners Network suits the XXIst century!)

- _ Support by multilateral organisations (eg. UN Habitat, etc...) is "quasi mandatory" and nevertheless sometimes lacking. Only it can allow for consolidation of strategies in the long run, and coherence within new sets of references and norms

- _ Being pro-active : Paris HPF cycle of dialogues on urban innovation for sustainability, proposal for HPF centers in Africa and globally, other initiatives to be highlighted

- _ HPF strongly affirms its support to organization of a Habitat III summit " XXIst century rights and norms for sustainable urbanization"

Thank you!

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