



HABITAT
PROFESSIONALS FORUM



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



**Conseil français
des urbanistes**

The Habitat Professionals Forum

A critical and forward looking review by the Global Planners Network– April 2011

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Have we collectively lost ground and momentum after Rio and the release of the Habitat Professionals Forum Charter?

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.

Professionals will not achieve any significant global outreach without an enhanced and constant dialogue between local/regional/global levels of urbanity, and without developing a professional approach to network-based and knowledge-based society (illustration through GPN: GPN roundtable at APA Boston Conference, followed by high level dialogue with the Lincoln Institute, and, in parallel, GPN at UN Habitat GC and HPF roundtable)

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

1.1 Highlights of the Habitat Professionals Forum roundtable (Emerging issues (p58))

- Need for global collective action and multidisciplinary partnerships among professionals
- Need to mobilize member networks for grassroots action as catalysts for the delivery of sustainable urbanization
- Need for professionals to be a conduit between communities and government promoting ethic commitment, effective laws and policies, especially those which are pro poor and inclusive
- HPF charter could play a role in helping professionals deliver a sustainable and equitable future

1.2 Highlights of the business roundtable

“One representative reiterated the willingness of the private sector to be engaged in urban planning and investment processes from the early stages on. This would ensure the maximum contribution of committed business partners through innovative solutions.”

2. What is needed is to incorporate the Charter within an explicit sustainable development strategy, based upon evidence and facts, and not just assumptions

Today's urban areas are home to 50 % of the world's population, but account for 60 to 80% of energy consumption and 75% of CO2 emissions worldwide. What in a generation from now, if nothing is done...?

2.1 Integrated vision of urban development

According to UNEP (*Towards a Green economy: pathways to sustainable development and poverty eradication*, Feb. 2011), about 1,3 trillion USD should be invested annually between 2010 and... 2050 in ten major economic sectors, to turn growth into a sustainable and green growth among these factors, waste and water management, construction, energy, and transportation, are particularly sensitive, and related to an integrated vision of urban development.

2.2 Promoting green cities raises efficiency and productivity: integration, a challenge for habitat professionals

Promoting green cities raises efficiency and productivity (...). There are significant opportunities to capture the potential synergies and efficiencies by integrating sustainability conditions in urban planning and development processes.

Cities will see a rapid expansion and increasing investment over the next decades particularly in emerging economies. In India for example, between 2010 and 2030, the country will need 700 to 900 million m² of new floor area for housing and retail, and + 350 to 400 km of metro annually to match the needs.

How this investment takes place, in transportation networks, access to services, buildings, water and energy systems, will make a crucial difference in avoiding or locking-in high carbon infrastructure and cities for the next generation.

2.3 Urban targets: professionals need to know and need to focus

According to latest review (April 2011) of Mc Kinsey global institute, between now and 2025, 407 mid sized cities in emerging countries will generate more than 37% of world GDP annual growth, as compared to 15% today.

By 2025, these cities will be economically more important than all megalopolis altogether.

Megalopolis and mega regions still are a major global issues? The 40 biggest world's mega regions account for:

- 18% of the world's population
- 66% of the whole world's economy
- 85% of the world's innovation (technology, economy)

Urban development corridors: a worldwide trend, and a rapidly developing pattern of African urban trends

Shrinking cities are a major phenomenon, raising the issue of "recycling" skills

Vulnerability: over 3500 cities worldwide are vulnerable to natural disasters, especially those caused by climate change (UN Habitat, 2010)

Proposed corresponding focus areas for professionals:

- Governance
- Long term vision
- Reinforce underlying social structures
- Take into account social inclusiveness
- Cities are sensitive: no sustainable city without urbanity
- Sustainable urban development must be made of concrete processes and policies
- Deal with local governments

3. The key role of urban innovation: constant upgrading of professionals profile in the next 20 years!

Managing climate change in cities is a complex process. It will noticeably be based upon evolution of norms, creation of viable carbon markets, implementation of efficient innovation policies, especially regarding *systemic* and *holistic* approach to urban development.

Figure 1. Impacts of climate change on labour markets

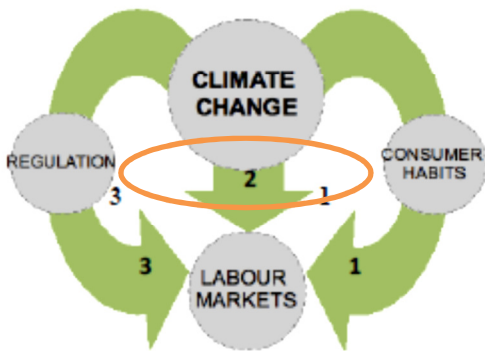
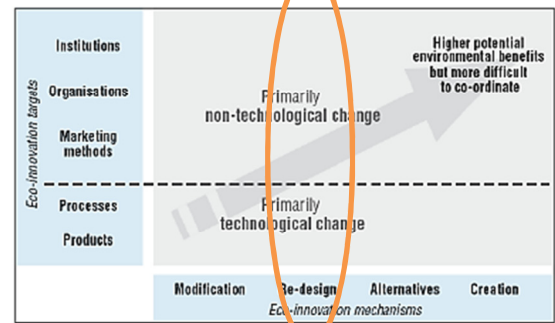


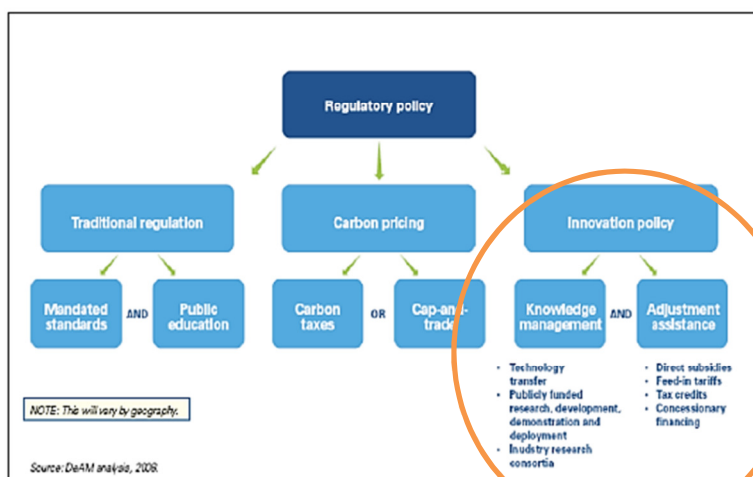
Figure 6. The facets of eco-innovation



Source: OECD, 2009a. 2011... : where and when professionals must take action, anticipate, innovate, disseminate

Eco-innovation is not mainly about technology. It is about organization of labour force and adaptation of professional skills and know how.

Figure 2. A taxonomy of climate change regulation



Innovation zone: time for action for built environment and human settlements professionals

Conclusions

- **It is about values.** The Habitat Professionals Forum Charter has been established not through reinventing the wheel, but through a very careful in depth analysis of all material available from all HPF organisations, including their agendas, as the **mirror of a complex, underlying, global reality**
- HPF should be used for HPF member organisations as a driver to promote and allow for more overall recognition of professional organisations and professionals globally, within the UN system and beyond (UNESCO ex.), and support over 2 million professionals worldwide
- In GPN, we believe that professionals' agendas must be evidence-based and no longer only declaration driven, in the context of urbanization and climate change
- True support by multilateral organisations is "quasi mandatory" to allow for consolidation of strategies in the long run, and coherence within new sets of references and norms, yet to be adapted
- Smart connection is needed between habitat professionals and the private sector, especially regarding large scale implementation of urban innovation
- Paris HPF dialogues on urban innovation for sustainability with UIA (june 2011- march 2012)
- Proposal for HPF regional-global hubs, starting in Africa
- For GPN, it is crucial that HPF strongly affirms its support to organization of a Habitat III summit " XXIst century rights and norms for sustainable urbanization"

Main sources for facts and datas :

- *Green jobs and skills : the local labor market implications of addressing climate change*, OECD, Feb. 2010
- *Toward a green economy; pathways to sustainable development and poverty eradication*. UNEP, Feb. 2011
- *Mc Kinsey Global Institute Report 2011*
- *UN Habitat State of the world cities (2010). Quelle place pour les villes durables dans l'agenda européen et la perspective de Rio+20 (Paris international conference on sustainable urban development, Jan. 2011)*
- *African State of Cities report. UN Habitat-EarthScan 2011*

Research and synthesis by Renaissance Urbaine / N.Buchoud / 2011