

CAP NEWS

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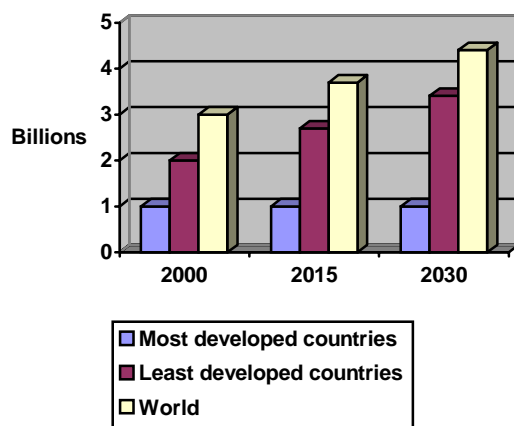
WSSD Special Issue September 2002

Where now for sustainable development in the Commonwealth?

The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg has been hailed by governments and the UN as a success but criticised by NGOs as a failure. In this special issue of CAP News we report on the inputs that CAP made to the Summit and ask what steps the Commonwealth and CAP might take to implement sustainable development.

Disappointingly little attention was focused in the media and by the governments on the urban development aspects of sustainable development. Yet as our graph using UN-Habitat data shows, present trends are not sustainable unless there are major changes in how we manage urbanisation.

Urban Population



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President's Piece

Cliff Hague

The Summit on Sustainable Development evoked mixed responses. The US and Australian Presidents stayed away, NGOs staged walk-outs, there was a march from the slums of Alexandra to the Summit HQ in the plush convention centre in nearby Santon, and in the end Kofi Annan and President Mbeki declared that it had been a real success. The British press generally sulked about the event, dismissed it as a talking shop and were outraged when Sam Nujoma from Namibia wagged his finger at Tony Blair. The South African media showed an understandable pride in their country's achievement in successfully staging the largest event of its kind ever held.

To make more sense out of the Summit than most of the media have done, it is necessary to understand how the United Nations works. Above all it operates by consensus, and thus formal agreements are inevitably pitched below the aspirations of many. It may be frustrating, but until the UN can get the teeth to really enforce compliance with its decisions the shortfall is symbolic rather than practical. Agreement on less is probably preferable to adoption of a more ambitious programme on a divided vote, which the losers would feel even less compulsion to implement. The negotiation and trading that goes on behind the scenes, and is where the real work of summits is done, did produce some positive steps forward, notably the commitment to take seriously the Millennium Declaration target on sanitation.

However, the bare minimum is not enough. In the next 20 years the world needs to achieve major change if it is to avert catastrophe. It will not be enough just to clear up today's environmental failings and levels of poverty. Urbanisation in particular is not standing still, waiting for leaders and international agencies to get together the necessary resources, expertise and political resolve. There will be another 200 million people living in African cities by 2015, a 70% increase. It is when set against figures like this that the outputs from Johannesburg look so inadequate.

The Commonwealth can become a major means to advance sustainable development at a much faster rate than could be agreed through the UN. If we can achieve within the Commonwealth better and quicker progress than governments were willing to sign up to in Johannesburg, that itself will be a significant step forward for the whole world, since the Commonwealth is such a large part of the whole. All Commonwealth organisations should now be pressing their governments to make a Commonwealth Plan for Implementing Sustainable Development and linking it to the Habitat Agenda. This needs to be on the agenda for next year's CHOGM in Abudja.

Commitments from government are only going to deliver results if they are backed by the skills and values of civil

society, and not least those of the technical professions. As planners we have a duty to ensure that we are effective practitioners and that our practices are informed by understanding of sustainable development as a set of inter-related social, economic and environmental concerns for equity. Of course there are hard decisions and local circumstances, but we need to audit our existing plans and policies and ask how do these advance sustainable development, how do they impact upon the poor?

We need to work with others – that is why CAP has joined the Global Alliance for Building Sustainability. We need to rethink planning – that is why CAP is supporting the major Planning Africa event in Durban later in September (full reports in the next Newsletter). More than any previous summit the WSSD was particularly about Africa, and it endorsed the New Partnership for African Development that the African Union had agreed. CAP now needs to build its networks within Africa, to learn from our African colleagues and to share ideas and practices within and beyond that continent. The challenge posed by rapid urbanisation in Africa over the next decade is an acid test for the achievement of more sustainable development.

CAP at the WSSD

The World Summit on Sustainable Development reaffirmed the importance of sustainable development and the need to link concerns for the environment with poverty eradication. CAP was one of the many NGOs present in Johannesburg, seeking to stiffen the resolve of governments and to ensure that the talk is followed by implementation. We report on what CAP did.

Global Alliance for Building Sustainability

CAP helped form, and became a founder member of, a new international partnership that was officially recognised by the UN as a means of putting the principles of sustainable development into practice. The Global Alliance for Building Sustainability spans a wide range of professions and other bodies involved in land, development, construction and infrastructure. Presidents and Chief Executives from professional organisations, industry bodies and research centres signed up to a Charter for Action that affirmed the sustainable development vision of the WSSD. It said "We are committed to closing the gap between policy and practice and taking practical and determined steps towards making sustainable development a reality for practitioners working in business, government and/or communities."

The Alliance was initiated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Foundation. This is a charitable organisation that is funded by, but independent from, the RICS itself. CAP was invited to join the Alliance, as were other Commonwealth associations. The Commonwealth Association of Architects, the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economics, and the Commonwealth Engineers also signed up to the Alliance, as did RTPI President Mike Haslam. Zena Daysh, for the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, stressed the need for civil society to lead and pressure governments. "The UN is the intellectual force of the world, but the Commonwealth has become the key people-based global movement to get things done. You need critical mass to achieve change, and you're the best critical mass I have seen for a long time!" she told the assembled delegates.

The formation of the Global Alliance was strongly endorsed by Ministers from a number of Commonwealth countries. Edward Babu, a Minister with responsibilities for housing and construction in Uganda, spoke of the problems that poor countries have in accessing professional expertise. "We need help to develop codes of practice and to support the practice of our professionals," he said. Mr. Babu added, in words that were a joy to the ears of planners "Any politician who does not listen to the words of professionals is a failure!"

South Africa's Minister of Housing, Mthembu Mahanyele, stressed the importance of partnerships to the housing programme in her country. The Hon. Levi Oguike, Chairman of the House Committee on Habitat in Nigeria's House of Representatives, said that the 1992 Rio Summit had triggered a wave of policy making concerning sustainable development, what was needed now was mechanisms to translate policy into practice. He saw GABS as a means to do that. Similarly the UK's Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, warmly supported the formation of GABS. "This is the only World Summit Partnership that is addressing the built environment. The built environment has been neglected, but is vitally important to sustainable development," he said.

UN Environment Programme Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Topfer, also welcomed the formation of GABS. It is envisaged that GABS will work with the UNEP, but also, of course, with UN Habitat (the former UN Centre for Human Settlements that is now a full programme of the UN).

CAP President Cliff Hague summed up the feelings of many at the meeting when he said, "You cannot achieve sustainable development unless you can deliver sustainable urbanisation and construction. We have to work together because of the scale and urgency of the issues being discussed at the WSSD. If we operate in isolation (and the construction industry is notoriously fragmented) there is the real risk that steps forward achieved by some practitioners

are negated by lack of awareness or understanding amongst related professionals."

For full details of the meeting and further information on GABS go to the GABS website – www.earth-summit.net, which is also accessible on a hot link from the CAP site.

CAP'S Participation in the Launch of the Global Alliance for Sustainable Development on 30 August 2002 at Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa

Audrey Zimucha

The Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) is one of the more than forty international organisations involved in the four sectors of land, property, construction and development which participated in the formulation of the Global Alliance for Building Sustainability (GABS) leading up to the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg. The aim of GABS is to close the gap between policy and practice thereby making sustainable development a reality for practitioners working for business, government, communities and the environment. CAP was represented at the Inaugural Conference of GABS by the President, Cliff Hague and Ms N.A. Zimucha from the Zimbabwe Institute of Regional and Urban Planners who presented a case study paper on the emerging partnership in housing delivery for the urban poor in Zimbabwe. The Inaugural Conference entitled: **Aspirations for Reality: Building Sustainability** was held at Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg from 29 August to 30 August 2002. It was being held as a parallel event to the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Cliff Hague, the President of CAP, chaired the first session of the inaugural conference on 29 August 2002. This session focused on Aspirations of the Conference and the definition of the aims and objectives of the GABS agenda. Ms Zimucha presented her Housing Case Study on 30 August 2002 during a Case Study Session held after the launching of the GABS Charter for Action. Her case study explored an emerging partnership in Zimbabwe aimed at alleviating housing problems of the urban poor involving central government, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and the urban poor communities themselves.

The emerging partnership through effective dialogue between all concerned stakeholders has been able to address some of the major constraints that hindered the effective delivery of houses for the urban poor communities in Zimbabwe. The case study presentation reviewed housing problems faced by the urban poor prior to the emergence of this new partnership highlighting the divide that existed between central government, local authorities and the urban

poor communities themselves. The presentation explained the role played by Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless in Zimbabwe Trust, a non-governmental organisation, in assisting the urban poor to form their network organisation called Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation (ZIMHOPFE). The case study presentation highlighted how ZIMHOPFE has become a platform enabling the urban poor communities to articulate their housing needs to either central government or local authorities. The presentation concluded by pointing out what the emerging multi-stakeholder partnership composed of ZIMHOPFE, Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless in Zimbabwe Trust, local authorities and central government has done in alleviating housing problems faced by the urban poor.

- GABS was launched on the second day of the Conference on 30 August 2002 and all participating international organisations including CAP signed the Charter for Action for GABS. In its Charter for Action, GABS undertook among other things to accelerate achievement of sustainable development throughout the four sectors of land, property, construction and development by actively being involved in the following:
- Building and strengthening partnerships between policy makers and practitioners
- Promoting awareness, raising participation and learning amongst the many stakeholders involved in these sectors
- Promoting, supporting and disseminating appropriate research, education and training
- Providing a platform for the member organisations of GABS to present their work and achievements at a minimum of one event each year.

The Charter for Action of GABS was signed by all participating organisations on 30 August 2002 at Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa, within the World Summit for Sustainable Development. Thus the aspirations of launching GABS were turned into reality after the signing of the Charter of Action. Hopefully, the signing of the Charter marks a new era of building a strong partnership amongst professions involved in land, property, construction and development in contributing towards sustainable development.

Audrey Zimucha

Zimbabwe Institute of Regional & Urban Planners

Women and Unsustainable Development: Gaps between Policy and Reality in the Human Settlements

Olusola Olufemi

(Synopsis of a paper presented at African Women's Forum, WSSD, Johannesburg)

Women's Struggle: Personal Experience

How rhetorical, sustainable development is defined as "that which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (WCED, 1987). The OECD (2001:2) report indicated sustainable development as "integrating the economic, social and environmental objectives of the society, in order to maximise human wellbeing in the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their need". These definitions have evolved from the environmental development experiences of the 1970s through the 1980s to the 1990s, for which my experience would interrogate.

Growing up as a child, I revelled in the luxury of water (safe water). My father, a retired civil engineer used to work at the waterworks as the resident engineer so water was available in abundance. My struggle for water began when I went to the boarding school and had to walk several kilometres to obtain water, dirty water from the brook (stream). I used to be frightened by the small creatures (tadpoles) in the water because I had never seen such before. We bathed and brushed our teeth with this coloured water and sometimes boiled and drank the same water.

Cleanliness and hygiene was far from it. Due to water scarcity, three of us shared a bucket of this water daily for our bath.

When I went to college, my struggle for water persisted. I shared a room with two other friends and we fetched water from a flowing stream nearby. We used this water to bath, wash clothes and flush the toilet. In fact during the dry season, when the stream runs dry, we struggled to reserve water used for washing clothes to flush the toilet.

At the University, this struggle continued, though with a difference. Water tankers supplied water twice a week. We usually missed lectures on these days (due to long queues not to mention queue jumping which sometimes led to conflicts or assault) because if you missed collecting water from the tanks on these days, you would have to go round begging for a bowl of water to do the domestic chores.

On the home front, for the past 20 years water has not flowed from the taps, wash hand basins and bath tubs. We relied (still rely) heavily on borehole or well water piped (in some instances) into the house connections.

*The story about sanitation is not better either. We burnt our solid waste because the waste disposal company would only show up to collect service charges (you would pay in anticipation of future service). During the rainy season, it was difficult to burn the waste, so it piled up, became a haven or breeding ground for flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches and rats. Thus, we were continually exposed to vector-borne diseases, malaria, cholera and typhoid fever. **Does this story sound familiar?***

If it does, find out if the generation after us shares the same experience. In any case, the next generation shares a similar but worse experience. Furthermore, the indication that this experience would get worse is quite evident. Ironically, the popularity of this experience is matched by the popularity of the definitions of sustainable development mentioned earlier.

The struggle for safe water and sanitation continues and these experiences constitute the burden of unsustainable development in the habitat. This excerpt illustrates the struggle and burden millions of women and girls face in developing countries today. Women have become *immune* to the *culture of non-service*, to the *culture of unsustainable way of life* in our habitat.

These trends have and would continue to marginalia women in the human settlements. Women and girls, especially the poor bear the largest and direct costs of inequalities. Women make up more than half of the world's population living in deprived circumstances, because of their poverty and gender they are often excluded from decisions that shape their human settlements.

Unfortunately, policymakers, decisionmakers, professionals in the natural and built environment continue to sustain the unsustainable in spite of poverty; illiteracy; HIV/AIDS; inaccessibility to and shortage of basic resources; inequality and inequity in the distribution of resources (Olufemi, 2002).

There are contradictions between policy and reality as evident in the above experience and the burdens of women discussed next. Over the past decades it has become clear that women's development and environmental development are inextricably intertwined as illustrated in this paper

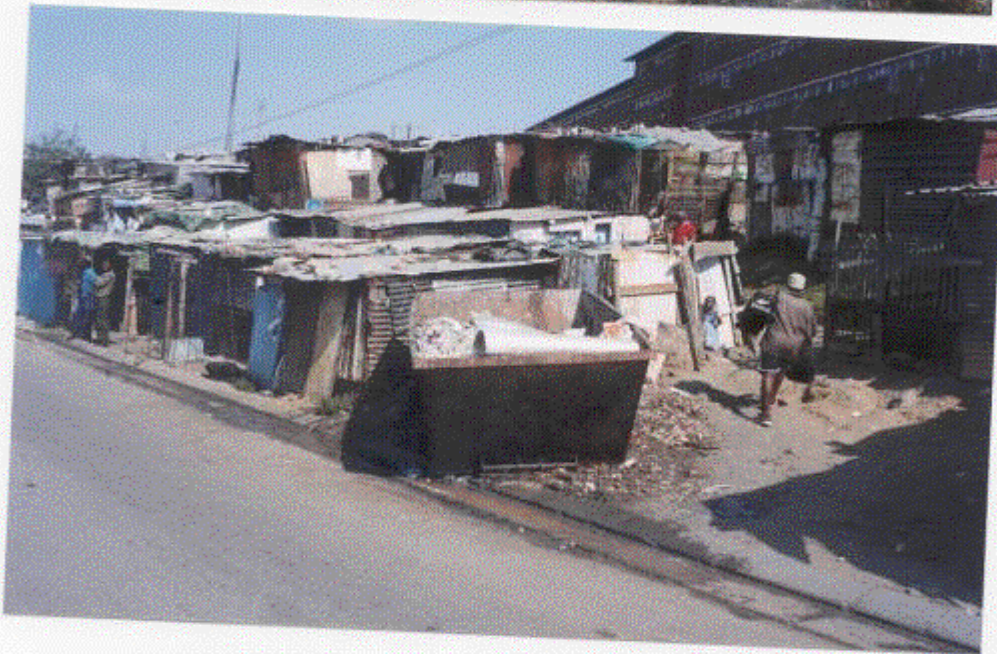
Burdens of women

Women constitute at least 60% to 70% of the world's poor (UNIFEM, 1995:7; UNDP 1995:iii; UN 1996a: 6). Women especially in the developing countries bear the unequal burden of poverty.

Women have a special relationship with the environment, which makes them victims of unsustainable development. They are victims of environmental degradation, bearing the brunt of pollution, deforestation, desertification and drought. Women are managers or environmental users, as hewers of wood and drawers of water, producers of food and custodians of the natural resources.

Most of the environmental problems as seen from the above excerpt are localised at home and in neighbourhoods and these tend to have immediate impact on the health of women, who are the sole custodians of the home. In the home environment, discomfort and inordinate work burdens arising from non-availability or poor water and sanitary facilities or decent/adequate shelter expose women to pathogens and health threatening agonising problems such as indoor pollution from cooking fires (firewood, paraffin, charcoal), crowding, poor building materials used in constructing the shelters, dampness and hazardous location of houses (dolomite, mine dumps/undermined areas, sinkholes) (see pictures on next page). Women often combine childcare with income earning and convert their homes into workplaces without necessarily taking cognisance of the occupational hazards.

Pictures of shack settlements located at the base of mine dumps, next to a cemetery and floodplain.



Spatially, the poor, especially women in their struggle for shelter, tend to locate near polluting industries, public and waste sites, on marginal land and hazardous land. A lot of women are landless, homeless, illiterate, unemployed or underemployed and this further compromises sustainable development.

In the work environment, women are often discriminated against. The work of women has gone unrecognised especially women who are involved in the informal economy. Less attention is paid to the prison-like conditions

under which women work in the free trade zone (restricted access to restrooms, punitive sanctions for union activities, pregnancy). For example, in central Asia, women have been targets of dramatic job losses as state owned companies are sold to the private sector. Sweatshops, whose workers are predominantly women, have proliferated. Perhaps women's subordination/burden or struggle and disempowerment is men's empowerment; or women's suffrage and empowerment is men's disempowerment.

The strenuous economic policies of the IMF/World Bank, which has impacted negatively on every aspect of women's lives, is fraught with adverse social consequences of crime, rape, mugging and violence (women are the most vulnerable). Areas where these problems are rife have become the territory of the homeless people and informal traders; thus, constitute *no-go* areas for women.

Unsustainable development: Contradiction between policy and reality

The contradiction between policies (IMF, World Bank, Millennium Development goals, UNCHS, UNDP etc) and translation of those policies in reality makes policies and international declarations unsustainable.

The focus of Agenda 21 was on the eradication of poverty by giving poor people access to resources for sustainable living. The Global Shelter Strategy 2000 stated the fundamental principle of women and women's organisations contributing to the solution of human settlements' problems by ensuring equal participation of women in the elaboration of housing policies, programmes and projects (UNDP, 1999).

The Habitat Agenda 1996 placed emphasis on *Sustainable human settlements* in an urbanising world. However, cities have also become breeding grounds for pollution and congestion. Unsustainable patterns of consumption among dense city populations, concentration of industries, intense economic activities, increased use of motor vehicles and inefficient waste management all suggest that the major environmental problems of the future will be city problems. Poor urban governance and bad policies have further exacerbated environmental degradation and deteriorating living conditions in many cities (Habitat Agenda 1996).

The vision of Habitat Agenda for human Settlements include (pp 12-13):

- Equitable human settlements
- Eradication of poverty
- Sustainable development
- Equality of life for all people
- Family is the basic unit of society
- People's rights
- Partnerships
- Solidarity
- Safeguarding the interests of the present and future generations
- Human health and quality of life

The above grandiose policy statements are negated by the available statistics.

About 1.4 billion people around the world live without access to clean and safe drinking water; 7 million people die each year on account of water related diseases; 2.3 billion people lack satisfactory sanitation facilities (SIDA, 1999b; Mothadullah, 2001). About 600 million urban residents live in poor quality housing with inadequate provision for water, sanitation and drainage. Living has become a dreadful thing and the quest for prosperity is obscure and ambiguous (Habitat Agenda 1996: 1). Between 100 million and 1 billion are homeless (UNCHS 1996); every day some 50000 people mostly women and children die as a result of poor shelter, polluted water and inadequate sanitation. About 70 million women and children worldwide suffer from severe indoor pollution from cooking fires giving rise to respiratory and other health problems. Over 4 million young children die every year from diseases associated with unsafe water, 40 million hours are lost each year to girls and women carrying water in rural areas of developing countries, 40% of women are illiterate and 78% of refugees worldwide are women and children (<http://www.UNCHS.org/english/women/women.htm> 1999).

Thus, how then can we begin to talk about sustainable development?

Case of South Africa

Since the 1994 democratic elections in South Africa, gender equality and women's movements have gained prominence. The Women's National Coalition launched its charter for effective equality on National Women's Day, August 1994. The Commission for Gender Equality was established as one of the six state institutions supporting constitutional democracy called for in the 1996 Constitution. The aim of the Commission is to promote gender equality and to advise and make recommendations to Parliament on any laws or proposed legislation, which affect gender equality and the status of women (Commission for Gender and Equality 1999).

The Commission for Gender and Equality in 1998 conducted an audit of current legislation to identify inequality and discrimination in the law on the basis of sex and gender. The audit revealed that in the areas of land and housing, the application of certain legal provisions did not go far enough in ensuring gender equality, and that social and cultural practices, especially customary law, further inhibited the attainment of substantive gender equality (State of the Human Settlements Report, 1999).

The increasing equalisation of genders and the improved status of women is expected to lower the population growth rate and have beneficial effects on human settlements development (Country Report 2000). With more women being able to access finance, more are now happy

homeowners placing them in comfortable position within their communities. Empowering women through the People's Housing Partnership to build their own homes would improve the quality of settlements in South African cities on a sustainable basis. Considering the housing delivery of 1.5 million units since 1994 to 2001 and the backlog of 3.7 million housing units, these efforts still remain a drop in the ocean.

The National Department of Housing has also set up a Reference Group for Women's roles and access to housing to determine the impact of policies and programmes and their implementation on women.

Section 2 (1) (e) of the Housing Act of 1997, subscribes to the constitution and it places an obligation on government to promote measures to prohibit unfair discrimination on the ground of gender and, especially to promote the housing needs of marginalised women disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

The National Housing Policy and National Housing Programmes, such as the Housing subsidy schemes provide women with equal access to housing benefits and opportunities and about 39% of housing subsidies have been allocated to women-headed households.

People's Housing Process (People-driven process) was designed, particularly with women in mind in recognition of the prominent role that women have played traditionally and increasingly continue to play, in providing homes for their families through savings and sweat equity (Department of Housing, 1999). Developing policy and implementing such policy are two separate but complementary issues. The gap between the two keeps increasing. There is hardly any unit, implementing capacity, funding to facilitate the process. Implementation within the main framework remains largely under the masculine prejudice.

Women have always played a role in housing in South Africa. Women dominate the population of the informal settlements. The housing in these areas is worse than in the formal areas and it is women who suffer disproportionately. Groups such as the South African Homeless People's Federation (SAHPF) started by People's Dialogue (NGO) in 1991 have created a difference. The SAHPF is a nationwide people's housing movement and it consists of about 100000 households with more than 1200 savings collectives and over 1000 homeless communities. 85% of its members are women with average monthly household incomes of R700.

SAHPF has taken up the task to build and produce raw materials like blocks through their building and information centres (BIT). They have also taken a further step in engaging in commercial or income generating activities by converting containers into shops where people in the

informal settlements could purchase daily essentials (Olufemi, 2000).

Other women's groups involved in the habitat include: South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) registered as a rural focused business trust in 1999; Khupkhuka Community Development project aimed at raising women's economic status by providing them with skills necessary in building and manufacturing so that they can increase the income generating opportunities (women are involved in plumbing, water reticulation, carpentry block making labour intensive road construction); Women's Savings groups (Utshani Fund); Micro-Lending schemes; Rural Housing Loan fund; National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency (NURCHA) established to facilitate finance for low-income housing projects of which women are the main beneficiaries; NURCHA also played a role by ensuring that emerging contractors, particularly women developers enter the market and realise their potential. NURCHA offers women the chance of running managerial and technical assistance workshops as well as courses on how to run and manage business. Ecocity project in Ivory Park, Midrand comprises of the Masisizane Women's Housing Cooperative, a group of about 4000 women contributing R20/weekly to build their homes. "*We are building our own homes in the spirit of Letsema-together*". When such empowerment eventually breaks boundaries of hierarchy, chauvinistic and sexist perception of gender becomes questionable.

"When women participate, they become empowered, their empowerment emancipates them and gives them autonomy. Emancipation and autonomy gives women dignity, makes them more self-reliant and liberates women from poverty (housing poverty), unemployment and dependency" (Olufemi, 1997:205).

Engendering Sustainability

The paper makes it clear that women's development has been compromised by unsustainable policies, plans and programmes in the human settlements.

Women and girls, especially the poor, bear the largest and most direct costs of these inequalities. Gender inequalities harm well-being and hinder development.

World Bank/IMF develop policies and programmes with the men's view of economic development that undermine women. These policies and programmes are conceived and handed down to women. One is yet to hear of a bottom-up solution. This has to do with the fact that "Gender inequality is embedded in social institutions such as norms, customs, rights and laws, economic institutions such as market. These institutions shape women's and men's roles and the relationship between them affect their relative access to resources and influence the activities they are allowed to

pursue. They create incentives that can encourage or discourage prejudice” (World Bank 2000:3).

The sustainable component with its emphasis on not compromising future generation’s needs implies the need for human activities to avoid depleting the planetary capital to ensure prosperity. The enabling approach to meeting human needs and action to promote sustainable resource use combines incentives and support within an institutional capacity to guide, prevent and control unsustainable practices.

In an urbanising world, the development of sustainable human settlements depends on interplay of economic development, social development and environmental protection. The Habitat Agenda 1996 commits to gender equality in the human settlements. To attain the sustainable development goals of satisfying needs and meeting development goals, sustainability has to be engendered through gender mainstreaming.

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The Commonwealth's Values and Assets – CASLE in Pretoria

Planners have an important part to play in delivering more sustainable patterns of development. This was the theme of the CAP input to a meeting staged in the University of Pretoria by the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economics (CASLE). This was a related event to the WSSD. CASLE's theme was "The Commonwealth's Values and Assets" and CAP President, Cliff Hague, was an invited speaker. He emphasised the scale and significance of rapid urbanisation through some stark statistics:

- 60,000 per day is the increase in urban population in the Commonwealth;
- a 70% increase in urban dwellers is anticipated in Africa 2000-2015 – an extra 200 million people;
- globally the number of people living below the minimum subsistence line of US\$1 a day increased from 1200M in 1987 to 1500M in 2000, and the prediction is 1900M in 2015, with an increasing proportion of these living in urban areas. Poverty is more central than ever to the planning of human settlements.

This pace and scale of urbanisation will inevitably have significant environmental impacts. For example:

- The growth of the global urban population by around 1 billion over the next 15 years will require the conversion of huge amounts of land from agricultural to urban uses. Because cities have grown, and will continue to grow, in river valleys and areas where there has been good agricultural land, the relative loss of high quality agricultural land is likely to be even greater.
- Huge numbers of the urban poor already lack adequate urban infrastructure and services – sanitation, water, waste disposal etc. The WSSD must commit itself to a massive improvement in the living conditions for these people and for those who will swell the urban population over the next generation. All of this implies a huge increase in the ecological footprint made by urban areas – unless new approaches can be implemented to ameliorate the environmental impact.
- Massive urban growth implies an equally substantial increase in the "heat island" effect associated with urban areas (increased run-off, local temperature rise etc) – unless we plan and design urban areas in a different way.

- Globally every country and its people aspire to achieve the living standards of the richest. This is not unreasonable, but the present consumption levels of the richest countries, if made universal, would totally overwhelm the earth's environmental systems. The rich countries have made a disproportionate contribution to the creation of greenhouse gases and the resulting climate change and sea level rise that now threatens literally "to swamp" parts of some of the poorest Commonwealth countries, including small island states.

Cliff called for planners to ensure that plans made adequate provision of land for development in safe and accessible locations. He argued that this would help the urban poor in their efforts to achieve security of tenure. He also emphasised the importance of plans in integrating infrastructure and development at a strategic scale, and in protecting key assets like water reserves and agricultural land. However planners need to work with other professionals and stakeholders and to listen to communities on issues of basic needs.

Dr Clifford Dann, a Past President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, argued that improvement of living conditions for slum communities in Commonwealth cities depended on them having legal recognition of their use of the property, access to infrastructure and freedom to trade with access to credit. "The key to alleviation of poverty is sustainable development which in itself requires balanced communities in which employment opportunities must go hand in hand with housing provision, in circumstances where there is a reliable and enforceable tenure system," he said.

Dr. Dann referred to the World Urban Forum held in Nairobi earlier this year. "The view was expressed that all slums should be upgraded *in situ*, with the exception of settlements that have been constructed in environmentally hazardous or strategic locations. Are there any slums that are not environmentally hazardous? Certainly none that I have seen," remarked Dr. Dann. He called for re-housing schemes with "properly planned settlements and even new towns" and clearance and restoration of the slum sites. He questioned the aspiration that no further forced and unnegotiated evictions will take place, saying it was impractical without legislative and regulatory changes. He recognised the case for partnerships with communities involved in relocations, but added that "physical planning requires far more than that. If there is no overall municipal plan new locations for housing and employment opportunities will not be co-ordinated. The risk of *ad hoc* pockets of development must be avoided."

Dr. Dann reminded his audience of the Coolum Communiqué, which stated that "the knowledge and resources of a vibrant network of Commonwealth professional and non-governmental organisations" is one of the assets of the Commonwealth. He stressed the

contribution that the various built environment professions can play in working towards sustainable development. As a practical step he announced that CASLE was launching a charitable trust to raise funds that could be directly deployed to aid new housing development in slum areas.

David Kapdaika, UN-Habitat Advisor for Africa and the Arab Countries also emphasised the UN's Millennium Declaration goal of achieving a significant improvement in the living conditions of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. He said that planning of land really matters if we are to achieve this, but was critical of poor urban management in many developing countries. "Sound land use planning is central to sustainable cities," said Mr. Kapdaika.

Trends in Sustainable Development

The UN produced a new report for the Summit, entitled *Global Challenge Global Opportunity: Trends in Sustainable Development*. This short, colourful and well-illustrated study charts key trends in population, poverty, food and agriculture, freshwater, forests, energy, climate change, health and air pollution. It contains useful references to the sources of its data. It points to some of the success stories – like the trend to reducing urban air pollution in high and middle income countries – but also reminds us of the environmental consequence of the global divide between rich and poor. People in developed countries use ten times as much fossil fuel as those in developing countries, where over 1 billion people still lack access to safe water.

The report by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, can be accessed at www.johannesburgsummit.org.

Another report produced for the Summit concerns *Agenda 21 for Sustainable Construction in Developing Countries: A Discussion Document*. This was the outcome of collaboration between the UN Environment Programme – International Environmental Technology Centre (www.unep.or.jp), the Construction Industry Development Board of South Africa (www.cidb.org.za), the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (www.cibworld.nl), and CSIR Building and Construction Technology (www.csir.co.za).

The report takes the Habitat Agenda theme of sustainable settlements, and argues that whether a settlement can be declared sustainable or not depends on the interaction of four different patterns. These are:

- *The physical structure* – how the settlement sits within the natural environment and responds to the topography; the spatial relationship between the

different parts of the city, and the form of the built environment.

- *The utilisation patterns* – the way the settlement uses its resources and the infrastructure and services provided.
- *The social patterns* – how people live, work and learn in, and relate to, their settlement, and the opportunities provided by the settlement for meeting these social needs.
- *The operational patterns* – how the settlement functions and is managed.

The report is critical of the extent to which existing conceptions of sustainable development are fashioned by Western thinking, and of the impacts of the model of development espoused by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. "The strategies and processes that have been adopted in pursuit of economic growth and development have been very resource intensive," says this report. It calls for a new development model, in which the behaviour and values of people are central, saying that

"Development initiatives will not lead to tangible and lasting improvements in physical well-being without drawing on those universal spiritual postulates that give direction and meaning to life."

For more information on the project see www.sustainablesettlement.co.za.

Major New Report on Sustainable Urbanisation

UN Habitat has combined with the UK's Department for International Development to publish a major new report. *Sustainable Urbanisation: Achieving Agenda 21* was produced to promote the concept of sustainable urbanisation to the Johannesburg summit.

It elaborates on issues raised at the first World Urban Forum that was held in Nairobi in April-May this year. In a jointly written Foreword, Dr Anna Tibaijuka (Executive Director of UN-Habitat) and Clare Short (UK Secretary of State for International Development) say that sustainable urbanisation requires "providing the land and infrastructure necessary to keep pace with city growth and providing the poor with access to livelihoods and essential services while, at the same time, improving life in rural and smaller urban communities." This authoritative and wide-ranging report should underpin the thinking and practice of planners. Copies can be accessed from www.unhabitat.org and pdf copies are on www.dfid.gov.uk (click on the world summit and then look down the list).

Memorial Note: John George Muller (1935-2002)

Olusola Olufemi

When approached by Cliff Hague to do a piece on John Muller, I felt really honoured and found it an opportunity to write about one of the highly respected planners of international repute.

John Muller was Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg for 11 years and the Head of Town and Regional Planning Department for many years. He was a President of the South African Institute of Town and Regional Planners (now South African Planning Institute – SAPI) in 1974 and Chairman of the South African Council for Town and Regional Planners (SACTRP); founder of the Development Planners Association (DPASA) and one of the co-founders of the Association of Chartered Town Planners of South Africa (ACTRP). John was one of the few South Africans elected a Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute. He was also the Planning consultant to the University of the Witwatersrand.

He became Professor in 1978 and he strongly opposed the apartheid racially based planning programmes. He developed Promotive planning theory focusing on the interest of the disadvantaged and powerless in society.

His exemplary outputs and contributions can also be seen in his involvement with the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) in South Africa. John's commitment to CAP was unwavering. He hosted and played a key role in the CAP Durban conference in 1999.

His international links with Planning Schools as well as his contributions in Planning Education and the Profession was outstanding both in South Africa and internationally. John Muller played a key role in maintaining strong links with the United Kingdom and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). His support for the disadvantaged was also manifested in his efforts in establishing a bursary fund by the RTPI for black students and the annual sponsorship of a student to attend the summer school in the United Kingdom.

On his attributes as a teacher, mentor and leader, John was very astute, inspiring, hardworking, supportive and strict. His knowledge of planning was impeccable. He left behind an academically outstanding Planning School at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

CAP members will remember him vividly for his legacies of hard work, commitment, perseverance and enthusiasm. We hope these legacies will continue to be emulated by both CAP members and the younger generations of planners.

We will definitely miss his inputs and remarkable contributions in the Planning community.

Olusola Olufemi

CAP Women in Planning Co-ordinator
School of Architecture and Planning
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Other News

UNESCO Publishing and Earthscan Publications have just released the two following books:

Growing Up in an Urbanising World

Edited by Louise Chawla and written by an interdisciplinary team of child-environment experts from the fields of urban planning, architecture, geography, anthropology, psychology and environmental education.

<http://upo.unesco.org/bookdetails.asp?id=3685>

Creating better Cities with Children and Youth – A manual for participation

By David Driskell in collaboration with members of the Growing Up in Cities Project. This “how-to” manual is an invaluable resource for architects, planners, city officials, development professionals and anyone interested in creating more child-friendly, humane urban environments and in involving young people, including “marginalised” groups, in the process.

<http://upo.unesco.org/bookdetails.asp?id=3684>

The two books are the outcome of the UNESCO project “Growing Up in Cities” developed through its Intergovernmental Social Science Programme entitled Management of Social Transformations (MOST)

Conferences

2003 Adelaide Planning Congress

The 2003 Congress of the Planning Institute of Australia will be held in Adelaide from 31 March – 2 April. Details of key speakers can be found at

www.planning.sa.gov.au/congress

2002 National Planning Aid Conference

The 2002 National Planning Aid Conference will take place at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester UK on Thursday November 7. The keynote speaker is Lord Rooker from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

You can register an interest by contacting Beverley Watson at RTPi North West Branch on 0161 877 1782 or northwest@rtpi.org.uk

Please note that the copy date for the next issue will be 31 October 2002.

Please send in your News items, articles, book reviews, letters etc. and also give us your email address to ensure direct delivery of the Newsletter.

CAP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002

Invoices for this year's subscriptions were sent out in January. Thank you to all the CAP members who have paid their subscriptions.

Reminder to everyone who has not yet paid

CAP needs your support. Please pay your subscriptions so as soon as possible.