

## Disaster Reduction in Urban Areas

### International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

#### *Abstract*

*The paper outlines how the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990 - 1999) can contribute to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). It emphasises the effect of urbanization on the level of risk to natural disasters, and highlights the need to address disaster management in the context of urban development planning. The Habitat II Conference provides an excellent opportunity to promote disaster reduction in the context of development of human settlements.*

*The paper analyzes disaster reduction as a multi-sectoral issue in urban development and notes that the main issues that should be considered include urban poverty, public awareness, housing, infrastructure, land use and urban management. Emphasis is placed on attainable goals in reducing the vulnerability of the people at risk, primarily the low income groups. Hazard and vulnerability assessments need to be conducted and new urban development programmes will need to consider these assessments. Public information and education programmes and effective warning strategies should enable people at risk to take effective precautions and reduce their exposure. The vulnerability of urban infrastructure and critical facilities needs to be reduced. Institutional strengthening is required to improve the capacities of governments to prepare for and respond to disasters and other emergencies.*

*The paper recommends that disaster reduction activities be included in the action programmes of Habitat II. It outlines proposed activities and invites National IDNDR Committees and other IDNDR partners to contribute to the preparations for Habitat II, through direct involvement in the preparation of national documentation in association with the concerned experts and public officials in their own countries.*

## **Disaster Reduction in Urban Areas**

### **International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements**

#### **1. Introduction**

Natural disasters are defined by the impact they have on human societies. Where there is an accumulation of people, natural disasters can have correspondingly greater impacts. Many recent major disasters have had their main impact in urban areas and densely populated human settlements.

Preparations are underway for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which will be held in June 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey. One of the multi-sectoral issues to be considered in the Conference is 'disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction'. The issue will become an integrated part of the 'Global Plan of Action', to be considered by Habitat II.

The objective of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) is to reduce through concerted international action, especially in developing countries, the loss of life, property damage, and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters. One of the Technical Sessions at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 highlighted the effects of disasters on urban areas. The panel of experts recognized that urban areas are extremely prone to disasters and likely to become even more so, due to the concentration of population, resources and activities. Land use patterns often increase the level of risk. Disaster reduction should become an integral part of the development process of human settlements, and IDNDR aims to facilitate the activities associated with that.

The Habitat II Conference provides a welcome opportunity to state disaster management issues in human settlements. The preparation of an action plan for habitat issues is an opportunity to address the multitude of disaster risks associated with urbanization. IDNDR partners at the local, national and international level are encouraged to ensure that disaster considerations are included in habitat strategies at the various levels.

This paper outlines some key issues in urban disaster management and identifies how these can be addressed effectively in the preparations and action programmes of Habitat II. This aims to assist National Committees for IDNDR as well as Committees for Habitat II, to include key considerations in their reports to the Conference. The issues raised may also need to be considered at the regional preparatory meetings for the Istanbul Conference.

Recommendations of this paper can be considered as a basis for mobilizing the support of National Habitat II Committees, policy-makers and participants to the Conference.

## 2. Urban Environment

The world is steadily becoming more urban. By the early decades of the next century, more than half of the world's people will live in cities. The number of cities with more than one million people in developing countries will increase from 125 in 1990 to almost 300 by the year 2000. In Africa, the least urbanized continent, there are now 37 such cities, as compared with only two in 1950. Many African cities will double in size every 12 years. By 2000, there will be over 20 cities with a population greater than 10 million - and more than 15 of these are located in developing countries. Over the 1990s no less than 80 per cent of the world's population increase is expected to take place in towns and cities -81 million people every year.

**FIGURE 1 LARGE URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS IN 1950 AND 2000**

1950 rank	Agglomeration	Country	Population (mio.)	2000 rank	Agglomeration	Country	Population (millions)
1	New York	USA	12.3	1	Mexico City	Mexico	25.6
2	London	UK	8.7	2	Sao Paulo	Brazil	22.1
3	Tokyo	Japan	6.7	3	Tokyo	Japan	19.0
4	Paris	France	5.4	4	Shanghai	China	17.0
5	Shanghai	China	5.3	5	New York	USA	16.8
6	Buenos Aires	Argentina	5.0	6	Calcutta	India	15.7
7	Chicago	USA	4.9	7	Bombay	India	15.4
8	Moscow	USSR	4.8	8	Beijing	China	14.0
9	Calcutta	India	4.4	9	Los Angeles	USA	13.9
10	Los Angeles	USA	4.0	10	Jakarta	Indonesia	13.7
11	Beijing	China	3.9	11	Delhi	India	13.2
12	Osaka	Japan	3.8	12	Buenos Aires	Argentina	12.9
13	Milan	Italy	3.6	13	Lagos	Nigeria	12.9
14	Mexico City	Mexico	3.1	14	Tianjin	China	12.7
15	Philadelphia	USA	2.9	15	Seoul	Korea	12.7
16	Bombay	India	2.9	16	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	12.5
17	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	2.9	17	Dhaka	Bangladesh	12.2
18	Detroit	USA	2.8	18	Cairo	Egypt	11.8
19	Naples	Italy	2.8	19	Metro Manila	Philippines	11.8
20	Leningrad	USSR	2.6	20	Karachi	Pakistan	11.7

These changes have a profound effect on the organization of societies and the demand on services; not only in large urban agglomerations -mega cities- but also in intermediate and small cities. The rate of change requires enormous efforts to provide even the most basic level of services to the population. New resources have to be found to provide adequate amounts of safe water, electricity, construction materials etc. Degradation of the urban environment is a serious problem as pressure on scarce land increases. Flood plains and landslide-prone hillsides are used for housing, often informal, low-quality housing, because there is no other land available at reasonable cost sufficiently close to the employment centres.

The major challenge of the Habitat II Conference is to identify strategies and policies for the sustainable development of human settlements within this context.

**FIGURE 2 SOME MAJOR DISASTERS SINCE THE START OF IDNDR**

Year	Hazard	Country	No. of Dead	Damage estimate (million US\$)
1990	earthquake	Philippines	1,660	920
	tropical cyclone	South Pacific	8	119
	tropical cyclone	Philippines	503	720
1991	earthquake	Georgia	270	1,700
	volcano	Philippines	932	260
	cyclone and flash flood	Philippines	4,899	
	tropical cyclone	Bangladesh	138,866	1,780
	river flood	China	2,470	21,000
	cyclone	USA/Caribbean		20,000
	earthquake	India	2,000	
tropical cyclone	South Pacific	12	331	
1992	tsunami	Indonesia	2,080	100
	tsunami	Nicaragua	116	25
	earthquake	Turkey	547	
	mudflow	Philippines	333	320
1992-93	drought	Southern Africa		
1993	river flood	United States		20,000
	earthquake / tsunami	Japan	122	
	31 typhoons	Philippines	514	
	tropical cyclone	Fiji	21	134
	earthquake	India	10,000	
	flood	Western Europe	7	hundreds of millions
1994	earthquake	United States		20,000
	earthquake / mudslide	Colombia	271	
	volcano	Papua New Guinea	100,000 affected	
	flood	China	1,400	
	flood	India	2,001	
1995	earthquake	Japan	5,500	100,000
	earthquake	Russia		

### **3. Disasters and the urban environment**

Natural disasters are one of the causes of human suffering in urban areas. The need to improve human safety and protect dwindling resources is emphasised by recent disasters. Many have had their main impact in urban areas, where there is a large concentration of people with a strong dependency on infrastructure and services. Environmental degradation has often increased the vulnerability, in particular of low-income groups. Figure 2 shows some recent disasters which had major effects on human settlements in only the past five years since the IDNDR was declared.

The fact that so many disasters have occurred in only the past five years, since the IDNDR started, highlights the importance of looking at disaster risks in the framework of human settlement developments. Natural disasters, and what can be done to reduce them, can only be taken into consideration adequately, if analyzed as an integral part in the resource allocation and planning for urban development. To achieve this, development planners need to be involved in disaster reduction and disaster managers need to be part of the planning process.

The following is a review of the main issues in disaster reduction in the urban environment:

#### **Urban poverty and disasters**

The poorest people live in the lowest quality housing on the most hazard prone locations, and have the fewest opportunities to mitigate potential disaster impacts. The urban poor are a very large and growing category: In 1988 it was estimated that approximately 330 million people, or 27.7% of the total urban population of developing countries, live below the poverty line. In Africa, which is urbanizing at an extremely rapid rate of about 7% per annum, this percentage is estimated to be about 42%. The largest number of urban poor is found in Asia: 136.5 million people in urban areas live below the poverty level.

Poverty is one of the root causes for urban vulnerability to disasters. It will need to be taken into account in the development of disaster reduction measures, and poverty alleviation will increase people's opportunities to reduce disasters.

Emphasis should be on attainable goals, and should aim to maximize benefits for people at risk. Low cost solutions to improve construction quality, innovative approaches to improve the land allocation mechanisms and other measures to reduce risk should be part of the strategy of Habitat II.

#### **Communities at risk**

Disaster reduction policies need to be focused on communities at risk, and built upon an increasing ability for them to be directly involved in their own protection. Local communities need to be assisted in identifying the risks to which they are exposed, and how these can be reduced. Public information and education programmes are needed to activate and enable local communities to take the necessary measures to reduce disaster risks at the community level. Resources have to be mobilized to support community level disaster reduction. These programmes will need to make use of grass roots initiatives, such as self-help groups and church groups.

Solutions for disaster reduction will only be effective if they are based on the needs of the people at risk and match with their opportunities. Relocation of hazard prone housing areas to safe areas outside town, is often not a solution for people at risk because of inadequate employment opportunities.

### **Housing**

Earthquakes do not kill people, collapsing buildings do. More than 80% of the casualties from earthquakes are associated with collapsing buildings. This makes the suitability and quality of housing construction a vital issue in earthquake disaster reduction. Quality construction is also very important in relation to tropical cyclones. Basic technologies to build hazard-resistant, low-cost housing have been developed and tested in numerous locations. Although important successes have been achieved, many more improvements are feasible. These will require educational programmes to inform people, and especially builders of the benefits of disaster-resistant housing and construction control mechanisms to reduce disasters caused by inappropriate construction practices.

Disaster risks associated with housing cannot be resolved in isolation. They have to be part of a wider strategy to improve access to reasonable quality, adequately designed and safely located housing.

### **Infrastructure**

Urban societies depend on infrastructure systems for the provision of their basic services. In large urban agglomerations, infrastructure systems are increasingly complex, and therefore more subject to disruption, and more costly to repair or replace. In developing countries, there are big problems in the provision of basic services like water supply and sanitation. The rapid development of urban areas makes it difficult to keep pace with the development of infrastructure and basic services. Systems are often poorly maintained, which further increases their vulnerability.

Damage to urban infrastructure by natural disasters has long-term as well as short-term impacts. Natural disasters often trigger secondary disasters caused by the failure of infrastructure. Breakage of gas lines can cause fires and collapsing infrastructures cause deaths and further damage. Immediate health hazards due to the failure of water and sewage systems can pose major threats, in particular in densely populated, low-income areas. The long-term impact of damage to key infrastructure can be enormous in terms of disruption of the economy and difficulties in re-establishing the urban community.

Programmes have to be developed to review the integrity of existing infrastructure and upgrade the systems, in order to reduce secondary disasters and ensure continued provision of basic services. Design considerations and building codes for infrastructure need to be prepared in view of disasters. A similar operation is needed for critical facilities, such as those that are particularly important during emergencies, e.g. hospitals, pumping stations, emergency operations centres and facilities that accommodate large numbers of people. These have to be reviewed, and adequately protected strengthened or relocated to reduce risks to acceptable levels.

### **Land use planning and environmental protection**

An assessment of the hazards which threaten different areas can be made, and urban areas should be treated with priority. Flood plains, landslide prone areas, fault zones, coastal areas can be identified and mapped. This information should provide a major input into urban development planning, so that safe locations can be utilized for people and critical facilities. New programmes and activities will need to consider how to address disaster risks to prevent that new developments actually increase the exposure to disasters. The methods to do this, within given constraints, will need to be developed.

Protection of the environment, in particular in hazard zones is necessary to prevent an increase in risks. Sustainable management of the environment will contribute to a reduction of hazards. Examples are retention of mangrove vegetation on the foreshore to reduce storm surge impacts and planting of hillsides to reduce landslide risks.

The location of housing areas is of paramount importance in view of flood and landslide hazards. The risks associated with certain locations are known in many cases, yet people continue to live in hazard-prone locations due to land allocation and social and economic requirements.

Solutions are not straightforward. Enormous pressure on the available land, degradation of the environment, large distances to areas of employment and excessive demands on resources of all varieties are but some of the constraints that will have to be faced. Innovative approaches to planning and land allocation are required to enable people to live in safe areas and to allow the allocation of facilities and high occupation structures in areas of low risk.

These issues also point to limits of urban growth and the need to consider policies that spread urban growth over more urban centres to allow for a more balanced development.

### **Urban management**

The very fast growth of urban areas puts severe strains on the ability of local authorities to regulate developments and to provide an adequate level of safety and services. This growth also means that mechanisms and arrangements to carry out disaster preparedness and emergency operations become increasingly complex, posing additional strains. The potential impact of disasters increases rapidly with population growth. Programmes need to be developed that can assist authorities to improve the local capacity to prepare for and respond to natural and other disasters.

Part of responsible urban management should be the capacity to provide effective disaster warnings. This includes monitoring of hazards and vulnerabilities and strategies to warn people at risk in a way that effective preparations are actually accomplished at the local level. Upgrading of these systems, both to warn and to respond to alerts is necessary in many cases.

One of the ways to address disaster risks in urban management is through 'urban disaster scenarios. These can help to quantify disaster risks and identify adequate solutions for specific disaster problems.

#### 4. Themes of Habitat II and disaster reduction

In his keynote address to the International Conference on Urban Habitat, held in Delft, the Netherlands in February 1995, Dr. Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of the Habitat II Conference, indicated that the stresses of urbanization that have just begun to be felt. He said "the myriad of social, economic, and political problems that have accompanied urbanization have created problems of epic proportion in every corner of the globe". He pointed out that "unless this 20th century urban agenda is addressed, its repercussions threaten to dominate and engulf the 21st century just dawning with a vast array of problems."

The pressing issues that need to be addressed by Habitat II are diverse. They include increasing urban poverty; homelessness and substandard housing; unemployment and social disintegration. The high urban growth stretches urban infrastructure beyond its capacity, and leads to land degradation, pollution and the lack of adequate educational and training facilities. Ethnic tension and violence is an increasingly urgent issue, and epidemics, ranging from tuberculosis to AIDS need to be addressed.

The policy directions for Habitat II are threefold. A primary goal of the conference is to raise awareness of the true nature and depth of the urban crisis, in order to forge the necessary political commitment to address pressing issues. Then, this new commitment needs to be based on sustainability principles. Finally, new strategies to reduce urban poverty need to be identified while balancing the needs of urban populations with environmental concerns.

The two themes around which the Conference will be structured are '**Adequate shelter for all**' and '**Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world**'. The preparatory Committee for the Conference decided that the following multi-sectoral issues should be considered integral to all programmes and sub-sectoral programmes:

- Shelter management, with reference to decentralization and the involvement of people and their organizations;
- Poverty reduction;
- Environmental management;
- Disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction.

A number of additional cross-sectoral issues are mentioned by the Preparatory Committee, for consideration. These are: women; urban economy and employment; social and economic dimensions of urbanization and shelter development; education and capacity building; and equity and vulnerable groups.

The challenge of Habitat II is to see to it that human habitats -from the smallest to the largest- are made safe and liveable. This will not be possible without attention for the reduction of disaster risks in the context of the Habitat II preparatory process and as outlined in the Yokohama Strategy and Action Plan of the IDNDR.

The complexity of problems and solutions justifies special attention to urban areas from the disaster management community. The disaster-prone conditions of many urban areas justifies special attention for disaster reduction in the development of an action



programme for shelter in an urbanizing world. The preparations for Habitat II provide an excellent opportunity to bring the two together. The process also provides an opportunity to engage an inter-disciplinary group of experts and policy makers to address an issue of common concern.

## **5. IDNDR and the preparations for Habitat II**

Two Preparatory Committee Meetings have been held: in Geneva in April 1994 and in Nairobi, April 1995. A third meeting is scheduled for February 1996 in New York. These meetings prepare a draft Global Plan of Action for consideration by the Conference. Much emphasis is placed on the preparations at the national level. Local governments and NGOs will play an important role in the Conference, as it is considered that much of the action programme will be implemented by these organizations.

The Preparatory Committee calls for the establishment of national committees which would carry out reviews and establish priorities for action. National reports to the Conference should help to provide substantive detail for the Global Plan of Action. These reports should be submitted to the Habitat II Secretariat by December 1995. Over 100 countries have established National Committees for the preparation of Habitat II, or are in the process of doing so.

National Committees and local coalitions in each country are requested to submit examples of best practice. These are any actions that improve the living environment of people, and are preferably implemented by partnerships between various groups involved. One of the sub-categories mentioned under sustainable settlements management is 'Improved disaster preparedness, mitigation and reconstruction'.

The objectives of IDNDR are related to the development of human settlements. The first objective of IDNDR is that all countries should have in place, by the year 2000, comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans.

The IDNDR mechanism can provide a useful link to national disaster management organizations and others concerned about potential increases in the disaster risks. At the international level, the IDNDR-Secretariat, the Scientific and Technical Committee, the Inter-Agency Working Group and Core Group of Diplomatic Missions, can contribute to devise effective policies to assist in countering disaster risks within the framework of Habitat II.

The IDNDR Secretariat intends to conduct the following activities in preparation for Habitat II:

- (1) Inform IDNDR partners about progress of the Habitat II preparations, in particular in respect to disaster reduction issues.
- (2) Contribute to workshops and round table meetings on disaster reduction in urban areas and to related regional meetings.

- (3) Prepare a report for the Conference on disaster reduction as a multi-sectoral issue in the development of human settlements, including recommendations. The report will present a consolidated view on disasters in urban areas, based on consultations with IDNDR partners and others involved.
- (4) Facilitate the inclusion of a thematic round table meeting on "Human Settlements at Risk" as part of the Conference programme and contribute to the organization.
- (5) Organize and conduct a special disaster reduction event during the Conference. The special event will stimulate high-level political attention for disaster reduction, provide a platform for scientific and technical exchange and include an exhibition on disaster reduction in human settlements.
- (6) Publish a special issue of STOP Disasters on disaster reduction in urban areas.
- (7) Dedicate the international IDNDR Day in 1996 to the theme of 'Human Settlements at Risk'.

The IDNDR Secretariat is preparing a project to support and strengthen national efforts to reduce disaster risks in urban areas. It is based on recommendations made at the International Workshop on Earthquake Disaster Reduction in Urban Areas, held in Jakarta, Indonesia in June 1995. The project will be presented to Habitat II for consideration as part of the Action Programme.

The Secretariat invites its partners at the national, regional and international levels to contribute to these activities and to provide suggestions for additional action. It sees the National IDNDR Committees as one of the critical organizations to contribute to preparations for Habitat II at the national level. It is suggested that the National Committees contribute to the preparations for Habitat II by:

- (1) Reviewing disaster risks in urban areas and human settlements, and outlining strategies and policies to reduce these risks to acceptable levels;
- (2) Contributing to the preparation of national reports for Habitat II, by providing recommendations and suggestions for disaster reduction activities as part of the national Habitat II report and action programme;
- (3) Briefing policy-makers and potential participants to the Conference and the Preparatory Committee meetings on the issue of disaster reduction, and suggest how this could be included in the work of the Conference;
- (4) Preparing 'examples of best practice' in the field of disaster reduction for submission to Habitat II, and for promotion in IDNDR publications and events on this theme.

Figure 3 provides key dates in preparations for Habitat II, in particular in relation to the disaster aspect and the proposed role for IDNDR.

**FIG. 3: PREPARATIONS FOR HABITAT II; SOME KEY DATES FOR EVENTS RELATED TO DISASTER REDUCTION ACTIVITIES**

date /deadline	activity
3-7 Sept. 1995	32nd. World Congress International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the Hague, Netherlands
19-22 Nov. 1995	International Conference on Best Practices, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
December 1995	Submission of country reports to Habitat II Conference Organizers
31 Dec. 1995	Submission of materials to the IDNDR-Secretariat for draft IDNDR Report on Natural Disasters in Human Settlements
31 Jan. 1996	Draft IDNDR Report on Natural Disasters in Urban Areas, for consideration by Preparatory Committee
12-23 Feb. 1996	Preparatory Committee meeting, New York USA
Feb. '96	Meeting of IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee, Moscow, Russia
31 March 1996	Submission of materials for IDNDR exhibition 'Human settlements at risk'
April '96	IULA Conference Local Authorities Confronting Disasters, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
3-14 June 1996	Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul, Turkey
October 1996	IDNDR Day: Human Settlements at Risk

## 7. Summary of IDNDR recommendations for Habitat II

The IDNDR Secretariat intends to present to the Habitat II Conference, a report with a consolidated view of disaster reduction in urban areas. This report will be based on consultation with IDNDR partners and include detailed recommendations for the inclusion of disaster reduction considerations in action plans for human settlement development.

In anticipation, the following recommendations may be considered in the preparation process at the national, regional and international levels:

- (i) The Conference is requested to recognize fully the importance of disaster risks in the development of human settlements and to adopt the Yokohama Strategy and Action Plan as a basis for action;

- (ii) The Conference should consider disaster reduction as integral to the design of habitat programmes;
- (iii) In particular, the Conference is requested to consider the following policies as priority issues:
- Emphasis on low-cost, attainable solutions and innovative approaches to address critical risks of communities in housing, infrastructure and critical facilities.
  - Public information and education programmes to mobilize and enable communities to reduce risks.
  - Improvement of disaster warning and dissemination to ensure optimum preparedness and emergency response.
  - Community based hazard mapping and vulnerability reduction programmes to assist communities to address their risks.
  - Hazard and vulnerability assessments for disaster-prone urban areas as a basis for further planning, and new urban development programmes to consider these assessments.
  - A policy of diverting urban growth may be required for hazard prone urban areas.
  - Vulnerability of urban infrastructure and critical facilities to be reduced so that secondary disasters can be avoided and constraints to emergency operations minimized.
  - Institutional strengthening programmes and legislation to take account of the possible need for effective disaster response and relief.
- (iv) The Conference should consider these priority actions in disaster reduction in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of human settlement programmes.

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**suggested reading / selected bibliography:**

Mitigating Natural Disasters, Phenomena, Effects and Options, a Manual for Policy Makers and Planners, UNDRO 1991

Primer on Natural Hazard Management in Integrated Regional Development Planning, Department of Regional Development and Environment, Organization of American States, 1991

Disaster Management in Metropolitan Areas for the 21st Century, Proceedings of the IDNDR Aichi/Nagoya International Conference 1993, Japan

Mega-City Growth and the Future, ed. Roland J. Fuchs, Ellen Brannan, Joseph Chamie, Fu-Chen Lo, Juha I. Uitto

The Effects of Disasters on Modern Societies, Report of Technical Committee Session C, World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, May 1994, published by United Nations Centre for Regional Development;

Overview of Disaster Management, Disaster Management Training Programme, UNDP/DHA, 1992

Disasters and Development, Disaster Management Training Programme, UNDP/DHA, 1994

Disaster Prevention for Sustainable Development, Economic and Policy Issues, Mohan Munasinghe and Caroline Clarke (ed.), IDNDR and the World Bank, 1995

Country	National Committee	National agency/Focal point	Other activities
25. Costa Rica	In Progress	Licda. Felisa Cuevas Cordero, Coordinadora Comisión Nacional Preparatoria Habitat II, Ministerio de Vivienda y Asentamientos Humanos, 222 Paseo de los Estudiantes, San José 1002, Costa Rica Tel: 506-255-3506 Fax: 506-255-1976 Members list available	Requests assistance.
26. Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	Mr. Robert Mamebe Beugre, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministère de la Construction et de l'Urbanisme, B.P. V 153, Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire Tel: 225-227587 Fax: 225-214561/224561 Members list available.	Engaged in first phase of selecting relevant urban indicators and assessing availability of data. Submitted Progress Report 12/94. Submitted National Report 4/95.
27. Croatia	Yes	Mr. Matija Salaj, dipl. eng. arch., Chairman of National Committee for Habitat II, Ministry of Physical Planning, Building and Housing, 41000 Zagreb, Ulica grada Vukovara 78, Croatia Tel: 385-041-633-444 Fax: 385-041-612-131	Focus on re-construction, proposes to host meeting, National Steering Comm. and Focal Point to be chosen by end of 1994. Requests assistance. Brief paper submitted by a senior adviser entitled: "Physical Planning as the First Step for Human Settlements Revitalization and Management." Activities include; Elaboration of National Report for Habitat II and establishing cooperation with the public inc; TV Broadcasts. 1st stage of urban indicators almost completed. National Report on preparations to be submitted. Submitted National Report/Second Progress Report 4/95.
28. Cuba	Yes, broad-based	Lic. Enrique Anavitarte Losada, President National Preparatory Committee, National Institute of Housing, Instituto De La Vivienda, Havana, Cuba. Tel: 57-7-3311512/13/14/17(UNDP) Fax: 57-7-3311516(UNDP)	Submitted detailed work programme. Requests assistance. Submitted Progress Report 12/94. Hosted HIC General Assembly & Int'l Workshop 5-8 March 1995.