

PRESENTATION by Mrs ANNA K.TIBAIJUKA
UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL of the UNITED NATIONS
and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of UN-HABITAT

HOUSING BEYOND ITS WALLS:
PLANNING FOR AN AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE HABITAT

Address to the 52nd IFHP World Congress
International Federation for Housing and Planning
12 – 15 October 2008

Monday 13 October 2008



Some Arguments:

- There can be no sustainable development without sustainable urban development. Planning is critical in achieving this.
- Global and local need to be much more articulated in planning responses.
- There is an urgent need to move away from sector-based prescriptive to integrated and enabling planning approaches.
- There is a need for integrated and strategic vision of urban development and urban policies at all scales.
- Urban informality is closely associated with inadequate public policies and planning and the absence of housing policies that can deliver affordable housing options at scale
- A right-based approach to housing entails a different approach to planning and housing that is necessarily inclusive and consultative in essence rather than prescriptive and normative.

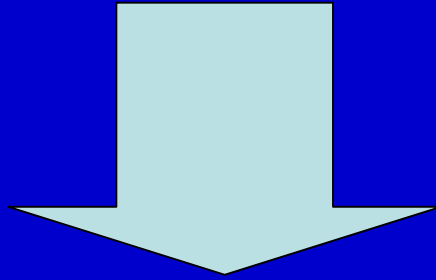


Aspects to Consider:

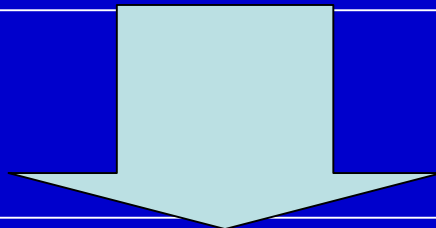
- The planning models and their outcomes
- The link of planning and the environment as part of the sustainability debate
- The growth of slums and informal settlements as part of contemporary urbanisation
- The right to adequate housing and its implication for planning and housing policies
- Our responses to the magnitude of informal land development and slum formation
- Findings from our global survey of cities and the future of planning



Planned City based on Western Models

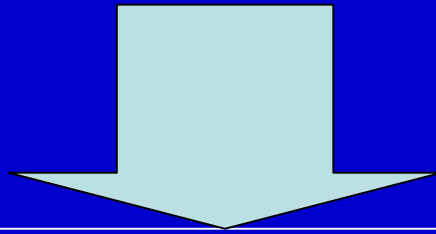


Spatial planning, design, standards and norms implicit and integrated into these plans result in urban services, spatial and residential environments that excludes poorer members of society who cannot afford nor comply with it.

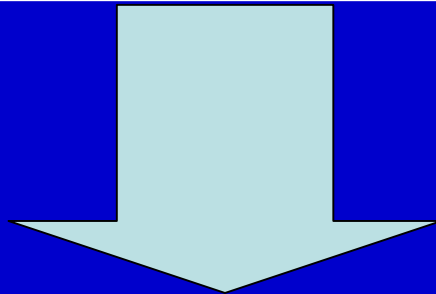


high environmental costs that lead to consequences not only for the quality of life in the city but also for their extended hinterlands.





The overall package are often unaffordable and excludes large parts of the population who is not capable to afford these services.



We need to have culturally and economically-bound planning solutions while keeping them abreast with global processes



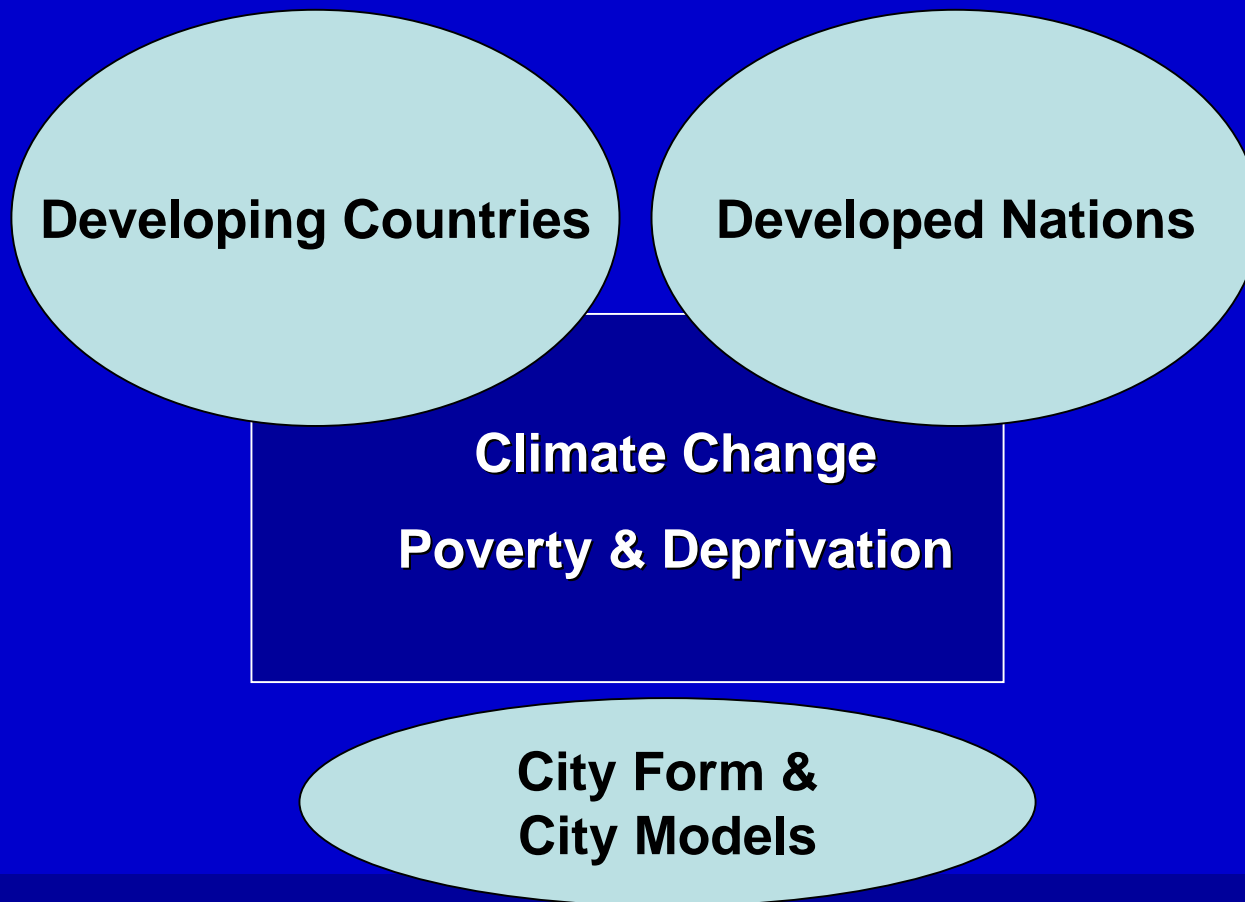
Careful thought has to be given to the reform of the curricula of the planning courses at your universities.

Planning education needs to reflect the contemporary challenges and this apply to curricula in the developing nations as well.

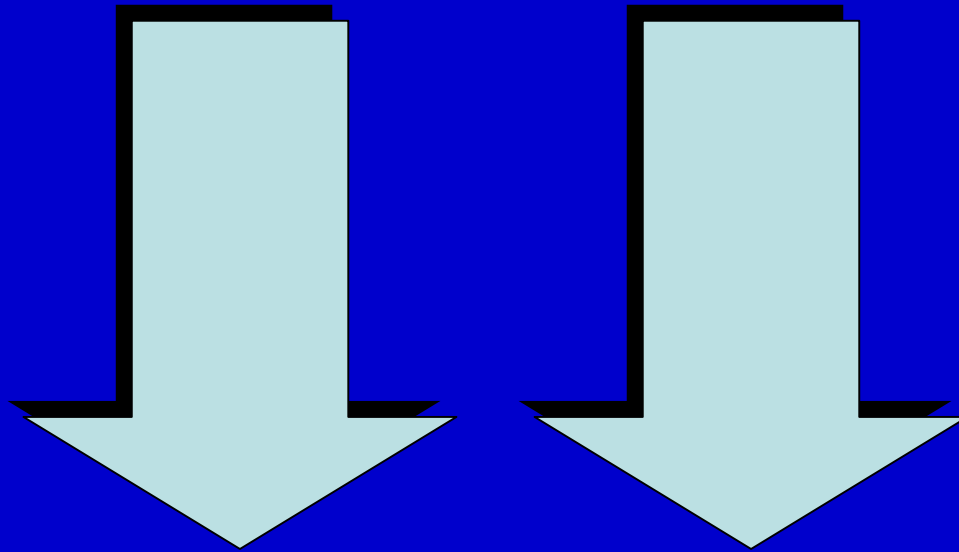


The link of planning and the environment

The sustainability debate



The growth of slums and informal settlements as part of contemporary urbanisation



The proportion of the urban poor is growing faster than the rate of urbanisation.

Today 1 out of 3 urban dweller lives in slums.



People living in slums

UN-HABITAT estimates, 2001

Developed regions
54 million

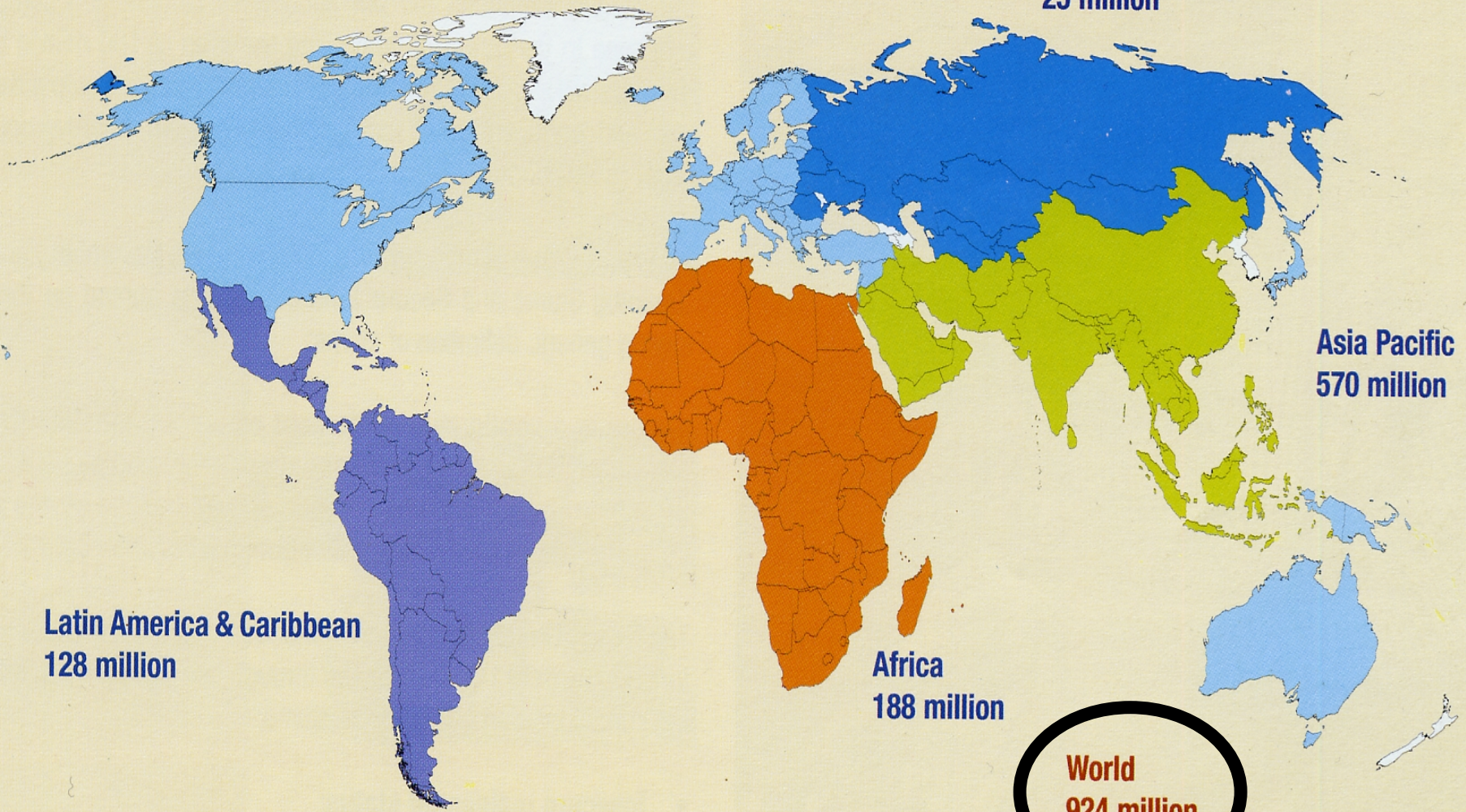
Transition countries
25 million

Asia Pacific
570 million

Latin America & Caribbean
128 million

Africa
188 million

World
924 million





Pirate land subdivision in Bogota, Colombia.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



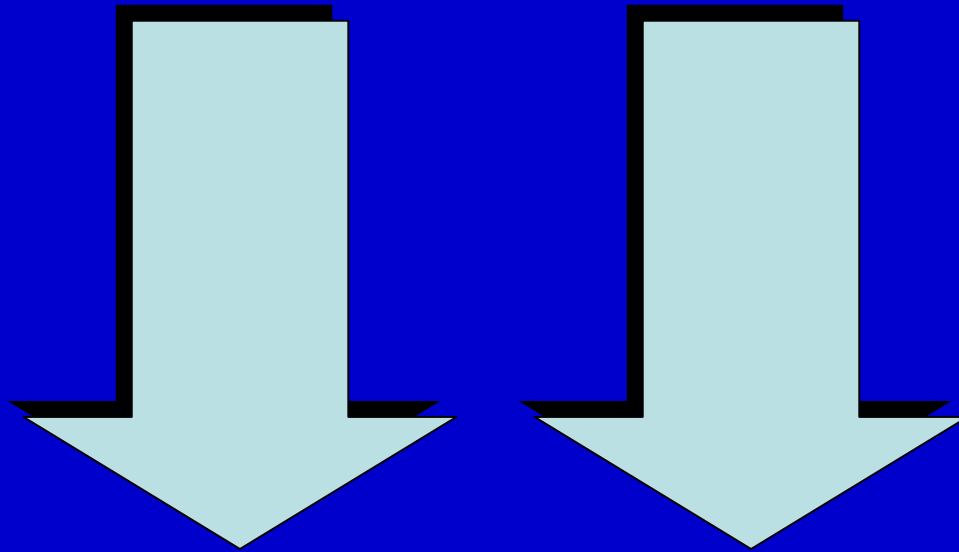
Trujillo, Peru, 1999





Photo by Thierry Geenen for the Nairobi River Basin Project II/NEP

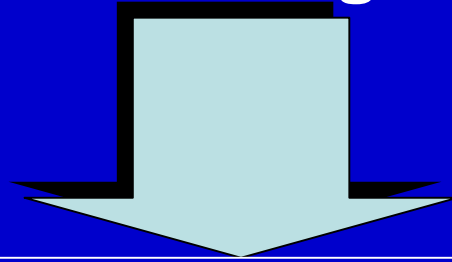
The right to adequate housing and its implication for planning and housing policies



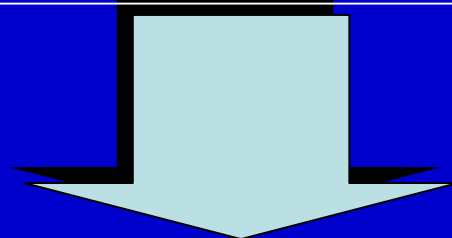
A right-based approach to housing entails a different approach to planning and housing that is necessarily inclusive and consultative in essence rather than prescriptive and normative. These are fundamental shifts that are required when considering the right to adequate housing.



Adequate housing and planning



UN-HABITAT works with its partners and ministries of housing and urban development with a holistic and integrated view on housing that considers the supply of land, building materials and technology, infrastructure and finance as keys to address the challenges of a rapidly urbanising world.



The challenge for planners is not only to incorporate this understanding but also to move away from the prescriptive type of planning models that is at the heart and is boosting forced evictions world wide.



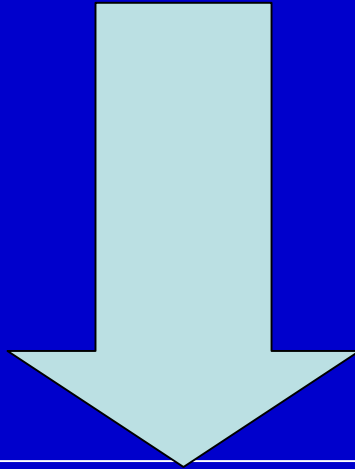
We are confronted with a model of urban development that is not nurtured by planning and plans. We need to understand that this is propelled by social political processes and a buoyant informal market.

Poverty, informality and environmental damage are perpetuated, at least in part, because planning does not have all the right weapons in its armoury.



One contention

**Not limited to the planning profession,
but certainly includes it.**

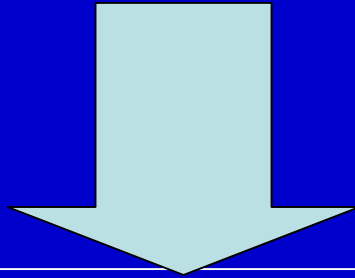


Unless the developed North buys into the need to address poverty in the developing world, there is a danger that many in the South will remain indifferent to the potentially catastrophic environmental change that threatens us all.



Another contention

if planning is to fulfil its promise, it should vigorously lay claim on a unique niche in creating sustainable development. As a non-sectoral discipline it is well placed to balance social, economic and environmental pressures in both developed and developing countries.

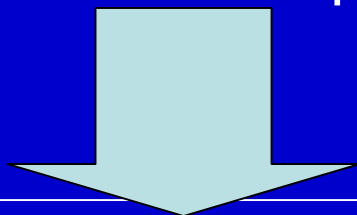


We need to pursue planning that results in plans of action rather than plans that over-regulate actions. We need to move from normative and statutory type of planning to a more strategic action oriented type of planning.



Findings from our global survey of cities and the future of planning

The *State of the World's Cities Report 2008* produced by UN-HABITAT. City population loss is a reality increasingly recognised in the North, but also an emerging trend in 143 cities out of a sample of 1,408 in the developing world, particularly in larger cities (15.8% of our sample of large cities).



Smart planning for sustainable growth needs to be accompanied by the notion that smart planning is needed to make population loss sustainable.



YEAR 2020

44% RURAL

URBAN 56%

Source: UN Habitat, 2006.



The Urban Slum Challenge

United Nations Human Settlements Programme – UN-HABITAT 20

Thank You.

See you in Nanjing, in the World Urban Forum

