



**International Society of City and Regional Planners
Non-Governmental Organization Official Partner of UNESCO**

ISOCARP-UNESCO SPECIAL EVENT

PORTLAND, OREGON, 23 OCTOBER 2017

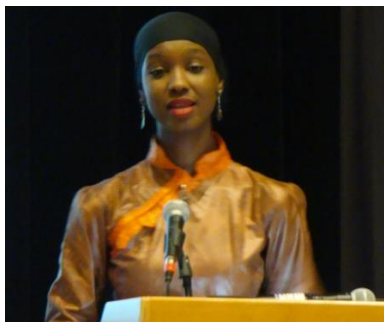
**“TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CITIES WE NEED:
AN OBLIGED WAY IN ORDER TO SAVE LIFE ON OUR LOVELY PLANET”**

AN OVERVIEW ON A MEMORABLE HISTORIC EVENT

**The Special Event was organized in the follow up of the 2016 ISOCARP Congress,
held in Durban, South Africa, on the topic “Cities we Have vs. Cities we Need”.**

PRIOR TO THAT UNFORGETTABLE DAY

On Saturday, even it was raining cats and dogs, ISOCARP Special Guest, Hawa Dème, UMUGANGA AFIKA, from Mali, also consultant near the Permanent Delegation of Mali at UNESCO, was lucky to travel with ISOCARP Program Manager.



**© ISOCARP Philippe Vaillant
Hawa DEME, UMUGANGA AFRICA, Mali**

On Sunday, she accepted to meet the Young Planning Professionals during their YPPs Workshop organized by Piotr Lorens, ISOCARP VP YPPs, for a debate with them on the accordance between the aims and work of her association “Community Work Africa” and the objectives of their workshop on the Oregon region.

Registration of the participants



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Attendance was free, but registration asked from all participants.
Here we can see some students from the University of Oregon.
Registration: Gaby Kurth and Monica Ornek

OPENING CEREMONY



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Derrick Olsen, President of the World Affairs Council of Oregon
Welcoming the Audience to Portland and Oregon

Chaired by ISOCARP President, Ric Stephens, the Opening Ceremony aimed to welcome the audience and have a view on the UNESCO's Flag Action "UNESCO's Soft Power today" around the Sustainable Development Goals and the involvement of ISOCARP in COP21 and the HABITAT III New Agenda.

Presenting Portland and Oregon, Derrick Olsen, President of the World Affairs Council of Oregon, the activities of which are in complete accordance with UNESCO’s Objectives and Programs, delivered a speech to welcome at the same time the ISOCARP members, the civil society of Oregon, the Ypoung planning professionals, the students of Oregon University and ISOCARP Special Guest Hawa Dème, from Mali.



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Hawa Dème, Special Guest, explaining the UNESCO’s Flag Action “UNESCO’s Soft Power today” around the “Sustainable Development Goals” she is showing

Hawa Dème, co-founder of UMUGANDA AFRIKA (Work Community Africa) and past consultant for the Permanent Delegation of Mali at UNESCO, focussed on the SDG as a tool to implement a better world that lets nobody by the wayside. She insisted on the inter-dependence of the different 17 SDG to go, step by step, towards “Sustainable Cities We Need”, such as it will be demonstrated during the Interactive Round Table following the Opening Ceremony.



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17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



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Importance of Youth, one of the major UNESCO's objectives, attending the Opening Ceremony

ISOCARP President, Ric Stephens, focussed on the involvement of ISOCARP “Towards Sustainable Cities We Need” that is going on for numerous years. Before the venue of the COP21, several congresses, for instance “Low Carbon Cities”, worked on the matter. During the preparation of the COP21, Janine Marin, ISOCARP Ambassador near UNESCO, wrote a paper, “Mother Earth is Calling”, in a view to sensitize on that urgent matter; she sent it to the Division of UNESCO preparing the COP21. At Le Bourget, near Paris, during the venue of the COP21, ISOCARP Past President, Milica Bajic Brkovic, was a member of the High-Level Ban Ki Moon Team, and delivered a speech on “Transportation for sustainable cities”. Of course, the Durban Congress “Cities we Have vs. Cities we Need” was a great step on the good way. During the HABITAT III meeting in Quito, around the “New Urban Agenda”, ISOCARP organized an important workshop on the matter. And now, the Interactive Round Table, major moment of the Event, should make a new step on that good way.

WELCOME COFFEE



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Between the Opening Ceremony and the Interactive Round Table, a moment of encounters. Moment to know each other, ISOCARP members, Oregon civil society, YPPs and University of Oregon students

INTERACTIVE ROUND TABLE

Red thread: “Respect all Life”

Title:

**PLANNING, HERITAGE AND MODERNITY, SOCIAL INCLUSION
FOR PROMOTING INTELLIGENT CITIES FOR PEOPLE.**

Issue:

**How could “Respect all life” be the demonstration that
It is “life” which is the crucial theme of the Special Event?**

Method: Systemic Approach (cf. separate file)



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Nicholas You, Chair, delivering his keynote speech, Hawa Dème and Ric Stephens on the Podium

Interactive Round Table Concluding remarks

SDGs and a Systems Approach to Implementation

We have covered a very wide range of issues and themes this morning, ranging from the unpacking of SDGs 1,2 4,11 and 16 as well as the challenges we face in various parts of the world in order to effectively implement them. We were also very fortunate to have heard of what some cities, communities and actors are already doing going forward.

I would like to conclude our very rich discussions by suggesting that we need to focus on three actions areas that I believe will be critical to making an effective difference.

The first action area is to adopt a “systems” approach to the implementation of the SDGs. Sustainable urbanization will not be achieved if we continue to work in silos and do not coordinate our policies and strategies across jurisdictions. This does not imply that we have to tackle the aforementioned SDGs all at the same time. It does however imply that we are aware of the linkages between them, how they are mutually reinforcing and that we seek to bridge them as well as other SDGs as we move forward. Such a systems approach would allow us to realize substantial cost efficiencies, to leverage resources and to have a culminate impact.

The second action area is how we can become more effective as professional planners. We have heard how ISOCARP's initiatives are focusing on nurturing young professionals, focusing on learning and exchange and on providing advisory services. I believe we have a very important responsibility as "honest brokers" capable of facilitating dialogue between all actors and stakeholders: between communities and different tiers of government, between different tiers of government themselves and with business, other professions and sectors. As planners we understand the concerns of all actors and stakeholders and we have the means of forging consensus while focusing on **"putting people first"**.

The third action area, last but not least, I would like to stress the need, the imperative, of engaging all of our partners and actors in accelerated exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience – and especially in lessons learned from experience. Rapid urbanization is such that we will need to match our tools, competencies and abilities with the rapid pace of change and to learn in "real time". We can no longer depend only on ex-post evaluation and research to give us pointers for the future. We need to "learn by doing" and harness the full potential of technology to help us solve problems and come up with solutions in collaboration with other actors, cities and communities. We have the means to do so with modern tools of communication, let's put them to good use.

Nicholas You, Chair

THE WORKSHOPS

Having in mind the 3 beacons for a non-governmental organization such as ISOCARP ("Being useful for the others" Max van den Berg, "Involving people" Peter Jonquière, and our motto "Knowledge for Better Cities") the three chairs and the six experts had to take into account that an open mind is absolutely necessary to succeed in finding new solutions around the Sustainable Development Goals towards "Sustainable Cities We Need".

WORKSHOP 1

Red thread: "Listen to Understand"

Title:

**LINKING RURAL AND URBAN PLANNING TO SET UP "URBAN" CITIES
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
TO HAVE LESS UNWISHED MIGRATION AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE**

Issue:

**How could planning overcome the urban/rural divide (that is not an asset)
and "Listen to understand", change the overlook on the city
to become a smart, innovative and sustainable place?**

**Michael HARDMAN, Chair, University of Salford, Manchester, UK
who delivered a keynote speech on the matter in Durban "Edible Cities".**

INVITED SPEAKERS to contribute in the Workshop:

**Mairura OMWENGA, Chairman of the Town and County Planners Association of Kenya
Hongyang WANG, Professor of Urban Planning and Design, Nanjing University, China**



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Michael Hardman (UK), Chair, precisising the subject,
help by experts Mairura Omwenga (Kenia) and Hongyang Wang (China)

The debates centred on urban sprawl and the dominance of the city over the rural.

Urban Agriculture as a tool, not a solution

Through the lens of food, we explored pressures on agricultural activity and a need to protect farmland; the idea of Urban Agriculture was not viewed as a solution but as a potential tool with which to achieve some sort of balance.

A traditional or new practice all over the world

This practice is in fact an old practice for several cities, particularly in the suburbs of different continents, such as Africa or Asia, but also in cities located in Europe or North America.

A proposal of generic methodology

No generic solution was proposed, but rather context specific solutions with perhaps a generic methodology enabling better understanding of the urban-rural relationships globally.

Sharing the decision-making between urban and rural populations

It was emphasized that actors, both urban and rural, were important in decision-making processes but with the need to act rapidly sometimes it might not be possible to fully consult.

Michael Hardman, Chair

WORKSHOP 2

Red thread: "Rediscover solidarity"

Title:

**PUTTING INTO LIGHT THE BEST PRACTICES
IN RETHINKING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOR ALL
THAT LEAVE NOBODY BY THE WAYSIDE.**

Issue:

**Which modern ways, which innovations, which new overlook,
could be set up to “Rediscover Solidarity”
for the benefit of all people in equal human dignity?**

**Pablo PESSOA, Chair, University of Brasilia, Brazil
who delivered a speech on the matter in the Durban Congress**

INVITED SPEAKERS to contribute in the Workshop:

**Daniele VETTORATO, VP ISOCARP Institute, Italy
Martin DUBBELING, VP UPATs, ISOCARP President elect, Netherlands**



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**Pablo Pessoa (Brazil), Chair, explaining the matter for a non-governmental organization
Experts assisting him: Martin Dubbeling (Netherlands) and Daniele Vettorato (Italy)**

Workshop 2 pointed out a few interesting paths to be worked with in the future.

After the introduction of the theme, which referred to the UNESCO’s Manifesto 2000, the New Urban Agenda and the related SDGs, the audience reacted by bringing even more interpretations of new solidarities.

Some participants contributed to the debate by presenting the meanings of solidarity on their own realities. Others presented the conceptual diversity of possible approaches to the theme, like it is addressed on urban sociology’s open debate. The implications of the presence (or lack thereof) of solidarity in conflicts with the use of natural resources were also discussed.

Another topic raised concerned about the allocation of funds to build and rebuild cities whenever it is needed.

Daniele Vettorato, new VP ISOCARP Institute, had to explain, as expert assisting the Chair, how the publications of the Institute or the creation of a Journal could help in promoting new solidarities. Martin Dubbeling, VP ISOCARP UPATs and now, President elect, had to explain how publications on Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs), flag activity of ISOCARP, gathering any time, all over the world, team members from different regions and countries, can help to rediscover new kinds of solidarities.

Even after the end of the session, the debate continued in small groups according the particular issues brought up by the discussion.

Pablo Pessao, Chair

WORKSHOP 3

Red thread: “Protect the Planet”

Title:

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY
IN PROMOTING INTELLIGENT CITIES
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TRADITION, HERITAGE AND MODERNITY**

Issue:

**How could planning “Preserve the Planet”
and take into account tradition and cultural heritage
when deciding to “renew” some historic places in the framework new planning policies? Which
role could play women, youth and civil society on the matter?**

**Zeynep GUNAY, Chair, Institute of Technology, Istanbul, Turkey
who delivered a speech on the matter in the Durban Congress**

INVITED SPEAKERS to contribute in the Workshop:

**Hawa DEME, Special Guest, co-founder of UMUGANDA AFRIKA, Mali
Dra. Estefania CHAVEZ BARRAGAN, ISOCARP Member, Past Mayor in Mexico**



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**On the front right, Dra. Estefania Chavez (Mexico); left, Hawa Dème (Mali)
The 2 experts assisting Zeynep Gunay in conducting the workshop.**

Our cities are being confronted by change through an extremely destructive restructuring increasingly over the past decades. There is vigorous, unprecedented socio-political conflict being waged on urban space and around issues of mobilities vs permanence, insiders vs outsiders, owners vs invaders, past vs future, old vs new, tradition vs modernity. In the middle lies the never-ending problematic of heritage -on one side and on the other side- our civil society, particularly women and youth. In a way complementing the threshold between past and future. While revanchist trends capture our everyday urban routines and life within, the questions on the ways of preserving this unique planet not only necessitate an alternative discourse on preservation or development, but also the rights, values and traditions as a survival kit. This workshop is, therefore, a major attempt to question the ways in which urban politics can respond to the problematic of the role of civil society, particularly women and youth as the vulnerable, in resolving challenges between tradition, heritage and modernity.

The remarks drawn from the workshop are as follows:

- Respond new discourses on heritage, tradition or gender roles not to cope up with the present but future agenda by preventing authorised biased knowledge or categorisations
- Foster change of emphasis on the role of public in reshaping cities in a way of defining not only the owners, but rather focusing on values, needs, diversities to put public as the subject not an object.
- Encourage a paradigm shift that foresees woman or youth not as targets, but a “map” of reshaping our cities that is based on protection and creation.
- Foster dialogue as the base of soft power to re-flourish the capacity of women to effect and lead change as proven in the history of civilisation - women have to remember they are women first!
- Foster education to flourish transformative power of the public with increased awareness and responsibility to bridge between generations, heritage and traditions. A future without knowledge on past and own histories and values cannot exist.
- Search for new ways of governance that are responsive, inclusive, context based rather than responding unfixed situations by fixed policies.
- Foster soft power based on dialogue and communication to empower the public.
- Built heritage to place - Intangible heritage to people - woman and youth as the narrators free from boundaries, territories.
- Prepare the ground for civil society to explore its own role in reshaping cities - learn to lead, learn to select, learn to adapt.

- Learn from heritage and tradition to change future to educate the changers of future - need to know what we were to lead in the decision of what we want to be - the identity, memory and values of future as well as our cities depend on our current choices, and mostly the women.

Zeynep Gunay, Chair

CLOSING CEREMONY



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Bayoan Ware, student, delivering the conclusions of the Workshop 1

Podium: Ric Stephens (USA), Shipra Narang Suri (India), Martin Lewis (South Africa)

Standing: Michael Hardman (UK)

In a first time, the Closing Ceremony listened to the different rapporteurs of the Interactive Round Table and of the 3 Workshops, as we can see above.

Then, in complete accordance with the UNESCO's Objectives, Priorities and Programs, conclusions and recommendations could be provided to the audience.

Martin Lewis, as the local Organizer of the Durban Congress in 2016, could make the link with the Special Event that presents a new step "Towards Sustainable Cities we Need"; Shipra Narang Suri, representing UN HABITAT, could make the link with the New Agenda 2030 for a sustainable planning; Ric Stephens, as ISOCARP President was glad to thank the speakers and the audience for the success of the Special Event, and Jeannine Rustad could wish that the coming joint Conference OAPA/ISOCARP, the theme of which is "Smart Communities" could be another step on the same good way.



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Such a picture could symbolize and summarize the intergenerational success of that "historic" ISOCARP-UNESCO Special Event held in Portland "That makes alive UNESCO in the Western Part of the United States of America" (Ric Stephens)

Janine Marin
ISOCARP
Knowledge for Better Cities

ISOCARP Representative to UNESCO
Coordinator for the ISOCARP-UNESCO Special Event in Portland

