

SPECIAL EVENT ISOCARP-UNESCO

PORTLAND, OREGON, USA, 23 OCTOBER 2017

“TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CITIES WE NEED:

AN OBLIGED WAY TO SAVE LIFE ON OUR LOVELY PLANET”

During the 2014 International Conference of NGOs (ICNGOs), ISOCARP presented a request with respect to a crucial issue relating to a vision for urban planning that faces the current challenges of urbanization everywhere in the world.

After the 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in 2015, ISOCARP proposed to set up an event on the matter, as a follow up of the Durban Congress “Cities we Have vs. Cities we Need”.

The draft proposal, written before the Durban Congress, was presented in the framework of the Participation Program of UNESCO, in accordance with the priorities and programs of the Organization, with the support of two National Commissions for UNESCO as requested.

It is a one-day event, according to the following agenda, accepted and financed by UNESCO PP Section, and officially notified to the President, Ric Stephens, by the ADG/ERI in charge of NGOs official partners of UNESCO.

MORNING SESSION

OPENING CEREMONY

GOAL 11 (AGENDA 2030 SD), ISOCARP NEW URBAN AGENDA AND CONCLUSIONS OF COP22 (MOROCCO)

President of the World Affairs Council of Oregon, Derrick OLSEN, will welcome the audience in Portland and present the Objectives and Programs of WACO, in complete accordance with the UNESCO Objectives and Programs.

Keynote speaker Michaëlla RUGWIZANGOGA, Member of IMBUTO Foundation (Rwanda) and of World Shapers Community/World Economic Forum, Panellist at the High Level Conference held at UNESCO HQ “UNESCO Soft Power Today” around the SD Goals, will introduce the audience to the “Sustainable Development Goals and particularly Goal 11”. She is invited as an expert to present in Portland the last Flag Action of UNESCO for the coming years and, enlarging the debate, make the link between the Durban Congress and the Portland Special Event.

ISOCARP President, Ric Stephens, will present the ISOCARP Agenda for the 20 coming years and the conclusions of HABITAT III and COP22 and provide perspectives for planners on the matter.

INTERACTIVE ROUND TABLE

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

“RESPECT ALL LIFE”

(Manifesto 2000, adopted at the eve of the International Year for a Culture of Peace, Article 1)

How could “Respect all Life” be the demonstration
that it is “life” which is the crucial theme of the Conference.
Our planet Earth is lovely because we can see all it offers us!
All is “all life”,
and protecting our planet is a major issue for us and all life,
not for the planet.

Keynote speaker during the ISOCARP Durban Congress, Nicholas YOU, internationally recognized, with a long experience in city and regional planning, will make the link between *“urban sustainability and urban innovation, in order to promote intelligent cities for people”*. He speaks on *“Smart approaches to sustainable urban development”*, a major issue.

The quotation from the UNESCO Manifesto 2000 aims to show that, from 2001, ISOCARP, entering the 21st Century, has chosen to lead urban planning towards the new realities and challenges to be overcome. That is why the motto of the Association became *“Knowledge for better cities”*. Knowledge means having a global vision of the earthen ecosystem and, by the way, of the needs for sustainable cities at a crucial moment when the urban population of our Planet is over 50%.

The different points of Goal 11 for Sustainable Development *“Sustainable Cities: Why they Matter”* will be considered when demonstrating how relevant they are for a correct vision towards 2030. Sustainable Development was to be reached for UNESCO from the beginning of the 21st Century.

Heritage has also to be considered, since it can provide a lot of assets for a better understanding of the future; modernity can give an open mind to better and quicker achievement of our aims to implement intelligent cities; social inclusion being an obliged path for a real sustainable development towards a culture of peace, the *raison d’être* of UNESCO.

AFTERNOON SESSION PROPOSALS

WORKSHOP 1

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

“LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND”

(Manifesto 2000, adopted on the eve of the International Year for a Culture of Peace, Article 1)

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

“The socio-economic fabric of the city does not only depend on the social and economic layers of the city, but also on the physical configuration and the context of the space. Therefore, it is imperative for the new generation of city planners to study the synergy between culture, economy and spatial patterns. This inter-dependency needs to be reflected in new city planning agendas.”
Solanki GHOSH (Track 3, Indian Institute of Technology, India; ISOCARP Durban Congress 2016).

**INVITED EXPERT: Michael HARDMAN,
who delivered a keynote speech on the matter in Durban.**

The quotation of Solanki GHOSH can be a starting point to enlarge the debate to “Listen to understand”. It adopts a new behaviour for planning and leaves no one by the way side. The contribution of Michael HARDMAN “Edible Cities” “Exploring the Need for Urban Agriculture” will enlarge the debate, showing new attitudes and practices that can fight against unwished migration. The main issue is to make clear that a vision of sustainable cities must not forget that, on the one hand, migrants are a richness, but on the other hand, unwished migration has to be stopped since more and more people going towards cities means poorer and poorer cities. How can a new vision for planning integrate that crucial issue?

Since pre-historic cities exist, every urban place had to take into account the proximity of rural places; during the Antic Period, the Greek City of Athens gave us an original figure with 3 different spaces: urban place, rural space around, access to the sea for politic or economic aims.

Jean Marie COUR wrote in “Developing at the same time cities and fields in Western Africa” (UN/HABITAT article, 2004) *“Within the countries where demographic transition is not over, one of the functions of the cities is to attract as many people as the urban condition can accept. The cost for living in a city is very high and the new migrant can become a new poor. It is why our duty is to know how long will be the time for integration of migrants, instead of the presence of the poor in the cities.”*

WORKSHOP 2

BEST PRACTICES IN RETHINKING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOR ALL THAT LEAVE NOBODY BY THE WAYSIDE

“REDISCOVER SOLIDARITY”

(Manifesto 2000, adopted on the eve of the International Year for a Culture of Peace, Article 6)

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?

One of the issues of the Durban Congress was to have a new vision for ***“Many cities, especially in the developing world, that are not functioning well due to significant social problems such as high levels of poverty and poor infrastructure”***.

The conclusions of the paper relating to *“The contribution of risk relations to urban planning practices: rethinking floods and other natural disasters of anthropic synergy”* could be the starting point for a reflection on new solidarities taking into account, for city and regional planning, the climate change and its effects on city or regional spaces. The paper aims draw attention to the *“the structural connections among social and environmental vulnerabilities with the magnitude of natural hazards”*.

(Track 3, Pablo Pessoa, University of Brasilia, Brazil; Durban Congress 2016)

INVITED EXPERT: Pablo PESSOA (Latin America)
who delivered a contribution on the matter, at the Durban Congress.

The ISOCARP Institute participates in the ISOCARP vision, as a think tank to rediscover solidarity in rethinking human settlements for all, and attends some worldwide activities such as the World Cities Summit in Singapore, in July 2016.

An ISOCARP Journal could be launched in order to share practices and methods in accordance with UNESCO Priorities and Program, in a view to leave nobody by the wayside. This could be a good way to rediscover solidarity all over the world for planning sharing *“Knowledge for better Cities”*.

In view of promoting different ways to create the *“cities we need”*, the *“sharing of knowledge and practice about cities, as well as innovative ways in which desirable cities of the future are created”* in a different way for the coming generations, has not to be forgotten. It is why a new kind of active solidarity is to be rediscovered.

WORKSHOP 3

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

“PRESERVE THE PLANET”

(Manifesto 2000, adopted on the eve of the International Year for a Culture of Peace, Article 5)

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

The paper relating to *“Temporality and limits to hospitality in the ruins of a world heritage (renewal) site: Suleymaniye on the Istanbul Historic Peninsula”* could be the starting point *“to discuss the spatial and social consequences of renewal policies within the framework of the temporality discourse and to question the ways in which urban politics can respond to the problematic of hospitality, while highlighting the sociality formed by undesirables”*.
(Track 1, Zeynep Gunay, Institute of Technology, Istanbul; Durban Congress 2016).

**INVITED EXPERT: Zeynep GUNAY, Turkey,
who delivered a contribution on the matter, at the Durban Congress.**

In the UNESCO Medium Term Strategy 2014-2021, we can read, in paragraph 5: *“Implementing a comprehensive partnership strategy” that “Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as platforms of strong civil engagement, are more than ever crucial partners of an intergovernmental organization such as UNESCO which needs to act globally while, at the same time, linking the global to the local. UNESCO will provide a genuine culture of partnership with NGOs, renew and revitalize the network of NGOs as its official partners.”*

Women and youth will have to play a major role in promoting intelligent cities. The issue, as a transdisciplinary and inter-generation one, can facilitate this kind of cooperation. Women, who know very well the past, but also are more and more investing in sciences and technology, can work in a comprehensive way with the youth, among are their own children, *“to interpret the past and conceive the future cities”* we need.

This workshop will contribute to *“the definition of smart cities where technology and access to data can be exploited for an unprecedented awareness and control of our built environment”*, which was a sub-theme of ISOCARP Durban Congress.

CLOSING CEREMONY

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The event will be held in Portland, USA, prior to the venue of the ISOCARP annual Congress and for the first time in the United States. It will gather around 350 participants coming from all over the world, and from the civil society of Portland and Oregon. On the occasion of that special Conference the audience will listen to the Objectives, Priorities and Programs of the Organization, the only intellectual Agency of the UN System, which will be better known, not only in the Western part of the States, but also in all the countries represented by ISOCARP members in Portland.

Thus, conclusions and recommendations will have a really worldwide implementation; and, in addition, could be shared with UNESCO and the NGOs official partners of the Organization all around the world.

SPEECHES AND THANKS

Martin LEWIS, Durban Congress Coordinator
Rafael TUTS, UN-HABITAT
Derrick OLSEN, World Affairs Council of Oregon President
Ric STEPHENS, ISOCARP President

Janine MARIN
ISOCARP Representative to UNESCO
Coordinator for the ISOCARP-UNESCO Special Event