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"Cities for All – Local Heroes 21" takes place in the ufa-Fabrik Berlin with the support of ID 22

Local Heroes 21 findet mit Unterstützung des ID 22 Festivals in der ufa-Fabrik Berlin statt.

North and South experiences from Brasil

■ Birgit Laue

They live thousands of kilometers away from each other, but in the same country: Marília Fidel from Porto Alegre, Olinda Marquez and Teresa Hilda Costa, both from Fortaleza are only some of the many participants from overseas which came all the way to Berlin to represent their local heroes internationally. Getting here involved quite a lot of financial, organisational and personal efforts: "When the plane had technical problems I thought I would never see my family again." (Marília).

Concrete experiences with participation

Marília is member of the town council of the "Orçamento Participativo" (Participatory Budget) in Porto Alegre (a city where a working party, PT, is governing). She started as a representative of her neighbourhood and is now representing and counselling a larger part of the city. The Orçamento Participativo is a very democratic form of distributing public resources. The inhabitants of each neighbourhood elect a person to represent them in regional councils which then send representatives to higher levels. This way public policy and the distribution of public resources are defined at a very community based level and the city is built based on the proposals of its inhabitants. Cearah Periferia, the non profit making civil entity of Hilda and Olinda in Fortaleza strengthens local population through capacity building and training in a planning school for local leaders as well as micro-credits for housing improvements and income generation. These have a direct impact in the short-term as well as enable a true and active participation of the popular movements and women's groups. The objectives of their organisation are the development of inclusion of the excluded on all levels through integrated action between local governments and the community as well as the definition of clear criteria for efficient methods to fight social exclusion and poverty.

The importance of solidarity

"This is not a holiday, I am here because we are in a constant fight for a better life and I believe that if the people change, the world can also change. I am here because this is a way to bring the fight of all the excluded forward. Through union, solidarity and joint action we can turn our utopia into reality." (Marília)

One of the main motives for Olinda and Hilda to participate in the Local Heroes conference is "to be able to participate in a forum that allows us to contribute our experience, exchange methodologies of social intervention with all the other actors in a participatory way". They hope to get

a step ahead in reinforcing the governments to improve participation in the definition of urban policies and the distribution of public resources and gain new support and strength for their work back home.



They would like to promote their concrete and successful local experiences and the methods they have developed in the fields of partnership and active participation of grassroots organisations in planning and decision making processes. A special focus in all of their work is the integration of the cities' inhabitants and popular movements into the creation of public policies based on the proposals of the urban actors. They regard the Local Heroes conference as a good forum allowing to exchange methods with the other active participants. "Today we learned once again the importance of solidarity. Platforms like the Local Heroes are important for articulation and reflection about urban problems concerning us directly. We hope that through our discussions and debates we can come to a joint resolution which can be read as a viable guide to improve the living conditions. We hope that the governments become more interested in integrated initiatives to fight urban problems. And finally, we hope that we, as local heroines can build a society based on equality and autonomy of all actors, especially gender equality, through participation and self-management." (Olinda and Hilda)

Impressum

Redaction:

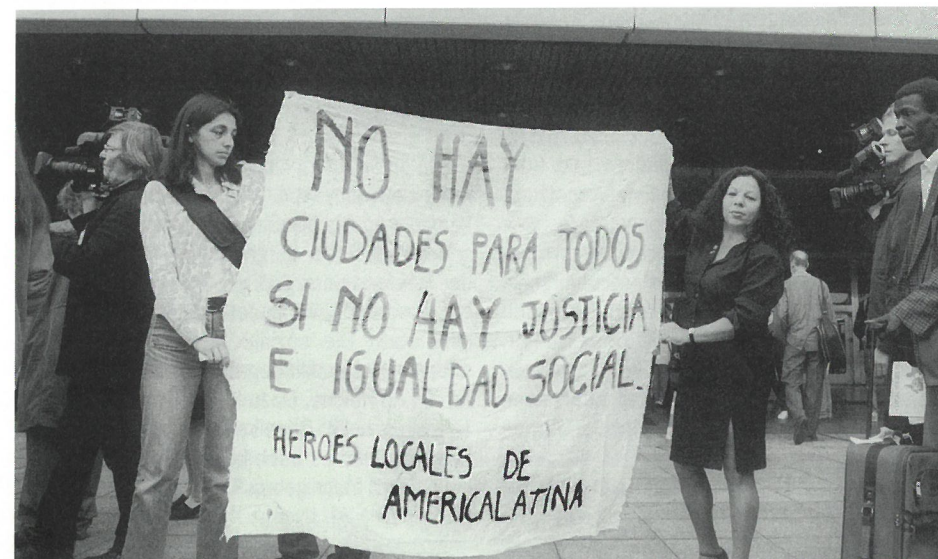
Stefan Thimmel (resp.), Doris Deiglmayr, Birgit Laue, Prasad Reddy, Timon Wehnert
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LOCAL HEROES 21

European Meeting of Urban Grassroot Movements – ufa-Fabrik Berlin, 5. July 2000, 2. Edition



Zukunft der Städte ohne Local Heroes?

Soziale Bewegungen und Mieterorganisationen aus über 20 Ländern bei URBAN 21 nicht geduldet

Die VertreterInnen von „Unione Inquilini“, der italienischen Mietervereinigung hatten kaum ihr Transparent entrollt, auf dem sie gegen die Privatisierung von öffentlichem Wohnraum protestierten, da wurden sie auf schon von der Polizei massiv zurückgedrängt. Die VertreterInnen der NGO, die die TeilnehmerInnen der „Weltkonferenz zur Zukunft der Städte“ begrüßen wollten, waren nicht geduldet. Für Traudel Tomshöfer und Knut Unger vom Aktionsbündnis der VEBA-MieterInnen, die sich vehement gegen die Privatisierungswelle im Ruhrgebiet wehren, ist diese Reaktion völlig unverständlich: „Da soll in der Konferenz von Partizipation und Zivilgesellschaft

geredet werden und dann reagieren die so. Wir sind erschüttert, wie mit den Interessen der Betroffenen umgegangen wird. Das wäre im Ruhrgebiet nicht möglich gewesen, da wären wir zur Konferenz eingeladen worden.“

Auch für Han van Putten aus Den Haag, den Ehrenpräsidenten von HIC, der Habitat International Coalition, der seit Jahrzehnten diese Art von Konferenzen kennt, wird dabei wieder eines deutlich: „Local Heroes, d.h. die sozialen Bewegungen sind offensichtlich gefährlich, wenn die Polizei so eingreift“.

Die lateinamerikanischen Local Heroes hatten auch ein Transparent dabei: „Es gibt keine Städte für alle ohne Gerechtigkeit und soziale Gleichheit“. Diese Botschaft erhielt heute keine Erlaubnis, an URBAN 21 teilzunehmen.

Future of Cities without the Local Heroes?

Activists of Social Movements and Tenant Organisations from 20 Countries not tolerated at the URBAN 21 Conference

No sooner had the representatives of "Unione Inquilini", the Italian Tenants' Union, unroll their banner protesting against privatisation of public residential quarters, did the Police storm the demonstrators and shoved them back with massive force. The representatives of NGOs, wishing to greet the participants at the "World Conference of the Future of Cities", were not tolerated. For Traudel Tomshöfer and Knut Unger of the Action-group VEBA-Tenants which vehemently opposes the wave of privatisation in Ruhrgebiet, the action was "incomprehensible": "While in the Conference they discuss about participation and civil society, at the same time they react so extremely to peoples' initiatives. We are shocked at the way in which the interests of the affected people are dealt with. Such a way of dealing would have been impossible in Ruhrgebiet."

For Han van Putten, the Honorary President of Habitat International Coalition HIC, who has since decades, been involved with such conferences, one thing was clear again: "Local Heroes", that means social movements, are obviously dangerous, because the Police intervenes in such extreme ways".

Von Unten nach Oben

Großes Interesse an Local Heroes 21 Konferenz

■ von Stefan Thimmel

Der alte Kinosaal in der Ufa-Fabrik war voll besetzt. Mehr als 200 TeilnehmerInnen aus über 30 Ländern waren zum Eröffnungsplenum von „Städte für alle – Local Heroes 21“ gekommen, darunter VertreterInnen von sozialen Bewegungen, Mieterorganisationen und internationalen Netzwerken aus Südafrika, Brasilien, Mexico, Indien, Uzbekistan, Senegal, Frankreich, Italien, Niederlande etc. Auch dabei: Eine kleine Delegation vom Aktionsbündnis der VEBA-Mieter gegen

Privatisierung, die sich gegen die „nachhaltige Wohnungspolitik“ von des Konzerns zur Wehr setzen. Für vier Tage treffen sich hier die Initiativen, die sich kritisch mit URBAN 21 und dem so genannten „Weltbericht zur Zukunft der Städte“ auseinandersetzen. Vor allem aber dient das Treffen der Local Heroes dazu, die eigene Vernetzung zu stärken und eine lokale Gegenmacht zu bilden. Für Han van Putten, Ehrenpräsident von Habitat International Coalition (HIC), ist gerade dieser Prozess wichtig: „Seit der

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Overview

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Page 3: Program Workshop 3, Interview mit Han van Putten

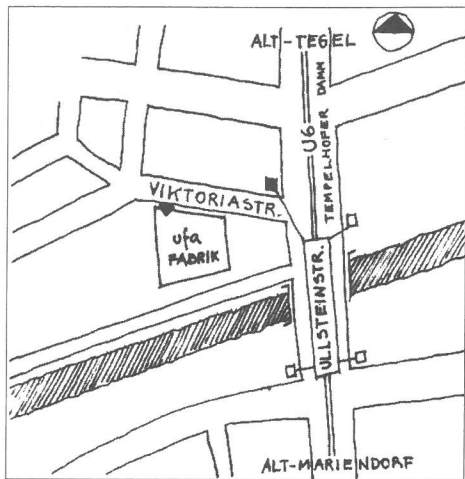
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Venue/Tagungsort

■ Program

Venue: ufa-Fabrik, Viktoriastraße 10-18, 12105 Berlin, underground U6, station: Ullsteinstraße

Program Wednesday, July 5th 2000

Workshop 1: A City for All – without Exclusion and Discrimination

10:00 – 10:30 Presentation of participants and action groups

10:30 – 11:30 "Empowerment: inclusion, autonomy or self-organisation?"

Introduction: Dr. Dolly Conto Obregón (International documentation centre for street children), David Satterthwaite (London)

Statements by: Dr. Constanze Kube (Hängematten, Berlin), Andrea Knaut (Jungdemokraten, Berlin), Christoph Seeger (Elele, Berlin), Hans Zosch (Wagendorf Lohmühle, Berlin), Discussion **11:45 – 13:00** "Strategies for poor and migrants – neighbourhoods exposed to exclusion and gentrification"

Introduction: Dr. Michi Knecht (HU Berlin), Charna Furman (HIC, Montevideo)

Statements by: Stefan Emmerich (Baustop.randstadt Berlin), Dr. Stefan Schneider (mob – homeless people mobilise, Berlin), Dino Laufer (TU Berlin)

14:00 – 16:00 "Small projects and local networks: which impact have national and international alliances?", Introduction: Silvia de los Rios (HIC, Lima), NN (Raisons d'agir)

Discussion in view of the forthcoming World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants in Mexico

Assembly of Urban Inhabitants in Mexico

Workshop 2: Housing is a Civil Right Movements of Tenants and Dwellers share Experience

10:30 – 16:00

Chair: Han van Putten, Den Haag

Inputs:

Habitat – European Perspectives, Cesare Ottolini, HIC Focal Point Europe, Padova
Report from Poland; Zygmunt R. Kich, Krakow, Polish Association of Tenants

Introducing markets in eastern Germany. State and results. Armin Hentschel, Institute for Social Development of Cities, Berlin

Soziale Spaltung muss verhindert werden

■ von Timon Wehnert

„Gute Moral und hohe politische Ethik verbrauchen sich schnell, wenn sie nicht durch praktische Dienstleistung ergänzt werden.“ mahnte Franz-Georg Rips, Präsident des Deutschen Mieterbundes (DMB) an. In seiner Rede auf dem Eröffnungsplenum der Local Heroes 21 Konferenz zog er die Parallele zwischen der Mieterbewegung von vor über hundert Jahren und dem Ansatz der Local Heroes heute: Eine Vernetzung der lokal handelnden Organisationen, die es den Verlierern der liberalen Marktwirtschaft ermöglicht ihre Rechte einzufordern muss mehr sein als ein Forum zur Proklamation von Wünschen und Interessen. Dieses Netzwerk, zu dessen Errichtung Local Heroes einen Beitrag leisten möchte, muss für seine Mitglieder von Nutzen bei ihrer praktischen Arbeit auf lokaler Ebene sein.

Mit Blick auf die Diskussion nach persönlicher



Franz-Georg Rips

Sicherheit in den USA hob Herr Rips hervor, dass der Kampf für soziale Integration jedoch kein Gebot des Altruismus ist: „Städte in denen die Reichen Angst vor den Armen haben und wo jeder sein privates Sicherheitssystem gegen Kriminalität braucht, bieten keine Lebensqualität.“ In Deutschland, wo einerseits die Anzahl der Sozialhilfeempfänger steigt, andererseits aber aufgrund von Privatisierungen der Bestand an sozial gebundenem Wohnraum immer weiter sinkt, findet eine ähnliche Entwicklung statt. Die soziale Spaltung wird immer offensichtlicher. Mit negativen Konsequenzen für arme und Reiche. Dazu Rips: „Unsere Botschaft an Europa heißt: Ohne Verhinderung der sozialen Spaltung wird es auch keine attraktive europäische Stadt mehr geben.“



die sozialen Bewegungen und NGO ihre Kräfte bündeln. Die historischen Bündnispartner des Mieterbundes, die Sozialdemokraten haben für ihn durch ihre Politik an Bedeutung verloren, sie vertreten nicht mehr die Interessen der Mieter. Deutlich wird das für ihn auch im „Weltbericht“. Er bedauert, dass keine der NGO, also auch nicht etwa der Mieterbund an der Formulierung des Berichts beteiligt wurde: „Das ganze Werk ist mir zu sehr von marktwirtschaftlichen Denken und ökonomischen Grundlagen bestimmt.“ Generell hegt er Zweifel, ob eine Veranstaltung wie Urban 21 einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur Verbesserung der Lebensqualität in den Städten beisteuern kann: „Man muss da anknüpfen, wo die Menschen betroffen sind und deshalb Bewusstseinsprozesse von unten nach oben in Gang setzen und nicht umgekehrt.“

Dieses von unten nach oben Einfluss nehmen, genau das haben sich die Local Heroes vorgenommen. In drei Workshops geht es darum, das konkret zu machen und sich auszutauschen. Und erwartet werden auch viele eingeladene Teilnehmer von Urban 21. Gerade viele internationale Gäste unterstützen die Ideen und die Diskussionen von Local Heroes. Der Austausch findet schon statt.

Correction:

Local Heroes 21, First Edition, Monday 3, July 2000, Page 7 Column One, (Paragraph One).

Read line 4 as:

“.....calling for convocation of social movements in Europe.

Pressurise the Governments

Han van Putten, the Honorary President of Habitat International Coalition is and remains one of the most prominent spokespersons for Habitat NGO concerns in the international scene. At the inaugural Plenary of Local Heroes 21, van Putten regretted that “there has been a silence in the international scene regarding habitat issues since the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul.”

Calling for a more urgent and vocal expression for a follow-up to the good influence that NGOs had exerted at Istanbul, he criticised the “World Report on the Future of Cities” due to be discussed at the Urban 21 Conference in Berlin, as being “too economically focussed, searching for technical, instead of real solutions. There is no mention of discussion about equal distribution of resources”. As for the immediate aims of NGOs and Social Movement members gathered at the Local Heroes 21 Conference, van Putten stressed the need for “assurance of security of tenure the acceptance of a set of rules of conduct by governments in situations of resettlement and relocation of peoples, immediate statement, acceptance and implementation of norms for good, local governance and a world-wide effort at poverty alleviation”. Referring to the lessons from years of interacting with government gatherings at the UN, said Van Putten, “there is no one magic solution to human settlement problems. What is, however, imperative for NGOs at local, national and international levels is to unite and put pressure on the governments”.

Interview with Han van Putten, Honorary President of Habitat International Coalition

■ What concrete suggestions have you to make for the rules of conduct to be followed by Governments and authorities in cases of resettlement, relocation of people?

Simply by saying that evictions should be banned will, in the long run, work against the interests of the tenants. If the room owners do not make rooms available for needy people, for instance, then it works against the tenants and people searching for homes. Instead, the governments must stick a set of codes of conduct. If governments want to relocate people from a piece of land to make place for some project, the governments should make absolutely clear that they need that particular piece of land and not any other. Secondly, they should consult the inhabitants about the kind of land the inhabitants need as relocation. Also, the governments need to consult inhabitants about the compensations for relocation. It is good to get the United Nations to adopt such set of rules regarding forced evictions. This will be more effective instead of saying there should be no forced evictions.

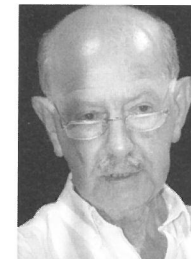
■ By blaming problems of inequality and poverty in the “third world” on overpopulation, the URBAN 21 Report is throwing the problem of

Alternative architectural ideas

■ Prasad Reddy

Rainer W. Ernst, Prof. of Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts, Weissensee Berlin was one of the key figures in the formation and activities of Habitat Forum, Berlin. In his inaugural presentation at the Local Heroes 21, Ernst stressed the importance of “continued international exchange of local experiences in the field of human settlements”. Gathering from his own experiences in alternative, architectural projects in the South, Ernst criticised the conventional concept of architecture and described his interpretation of good architecture: “We are not studying the designing of beautiful airports, big shopping centres, famous museums or music halls, big libra-

ries, big comfortable housing estates and so on. Rather, we are studying the changes in spatial organisation of cities, the change of use of buildings material, the change of definitions and use of space, the change of significance of symbols which is produced more or less by the majority of population in the whole world and not merely by the majority of financial resources”. In the era of globalisation, “we cannot, as architects, neglect the other half of reality world-wide”. Ernst called for a more participatory approach to architectural practices, “The working methods will then be different from what I have called conventional architecture. We need to learn with the people, together with the clients about better solutions for the urban future”.



■ Programm

Deregulation and privatisation in western Germany. Knut Unger, Tenants Association of Witten, Germany

Resisting the privatisation of miners' homes. Report from NRW/Germany. Traudel Tomschöfer, Veba-Tenants' Action Coalition, Gelsenkirchen

Housing Conflicts in a transnational Banking-Metropol. Jürgen Lutz, Tenants helping Tenants, Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Report from Italy: N.N. Unione Inquilini Housing- and Land Rights in Bombay, asked: Sheela Patel, SPARC, Bombay, India

Improvement of Settlement by Grassroot Organizations, Cristina Almazan Villalobos, UCISV - VER, Veracruz, Mexico

Improvement of Habitat by local NGO, Hilda Bezerra and Olinda Marques, Cearah Periferia, Fortaleza, Brazil

Perspectives of European Networking

Workshop 3: Local Power and Development – strategies for community empowerment

10:30 – 16:00

Civil society and subsidiarity can breathe only with responsibility over local resources, funds and services. This hurts with established rights, routines and profiting. The current global learning process towards local responsibility points to innovations such as participatory budgeting and local community administration.

1. Success and failure of urban grassroots movements

Speakers: Kirtee Shah, ASAG, Ahmedabad, (K.J. Jayaratne, Sevanatha, Colombo,) Paula dos Santos (Filhos da Terra, São Paulo), Cearah, Michael Birkenbeul, SSM, Köln

2. Good Governance, Local Agenda 21 and urban social movements

Speakers: Yves Cabannes, Quito, Hernán Herrera Aparcana, Cajamarca, Ina Ranson, Paris, Ulrich Nitschke, (Agenda-Transfer, Bonn)

3. Participatory budgeting and democratic control of local governance

Speakers: Davinder Lamba, Mazangira Institute, Nairobi, Marilia Fidell, Porto Alegre, (Noli Pacquiao, Quezon-Manila,) Martine Toulotte, Grenoble, Andreas Bentler, Dortmund

Additional Speakers: Peter Herrle, Habitat Unit, Berlin; Jutta Schultes, Wuppertal, Brigitte Karhoff, Bochum; Jörg Mayer-Ries, IFOK, Berlin; Elenka Jarolimek (Fundacja Karkonoska), Warschau; Hernán Herrera Aparcana, Omar Rojas Becerra (ASODEL), Cajamarca; Philipp Klaus (INURA) Zürich; Toni Gibson, London

Program Thursday, 6. Juli 2000

Preparation of the “World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants” Mexico-City, October 2000

Interview

with **Georgina Sandoval**, representative of Casa y Ciudad and HIC Mexico

Que puede aportar el evento de los Héroes locales a la conferencia en México?

Formamos parte de un enlace, de un proceso de construcción. El evento de los Héroes Locales en Europa es un evento de „calentamiento“ para la asamblea en México – como cuando estás haciendo ejercicios.

Cuales son las diferencias entre los movimientos sociales – respecto a los asentamientos sociales – en Europa y en Latinoamérica?

Tenemos que reconocer que venimos de diferentes culturas. Los niveles económico- educativos de los cuales formamos parte nos hacen distintos. Por ejemplo la mayoría de las mujeres dirigentes en América latina solo tiene una instrucción primaria. Ellas están obligados a rebasar el tema del machismo, que no es exactamente igual en Europa.

Que piensas acerca de la conferencia Urban 21?

Estamos en un proceso de permanente aprendizaje. Como conferencia paralela podemos ser muy critica, pero también tenemos que acercarnos y rescatar las cosas que pueden ser útiles. La conferencia Urban 21 está aportando puntos respecto a la visión de las ciudades, la relación entre las ciudades y los procesos de comunicación mundial.

Cuales son, según tu opinión, los potenciales de los movimientos sociales para hacerse escuchar internacionalmente?

Hay que hacer propuestas profundamente practicas pero también de visión de largo plazo. Tenemos que tener una visión prospectiva.

Que esperas de la conferencia en México?

Un programa de actuación muy preciso, elaborado por las diferentes grupos ONG, académicos etc.

■ Interview: Doris Deiglmayr

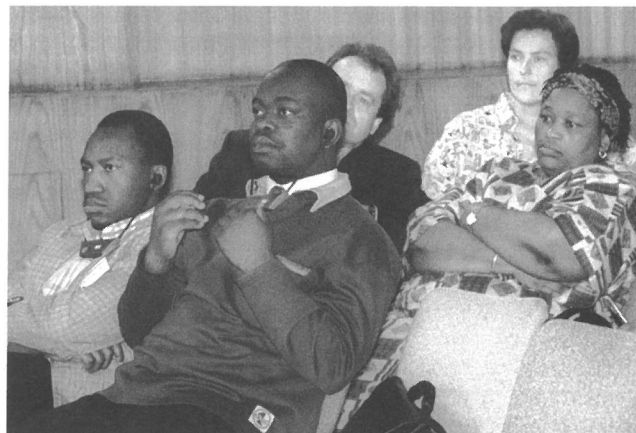
African Charter of Partnership between Inhabitants and Local Collectivities

On the AfriCities Summit in Windhoek, Namibia, May 2000 a charter of partnership between inhabitants and local collectivities has been adopted. We quote some excerpts thereof as presented to us by Mr. Sidiki Daff, from the association of African cities Senegal. This charter is to serve as a contribution of the African Habitat NGO's to the world assembly of the Urban inhabitants in October 2000, Mexico.

Organisation of local collectivities and partnership

A partnership between local authorities and inhabitants may be difficult due to bureaucracy delays even when the political will is there. The different partners, local elected representatives and communities, must ensure that the conditions for the success are or will be gathered. The most common problems, which must be overcome, are:

1. The reluctance of local authorities to listen, dialogue, respect communities views and to negotiate with the people make it very difficult for constructive partnership. The need for training on both sides to ensure qualitative partnership becomes important.
2. Useful information is not given to the inhabitants, or is given in a difficult way (the language and the words used) for poor people to understand it. It is necessary to institute a system of information adapted to the needs of the communities in order to create the best conditions for mutual trust.
3. The legal role of local authorities is limited and does not permit them to deal seriously with the real problems of the inhabitants. The means to solve problems are imposed on inhabitants. In order to address the situation new methods of working together must be explored between the state and the local authorities or to enhance their responsibilities.
4. The municipality services are too divided: health, housing, education are treated separately



while they form a whole for the inhabitants. Municipalities therefore need to develop integrated plans that will provide services to the people at once.

5. The public finances given to the populations do not address their real needs. They are assigned in a way, which is too rigid: they do not allow the municipality to take commitments beyond one, etc... We must either modify the rules, create new structures, or find other types of finances (international or private funds).

Building the Partnership

Partnership means mutual confidence. It is an outcome of the role that local authorities and civil society play in the development process. Partnership calls for a participatory process. The co-produced projects which result from such process give a sense of ownership and sustainability since it ensures the participation of all partners. (...)

Global perspective

Global forces largely affect the relationship between Local Authorities and inhabitants. This is mainly in view of the factors that have direct influence on the ability of Local Authorities to provide services, e.g. structural adjustment programmes. However, consolidation of the relationship between Local Authorities and inhabitants will be greatly enhanced if efforts are made to involve the communities in the formation of policies that directly affect them.

Report on the World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants

from 2 – 6 October 2000 in Mexico City

Georgina Sandoval, representative of Casa y Ciudad and HIC Mexico, presented the document of HIC in preparation for the World Assembly of urban inhabitants in Mexico.

The document presents elements for consideration in the discussion on the role and strategies of civil society, inhabitants, local governments, and other actors in the transformation of communities, towns and cities into places of quality living for all. The statement was prepared as part of the contribution of the HIC Latin American region to the NGO activities on conjunction with Urban 21, and as part of the preparatory process towards the World Assembly of Urban Inhabitants to be held in October 2000. The document includes inputs from the regional preparatory meeting toward Urban 21 held in Buenos Aires in November 1999, from the document "Alliance for a Responsible and Solidary World" produced by the Global Platform of the same name, which includes signatories from more than 100 countries, and concepts and proposals collected from national, regional and international discussions and activities by different civil society forums.

The first part of the document treats the current trends to be confronted: The degradation of nature, increased poverty, expropriation of social assets and popular knowledge, exclusion, new, abstract and distant forms of domination, individualisation and the destruction of the collective. In a second part, the document calls for a collective ideal towards an ecological, economical, sustainable and responsible society. Some important steps for reaching this ideal are:

- the recovery of degraded areas and preservation of the remaining collective patrimony
- the development of technologies and production forms that respect nature
- the development of new participative urbanistic and architectural models that take into account ecological sustainability and the improvement of the quality of life
- the responsible renouncement of destructive consumerism
- the creation of a global system of global economies, independent and complementary networks of social enterprises and non-monetary exchange system
- the strengthening of popular economy

As conditions for an inclusive, solidary and convivial society the document mentions among other things:

- the full validity of economic, social and cultural rights for all
- the respect for diversity and plurality
- gender equality
- peace based on freedom, justice, tolerance and respect
- the multiplication of opportunities for a good life and the creation of integrated and inclusive cities for all.

As some steps towards a participative society were mentioned:

- the construction of a democratic market
- the generation of new forms of participative governance
- the strengthening of direct democracy and of autonomy at all levels
- the decentralisation of resources and decisions
- the accountability of government at all levels and the promotion of the organisation

“We have to speak with one voice”

Statement of Jerry Eldridge, HIC General Secretary at Local Heroes Conference Opening Plenary

■ Doris Deiglmayr

“We are not involved in the social movements, in Local Heroes 21 for sentimental reasons, rather to bring a few people together from all over the world to meet each other. We have a fundamental historical duty as the people from the ground”.

With these words the General Secretary of HIC and member of the homeless people federation, Eldridge Jerry, from Cape Town, South Africa, started his moving introduction into the idea of the local assembly in Mexico and the importance of the current meeting of the Local Heroes 21 conference.

The reason to assist the two events for him is the crucial importance of public participation and the historic demands of this generation “to ensure that the next millennium will be war-free and poverty-free. A world in which we will deal effectively the diseases that face the African continent and the rest of the southern hemisphere”.

The great challenge for civil society movements according to Eldridge Jerry is to mobilise their own resources. Their effectiveness depends on how united they act. “Can we cross the barriers

of nationalism, of sectarianism, of gender inequality in our respective movements? Can we regard the north and the south as one people, as equals? If we can do that, then indeed I think as social movement we are starting to be effective. Because we speak with one voice!” His message was the need for a focus on the internal strength of the movements, that will ultimately reflect the ideas of what kind of society they are fighting for.

As a second point he mentioned the relationship between state and civil society. In his opinion, social movements should not put too much emphasis and resources in only fighting the state, because this will lead to an endless fight without any qualitative transformation. Instead, the stakeholders should see the state only as an important element of their greater objective: a good life on this planet. “We need dynamic civil society to ensure accountability of the state, to ensure transparency of the state, to ensure accessibility to resources and to information”. Finally he spoke about the importance of getting influence on a global level. He warned of focusing too much on decentralisation and to be preoccupied only at the local level, because poli-



tical decisions are made often on a global level. Decisions are made in Nairobi, Genf, New York and influence the life of people. So grassroots movements have to struggle to play a role on the international level too, to avoid that only certain people represent the views of people. “Why can't we go and speak for ourselves, as to how we want the world to be and how we want the IMF to spend money?”

“In the assembly of Mexico and the Local Heroes 21 conference”, says Jerry, “social movements have to accomplish a historical message: to cement the relationship between social movements and to ensure that we will have qualitative transformation in our lifetime and in the lifetime of our children”.

Spotlights

Local Heroes Conference Spotlight: Herbert Giradet, London, Author of “The GAIA-Atlas of Cities”

We need to move from the situation of a highly polluting, environmentally damaging urban system to one that uses renewable energies, that uses maximum resource productivity, as a matter of deliberate choice. And that I think can only be achieved through active processes of participation, rather than some top down process by a distant and remote government.

Local Heroes Conference Spotlight: Bahram Ghadimi, Architect, IRAN, working at IVAB, Instituto de Vivienda de Asamblea de Barrios – Patria Nueva, Mexico-City)

“I am here at Local Heroes 21, because I didn't want to be there! We would only waste our time at Urban21.”

Ich sehe überhaupt keinen Grund zu protestieren, dass wir nicht am offiziellen Treffen teilnehmen konnten. Die Regierungen auf der Urban21 wollen gegenüber der Bevölkerung manifestieren, daß sie guten Willen haben – die Frage ist nur, wann realisieren sie etwas davon? (...) Daher denke ich, wenn wir auf ihr Treffen gehen, verlieren wir nur Zeit.

Global Governance: Technocrats Fairy Tales

Recently published study criticises dominant discourse

■ by Stefan Thimmel

The debate on alternatives to neoliberal globalisation seems to gain importance. Pierre Bourdieu's critique of neoliberalism becomes popular and the World Bank focuses on the increasing crisis of an internationalised economy. In this context, a concept seems to get attraction which was developed in the mid of the 90s from a UN Commission: Global Governance.

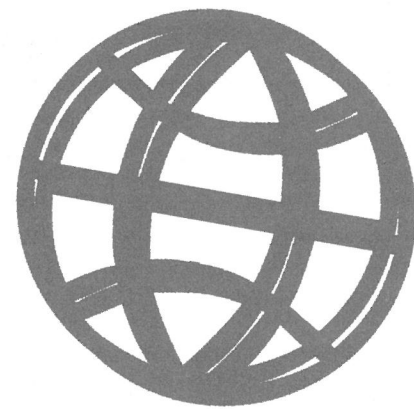
With this concept it is indicated, among other things, that one central change of the political consists in the fact that the national institutional system is not any longer the outstanding political actor. Other political scales (the local and the international) and actors become more important (private corporations, private-public-partnership or non-governmental organisations).

In a recently published study (in German, an English translation is in preparation) the debate on Global Governance and its shortcomings are presented. It is shown that international cooperation and politics are not per se against neoliberal globalisation – like it is assumed by the

Global Governance protagonists – but that it is crucial which politics and interests prevail concretely. Today, there is international cooperation, most of all in organisations like the World Bank, IMF or WTO – but cooperation to promote neoliberal politics.

The concepts of Global Governance deny that (state and other) politics is an integral part of wider social transformations which is today oriented to create international competitiveness. This is also the case for the local political level which, therefore, gains importance as well as for the fact that here the negative consequences of "globalisation" have to be treated.

The study states that the concepts of Global Governance suggest to present an alternative to neoliberal globalisation but, in fact, they interfere highly with neoliberal political concepts. The fact that the dominant actual developments are not considered leads to a technocratic understanding of politics. Moreover, the study shows that the feminist critique on Global Governance discover its weakness.



The authors do not walk into the trap that they want to develop a "left" Global Governance or a Global Governance from below. Nevertheless, in the last chapter they evaluate possibilities of emancipatory politics in the era of neoliberal globalisation. They emphasise that progressive social changes are only possible with a broad understanding of democracy and with increasing counter-power from below. Two aspects which do not play any role at the "Urban 21" conference.

The debate on Global Governance – and even more the question behind: what means today politics – seems to be opened with the study with which, after all, a critical voice took the floor.

Ulrich Brand, Achim Brunnengräber, Lutz Schrader, Christian Stock, Peter Wahl: *Global Governance. Alternative zur neoliberalen Globalisierung?* Münster (Westfälisches Dampfboot) 2000.

MISEREOR

Summarised by Prasad Reddy

If we consider the cities of today, and especially those of the so-called Third World, then we have to realise that hundreds of millions, if not billions, of people are in fact excluded from the advantages of the city: regular water supplies, adequate shelter, efficient communications, employment and participation in decision-making on matters concerning the community. The Urban 21 Report neglects mentioning this fact, although this is certainly the most important problem of contemporary urban development. As long as the existing unequal distribution of goods as well as opportunities and the law of the jungle continue to be accepted by society at large, the cities will continue to develop in chaotic ways. Even the most sophisticated technological means will be unable to do anything about this. We need, therefore, to promote an integrating type of urban development.

Today, it is the poor who are building the cities of the Third World. The current physical growth of the cities in the so-called Third World is almost

Inadequate and far From Real Assessment of Reality:

A Critique of the World report on the Urban Future 21 – Dr. Josef Sayer, Executive Director, MISEREOR

exclusively due to settlements created by the poor themselves. This applies not only to the houses as such but to a very large extent also to vital technical and social infrastructure. This is another fact which is not even mentioned in the Report. A new type of urban development should not see these realities as constraints but as chances, opportunities, and should support, guide and learn from the poor in their efforts. This, in our view, is the only way how realistic and sustainable solutions may conceivably be brought about.

The Report, unfortunately, also falls way behind the demand of banning forcible evictions, forced relocations and expulsions. Solutions to such, and other existing problems must be sought together with the local people concerned. Moreover, whatever measures are planned and implemented would only be successful with peoples' participation at all levels of the project.

The Report portrays the realities in cities in false and inappropriate ways. For instance, in Chapter V on "Good Governance in Practice", page 31, the text says, "...both poverty and wealth are enemies of the environment", and 2 lines further down, "in both cases, ignorance is still a key factor". This is a total misconception of actual reality which shows the manifold efforts of the poor to improve their environment and the gross selfishness, neglect and irresponsibility of the wealthy, leading to the abuse of the earth's resources.

There are a number of such inadequacies and inaccurate assessments in the Report. All in all, the text avoids disagreement and conflict. It does not appropriately highlight the social processes going on in the cities. As a result, it loses much of the relevance it might have had and remains way behind the Habitat II Agenda.

Environmental Justice

an alternative strategy for social and environmental movements

■ von Dino Laufer, Technical University of Berlin

On the global as well as on the local level urban inhabitants have been subject to environmental risks. Even in times of rising environmental hazard, there are regions which have less problems with environmental pollution and a significantly higher quality of their natural and cultural environment. Especially with the growing tendency towards social polarisation in cities, we have to be aware of the fact that environmental problems in low-income communities are much greater than those in wealthier areas.

With growing social polarisation in urban quarters, environmental pollution will have stronger socially selective effects. For some cities in already socially segregated countries this aspect doesn't stand as a new revelation in terms of urban development, but for the cities in Europe this is quite a new experience.

Even if the concept of Sustainable Development emphasises the social component aside from the ecological and economical aspects – as stated by the infamous "Triangle of Sustainability" – the reality looks different. Aside from the never-ending rhetoric, the social aspect in the sustainability-debate is very often neglected. In Berlin for example this becomes obvious in the discussion concerning the question how Berlin can develop in a more social way. Ecological questions do not seem to play an important role in this context.

The general problem with the concept of sustainable development is that social relations are generalised by working out an abstract model which harmonises the social, ecological and economical aspects. This includes the demand for



Potsdamer Square Berlin

inter- and intra-generative justice on a global level. Sustainable Development seems to create a new form of global interest for all mankind. The main problem is that this concept presents only a surface explanation of the term "development". The actual contradictions, on the global level between the so called developed and underdeveloped countries as well as on the local levels between different communities, are too often ignored.

An alternative movement for Environmental Justice and against environmental racism has emanated from the works of social groups in U.S. cities. This movement points to the fact that social groups and regions in the cities are struck

by different amounts of environmental hazard. Moreover these groups want to show that there are different possibilities to gain access to ecological politics. Very often those groups who do not have the resources to fight against ecological discrimination effectively, are the ones who have to live their life in social segregation combined with ecological apartheid.

This is the reason why the environmental justice movement tries to mobilise low-income groups and individuals. Their forms of activity are protest- and conflict-oriented. Because of their confrontational symbolism they often receive a great deal of resonance in the media. Their demand to tie the ecological to the social subject includes the social re-composition of environmental move-

Literaturhinweis

„Und die Welt wird zur Scheibe...“

Reader zum Weltbericht (Für die Zukunft der Städte – URBAN 21), herausgegeben von der Redaktion der Berliner Mietergemeinschaft e.V.

Kritische Auseinandersetzung mit dem Weltbericht zu Urban 21 und der in Berlin stattfindenden Weltkonferenz.

Auszug aus dem Editorial: Das Papier kondensiert in seinem durchgängig neoliberalen Duktus



die Städte der Welt zu drei urbanen Formationen, die durch good governance (also „Regierungs- und Verwaltungshandeln“) nachhaltig gestaltet werden sollen. Da gibt es dann arme Städte, die von spontanem, überproportionalem (bevölkerungs) Wachstum und informeller Ökonomie gekennzeichnet sind; Städte mittleren Wohlstands, die noch einen rapiden Wachstumsprozess durchlaufen, deren Bevölkerung aber nur noch langsam wächst; und die reifen, alternen Städte mit mäßigem Wachstum. In einem globalen Netzwerk könnten all diese Abziehbildchen voneinander lernen und so Glück und

Frieden über ihre BewohnerInnen ausschütten, jedenfalls dann, wenn sie bereit sind, „empirica“ und der Bundesregierung zu glauben und folgen. mit Beiträgen von Ulrich Brand, Frankfurt; Neil Brenner, New York; Sue Ruddick, Toronto; John Friedmann, Melbourne; Maria Mies, Köln; Marlene Zlonicky, Berlin; Bob Jessop, Lancaster; Neil Smith, New York.

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