SWEDEN BELIEVES IN HARMONIOUS CITIES

Sweden demonstrated a true commitment to the fourth World Urban Forum in Nanjing by sending a delegation of more than 200 people from national government, municipalities, government agencies, universities and the private sector. With its large delegation and active contributions to the Forum, “Team Sweden” was one of the most recognised participants, as was the Swedish Centre which was crowded with visitors throughout from the first to the last day of the Forum.

The broad Swedish participation demonstrated a strong commitment from a wide variety of sectors to engage in urban development; an excellent practical example of the Swedish Policy for Global Development. Perhaps this is an expression of the increased coherence in the Swedish work for urban development.

At the third World Urban Forum in Vancouver 2006, Sweden was one of the pioneers in highlighting the connection between climate change and urban development. Now in Nanjing two years later, this was one of the central themes. It was also evident that different countries to a higher extent face similar challenges. This makes it even more urgent to exchange experiences in an international context, and make use of Sweden’s high credibility in the field of sustainable urban development.

In 2010, Sweden will be participating in the Shanghai Expo where urban issues will be highlighted for a period of six months. In the same year, Rio de Janeiro hosts the next World Urban Forum.

Decisive action is required to face our urban future. We hope that this report, documenting the Swedish participation at WUF 4, will give evidence that “Team Sweden” is ready to take on the challenges.

The report is based on statements and inputs given by Swedish actors who participated at WUF 4, and whom we wish to thank for their successful contribution.

Ola Göransson,
Senior Officer at the Ministry of the Environment

Olov Schultz
International Affairs, National Board of Housing, Building and Planning

Thomas Melin
Lead Urban Specialist at Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Every other year the World Urban Forum (WUF) gathers thousands of development actors to share experiences on topics related to urban development. The Forum attracts actors from all levels of government, private sector, NGOs and civil society. The forum is organised jointly by UN-HABITAT and a nation and has been arranged every second year in Nairobi, Barcelona, Vancouver and 2008 in Nanjing, China.

WUF has increased in popularity over the years and with its 13,000 registered participants, Nanjing was the most visited WUF ever. The 2008 visitor could choose between well over 300 organised meetings and network formations on a wide variety of themes with urban development as the common factor.

The theme of WUF 4 was ‘harmonious urbanisation – the challenge of balanced territorial development’. Harmony is a traditional Chinese concept of balance (yin and yang) and to some extent Harmonious Urbanisation is similar to the sustainability concept.

**THE SIX FOCUS AREAS**

The main theme of WUF 4, ‘Harmonious Urbanisation: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development’, was supported by six sub-themes that provided the main focus of the Forum and were debated in the six thematic dialogue sessions described below. The sessions brought together high profile experts while engaging participants from the audience.

**SPATIAL HARMONY – TERRITORIAL BALANCE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Panellists examined the role of planning in sustainable and harmonious development. Recent developments in spatial planning were examined in the context of new issues highlighted in UN-HABITAT’s report, The State of the World’s Cities. Using case studies, the panel discussed how territorial and regional planning can work in the future with the growing engagement of civil society and the emergence of an international dimension to planning.
In China, environmental problems in mega cities are much severer in than in other countries. One reason is that we have much fewer resources per capita. In addition, in other countries, environmental problems occurred after urbanisation while in China, they are concurring at the same time, making it worse.

DR. HE JIANQING
China National Engineering Research Center for Human Settlements

SOCIAL HARMONY – PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

This dialogue contributed to the global debate on socially harmonious cities by creating a forum for citizens’ representatives, local and central authorities, researchers and professionals across the world. It will encourage debate on the following three themes: Pro poor land rights versus unlawful forced evictions; Adequate housing for all versus exclusive housing markets; City-wide basic service provision versus service-deprived neighbourhoods. The dialogue explored the strengths and weaknesses of approaches related to the above themes with the aim of identifying potential innovations. Mr Anders Knape, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities was one of the speakers.

ECONOMIC HARMONY – MAKING CITIES PRODUCTIVE AND EQUITABLE

Many cities around the world are faced with an urban paradox: on the one hand, they are the driving force of national economic development; on the other, they are centres of increasing poverty, inequality and unemployment. The panellists discussed the best options for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and looked at the best ways, including public-private partnerships, of generating employment, providing better services and financing sustainable cities.

ENVIRONMENTAL HARMONY – HARMONISING THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Some cities are significant consumers of energy and emit excessive amounts of greenhouse gases from production, heating and transportation. The Dialogue shared the experiences of selected cities to showcase innovative ways of preventing and mitigating adverse effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in a way that includes the urban poor in the debate. The special focus was on climate change, energy efficiency and environmental conservation. Mr Henrik Johansson, Environment Controller at Växjö municipality was one of the speakers.
CULTURAL HARMONY – PRESERVING THE HISTORICAL ROOTS AND SOUL OF THE CITY

Cities are the hub of knowledge, art and culture, setting virtually every trend. This dialogue examined ways of preserving the cultural heritage in an urbanising world where we have to allocate new investments for regeneration, increased productivity and improved welfare. Participants included leading national and local government representatives, developers, planners and historians. The panellists consisting of ministers, mayors, architects, developers discussed the multidimensional role heritage plays in a sustainable urban development. Ms Inger Liliequist, Director General of the Swedish National Heritage Board, was one of the especially invited panellists.

A city for all generations

Bridging age gaps and finding ways of harmonising the interests, beliefs, and views of all generations is a hot topic. Inequities and social exclusion need to be dealt with on the basis of age and gender. The goal of inter-generational harmony will remain a challenge unless these key issues are addressed.

The exhibition

A 12,000 square meters exhibition hall was open to Forum participants and the general public. The exhibition was divided in two sections, a general exhibition, and a business expo. The general exhibition showcased cities, highlighted programmes, initiatives, partnerships and solutions dedicated to addressing the challenges of sustainability. Country pavilions and other levels of government presented programmes for cities at both national and international levels, and UN agencies profiled their work with cities globally. Non-governmental organisations also promoted their roles in urban sustainability. The business expo was reserved for the private sector, which showcased work related to sustainable cities and slum redevelopment.

Nanjing – HOST CITY OF WUF 4

Nanjing is the capital of the Jiangsu Province and has a vibrant economy with a strong private sector. Jiangsu Province pursues rapid economic growth through science and technology advancement. The province is also a flagship for the country’s green development. This city of over 6 million people is a blend of modern and traditional. Nanjing has had a long and, at times, violent history. In recent years, it has seen rapid development, from the metro system that opened in 2007 to the numerous new skyscrapers that dot the city. Foreign investment has attracted many large international companies, and with its multitude of schools and universities Nanjing is now flush with restaurants, shops and a variety of entertainment options.
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
CHALLENGES IN CHINA
AND GLOBALLY

Since China’s economic liberalisation in the 1990s, urbanisation has been the strategy to boost economic growth and the shaping of a new society. Of all the countries in Asia, China faces the most rapid urban growth and is forecast to be 70 per cent urban by 2050. Today almost 600 million people live in Chinese cities, which are growing at a rate of over 10 million people a year. In addition, China has a steadily growing “floating population” of 150–200 million illegal migrants who seek their luck in the cities. Due to their status as rural citizens, they are denied public services by the city and are thus predestined to very poor living conditions.

The floating population in China faces similar challenges as people living in informal settlements throughout the world; challenges that are faced every week by another three or so million people worldwide as this is the urbanisation rate of cities in the developing world, and the vast majority of new urban dwellers end up living in slums.

With the current trends in population and urban growth coupled with limited actions for improving existing slums and few and insufficient actions to counteract the emergence of new slums, development in many cities will be a far cry from anything resembles harmonious or sustainable development. Unless strategic action is taken by national governments, a majority of the world’s population will soon be living in conditions that will be difficult to defend from a human rights and sustainable development perspective.
Sweden demonstrated a true commitment to urban development issues by sending a delegation of more than 200 people from national government, municipalities, government agencies and universities. With its large delegation and active contributions to the Forum, “Team Sweden” was one of the most recognised participants. In addition to participating in seminars, meetings and network events, Sweden also organised a large exhibition in the international WUF exhibition hall of 12,000 square meters. The Swedish exhibition was one of the largest and most visited booths. As well as their eye catching different visions of sustainable development, the team also invited visitors to produce badges with their own ideas on urban development needs, which turned out to be immensely popular.

FROM NANJING TO RIO DE JANEIRO
Sweden has applied a sustainable development approach to urban development and planning for around three decades. Recently, the Swedish government appointed a delegation for sustainable cities, who will be responsible for the implementation of measures that contribute to the development of sustainable cities in Sweden and globally\(^1\). The delegation stimulates long-term well-functioning and attractive city environments where high quality of life goes hand in hand with a better environment, economic growth, social cohesion and a reduced climate impact. Measures will involve e.g. promotion of international cooperation, capacity development, and knowledge sharing about best practices on integrated planning and the use of environmental technology. The delegation also manages a special investment support for building sustainable cities.

Through this and other initiatives, the Swedish government seeks to contribute to diminished climate impact and increased quality of life in cities.

Swedish Minister for the Environment, Andreas Carlgren, summarised the Swedish ambition in one of the main pamphlets by say-

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Our experience is that cities when well planned and managed are keys to a qualitative life for their citizens but also for tackling climate change. The Swedish Policy for Global Development therefore highlights sustainable urban development as one prioritised area.

The Swedish Trade Council is another actor that promotes Swedish urban know-how and environment technology to both industrialised and developing nations through the SymbioCity-concept.

**THE SWEDISH CENTRE**

In the WUF 4 exhibition hall, the booth of the Swedish Centre was designed as an open square. A roundtable illustrated one important planning tool. Twelve pivoting screens were placed in a diagonal to create smaller and bigger corners for different events and to give a frontside feel to all exhibitors. One side provided space for discussion around a bar, while one of the pylons contained a rostrum that functioned as a Speakers’ Corner. The other side was circled round a roundtable, symbolising an important planning tool in the Swedish planning tradition. A black and white floor was a playful
I think we should integrate different people in the process of urban development, especially the poor people migrating from rural to urban areas. Assistance should be given to develop social welfare and social infrastructure for these people.

SUSAN NUSSU
Ukerewe District Council, Muranza, Tanzania

SUSTAINABILITY BY SWEDEN

The Sustainable City concept was developed by SWECO for the 2002 World Summit of Sustainable Development in Johannesburg on behalf of the Swedish Government. The overall objective was to promote a sustainable development of cities, in economic, social, ecological and spatial dimensions. In a sustainable city, the use of renewable resources is emphasised, resource consumption is minimised and resources are managed in a way that maximises recovery and reuse. New system solutions provide scope for synergies between sewage, waste and energy production and enable coordination with efficient land use, landscape planning and transport systems. This is illustrated by the eco-cycle model which is essential for a definitive shift from linear to circular resource flows.

The Swedish Trade Council promotes Swedish urban know-how and environment technology to both industrialised and developing nations through the SymbioCity concept. SymbioCity is the brand that reflects all knowledge and experience in regard to the Swedish approach to sustainability. Several hundred Swedish consultants, contractors and system suppliers are organised in various networks, dedicated to spreading the vision of sustainable urbanism and making the distance to implementation as short as possible. SymbioCity promotes holistic and sustainable urban development – finding potential synergies in urban functions and unlocking their efficiency and profitabillity.

Based on the Sustainable City concept, Sida has developed a manual for sustainable city planning with the belief that it may form a starting point for further development of methods and tools aiming at sustainable urban development in developing and transition countries. The manual in its current form is to be regarded as a working draft and is being tested during 2008 – 2009 in pilot cities of different character; in Skopje in Macedonia, and in Visakhapatnam in India, after which the intention is to adjust the concept and publish an updated version of the manual.
All in all there were 18 exhibits at the Swedish Centre representing government, local authorities, universities and the private sector.

The Swedish Government
The Swedish Government is actively promoting sustainable urban development and combating many dimensions of exclusion with particular focus on urban areas most seriously affected by exclusion. The Swedish government supports the notion that cities are important places for economic growth and social cohesion, participation and partnership.

Caofeidian by SWECO
Urban development expertise and clean-tech have become important parts of bilateral cooperation. The Swedish Government has recently appointed a high-level coordinator to assist in realising the agreements between Sweden and China in this field. The aim is to assist Chinese authorities and companies in finding sustainable solutions that can relieve the pressure on the country’s congested and polluted mega-cities. The municipality of Tangshan, east of Beijing will soon be home to a new ecological city with half a million inhabitants. The Swedish city of Malmö has signed an economic cooperation agreement with the city of Tangshan and the Swedish technology consultant SWECO has been engaged for a series of projects to ensure that environmental aspects are taken into consideration within the city’s design.

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning exposed its dialogue project “Building-Living and Property Management for the future”, which is a unique form of cooperation between companies, municipalities, national and local authorities, and the Government. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) is the central government agency for planning, the management of land and water resources, urban development, building and housing and comes under the Ministry of the Environment. By participating in the Building-Living Dia-
WE NEED PURE WATER
in Sierra Leone.

Thanks, Ula Matu I. Kangbo
Housekeeper
When the world converges on Nanjing, the global urban population will have passed the half way mark and more people will be living in cities than in rural areas. In this era of rapid urbanisation, compounded by the complexities of climate change, we look forward to a stimulating exchange of ideas on how best to make the process of urbanisation more harmonious and less divisive.

Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

Dialogue created by the Board, those involved seek to reach beyond the limits laid out in laws and regulations. The common goal is a sustainable building and property sector before 2025, i.e. within one generation, primarily in three prioritised areas: the indoor environment, the use of energy and the use of natural resources.

The Royal Institute of Technology
The Stockholm Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) introduced its School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE). With its seven departments, ABE offers a host of educational programmes on sustainable urban development and also conducts world-leading research. KTH was the coordinator of the Cities Beyond Oils international students competition, displayed at WUF4.

The Swedish Trade Council
The Swedish Trade Council promotes Swedish urban know-how and environment technology to both industrialised and developing nations through the SymbioCity concept, a brand that reflects all knowledge and experience in regard to the Swedish approach to sustainability. Several hundred Swedish consultants, contractors and system suppliers are organised in various networks, dedicated to spreading the vision of sustainable urbanism and making the distance to implementation as short as possible.

The Swedish National Heritage Board
The Swedish National Heritage Board is the governmental agency responsible for heritage and historical environment issues. One of the Board’s primary tasks is to empower heritage as a force in the evolution of a democratic and sustainable society.

Province of Västra Götaland
One and a half million people of some 130 nationalities (17 per cent of the Swedish population) live in the province of Västra Götaland. Its decision-making body, the political council is responsible for health care,
creating the best conditions for business development, infrastructure, culture, tourism and environmental issues such as making the region less dependent on carbon. The province Västra Götaland has a strong focus on sustainable development and energy efficient constructions such as passive houses.

**The Stockholm International Water Institute**  
The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is a policy institute that seeks sustainable solutions to the world’s escalating water crisis. SIWI manages projects, syntheses research and publishes findings and recommendations on current and future water, environment, governance and human development issues. SIWI serves as a platform for knowledge sharing and networking between the scientific, business, policy and civil society communities.

**The Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research**  
The Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra), supports a range of sustainable development initiatives by funding strong groups in the research community that contribute to solving major environmental problems, in collaboration with the world of real action and practical application.  
Mistra invests some SEK 200 million in research annually. Although most of this funding goes to the main Mistra research programmes, some funds known as “Mistra seed funding”, are earmarked for small project groups.

**The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas)**  
The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning is a governmental research-funding agen-
cy. Formas encourages and supports scientifically significant basic and applied research related to sustainable development. Formas also provides mechanisms for the communication of research results and stimulates the public debate on issues of concern.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Sida is a government agency supporting activities globally in 120 countries. Sida operates through some 1,500 cooperation partners such as companies, popular movements, organisations, universities and government agencies. Sida’s policy team Sustainable Services promote poverty alleviation in urban and peri-urban areas by providing advice on e.g. integrated urban development, urban planning systems, democratic governance, urban infrastructure (housing finance systems, etc). The multisectorial aspect of urbanisation is emphasised.

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and its cooperating university, Nanjing Forestry University, focus on the challenge of implementing a sustainable urban structure in the partnership between society, industry and commerce.

Housing Development & Management – Lund University
Housing Development & Management (HDM) is a department at the Faculty of Engineering, Lund University. HDM offers international training programmes and institutional capacity strengthening in the field of housing and urban planning and focuses on the topic of improving the living conditions of the poor in the urban areas of developing countries through improved shelter and access to urban services. HDM staff members have over 30 years experience in working with harmonious shelter and urban development.

Our future is in many respects urban. This development generates economic growth, social development and great opportunities for a large part of the world’s population. But it also poses enormous challenges. How cities are built and managed will have a large impact, not only on the environment and the quality of life for their citizens, but also on the long term possibilities for tackling climate change.

ANDREAS CARLGREN
Minister for the Environment, the Government of Sweden
The City of Malmö
The City of Malmö is Sweden’s third largest city with 277,000 inhabitants. The city has a worldwide reputation for working actively and successfully with sustainable city development using an holistic approach. Malmö was mentioned in the Worldwatch institute’s State of the World last year for being one of the most sustainable cities in the world, and the city also received a Global community award for being the world’s most liveable community for its size. The Skåne province, in which Malmö is located, has a strong focus on sustainable development and energy efficient constructions such as passive houses.

Swedish municipalities and authorities – Planning and building liveable cities
A number of Swedish authorities and municipalities presented an idea on how to achieve spatially harmonious cities through urban development and transport strategies integrated with regional development policies. The exposition suggested planning and building liveable cities through democratic planning methods, integrated transport and urban planning, and integrated planning with national, regional and local actors. Participating actors included the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, the municipalities of Jönköping, Norrköping and Uppsala, the Swedish Road Administration, the Swedish Rail Administration, and the National Board of Housing Building and Planning.

Blekinge Institute of Technology
Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) is a profiled institute in Sweden, with a focus on applied information technology, IT and the sustainable development of industry and society. BTH has also been granted the right to award MScEng degrees. Some 25 per cent of the full-time students are from other parts of the world, the majority from Asia and Africa. The five-year master programme in Spatial Planning provides the most extensive education of its kind in Sweden, and its interdisciplinary approach is unique. Students are trained in urban planning and design and to develop a comprehensive knowledge of adapting the environment to human needs.

“In poor countries, I think we should pay attention to people migrating from countryside to the city. When a city grows, the need for water, sanitation, electricity and change of lifestyle also grow. We should be aware that local development also affects national GDP. Sometimes, the central authority is not honest and their planning cannot be implemented.”

MADHURA KARUI
Institute of Engineering, Kathmandu, Nepal
The numerous network events, seminars, meetings and other sessions arranged at WUF 4 were linked to one or several of the WUF 4 sub-themes.

**Spatial Harmony – Territorial Balance in Urban Development**

*Hosted by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL)*

This event focused on the interaction between activities on local and national level relating to physical planning, urbanisation and transport planning. The main issues addressed included means of establishing coordinated visions for development from a holistic perspective; the need for rethinking the traditional planning process to be more integrated; establishing collaboration between various actors and stakeholders early in the planning process, and the importance of coordinated implementation strategies.

Comments from the audience included how to establish a long term political commitment (on both national and local level); how to ensure public participation in the planning process; cooperation between public and private sector planning/development interventions and coordination between different actors. Discussions lingered on various alternative public transport systems such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Personal Rapid Transit (PRT).

**Making Sustainability Reality**

*Hosted by the City of Malmö*

At this session the audience learned how a city that was previously based on the industrial economy has transformed into a more service-based and administrative city; with emphasis on the transformation of industrial areas into housing areas. As a part of the transformation process, Malmö has addressed social aspects of development in both existing and newly planned areas, and demonstrated how environmental and ecological issues can be integrated into the development and transformation process. Awareness-raising and involvement of the
URBAN REQUESTS...

I want people to wear helmets when they ride motorcycles.

No violence against women.

I want a clean city. No one should throw garbage in the streets.

Cultural exchange between Africa and the rest of the world.

We need playgrounds away from cars and they must be new ones. Then our children will play.

Better safety for old people.

Tania, Moureu

Philippe

Lucia Nhambudzai

Dalia I.
communities was stressed as a vital part of the development process of becoming sustainable and a number of examples were provided on how to reach out to the communities.

**OPPORTUNITIES AND EMERGING SOLUTIONS IN INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**
Hosted by Sida

Sida’s Network Event on integrated planning provided experiences and examples of best practices related to integrated urban development planning as carried out by cities in Sweden, South Africa and India. All presentations at the event revealed cities that have moved from traditional land use planning to engagement in a comprehensive and inclusive planning processes. Public participation is central and environmental and climate aspects are increasingly integrated in all cities. Innovative solutions were showcased where planning and housing projects were taken to a new level adjusted to local needs while contributing to sustainable development and adapting to climate change.

The event received much attention and the questions from the audience related to how similar projects as the ones presented could be developed elsewhere; what are the incentives for local governments and cities; which finance mechanisms may be used; how to manage public participation successfully; and how to ensure that developers comply with eco-friendly requirements.

**STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVED GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL SAFETY**
Hosted by the European Forum for Urban Safety

Issues that underlie crime, victimisation and lack of social harmony are interrelated and require a coordinated inclusive response. Good governance for safer cities for girls, boys, women and men requires engagement of partners, sound analysis, and planning, which together lay the foundation for multisectoral work. Taking into account the diversity of national and local contexts, effective practices have been identified to guide policymakers and practitioners through this critical process.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF VISION-BASED PLANNING**

Many cities in low and middle income countries lack good urban governance, efficient financial management and planning control whereas politicians, governmental officials and planners face huge challenges in accommodating people and resources in a sustainable way while alleviating poverty. In many countries it is necessary to promote a more vision-based and integrated approach to governance, planning and financial management. As opposed to traditional master planning that is limited by the spatial approach, an integrated urban planning process would incorporate environmental, social and technological aspects of a city or municipality while enabling public participation. An integrated and strategic planning approach should further be connected with a demand-driven planning system that is directly related to financial management and implementation, as well as contributing to strengthened institutional capacities.
SOCIAL HARMONY – PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

DISCOVERING A HIDDEN COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE IN SOCIAL HOUSING
Hosted by the Swedish Cooperative Centre
Housing improvement is crucial, yet large groups do not have housing that can be improved, including tenants and people with insecure tenure. For these groups, new construction is needed, which requires new financial solutions that can be achieved through a pro-poor mortgage solution where a housing cooperative stands as the legal owner of the entire housing stock, thus providing cooperative members with a safer tenure and lenders, and safer payback. The session discussed the cooperative option and presented a pilot project in Nicaragua and El Salvador showing how poor people, when offered accessible financial conditions, can solve their housing needs and pay back 100 per cent of the construction costs.

HARMONIOUS SHELTER AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Hosted by Housing Development and Management, Lund University
What kind and level of expertise is needed to achieve harmonious shelter and urban development? What is the need of international and regional capacity development for the professionals working with shelter and urban planning at local government level in cities of 1–5 million inhabitants, in order to achieve spatially and environmentally sustainable development? A moderated expert panel debate with public interaction focused on adequate shelter through the sustainable social, economic and environmental development of cities. The panel included mayors successful in harmonising shelter and urban development in their cities in Africa and Asia as well as international experts.

HOUSING FINANCE: INNOVATIONS FOR LAND AND SHELTER
Hosted by the Working Group for Housing Finance for the Poor, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), with the participation from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
This session brought together experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America and presented innovative examples that have enabled poor people to access affordable and scalable housing and services. The discussion panel featured testimonies from households and the institutions that have been instrumental in providing increased access to shelter. The audience learned firsthand how bottlenecks in the housing value

“Disaster Risk Reduction, planning and preparedness is not a luxury but a way to save resources and lives!”

WUF PARTICIPANT
chain have been tackled in different contexts; the factors that have determined success, things that have been less successful, and the challenges that remain.

**SLUM DWELLERS INTERNATIONAL URBAN POOR FUND**

Hosted by Slum Dwellers International, with the participation of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

This session showcased several city or country experiences in which grassroots savings, geared up with people’s savings and with capital from the global Fund, have enabled slum dwellers to negotiate access to land, basic services and housing opportunities. The experiences revealed that the poor had become central actors in citywide development strategies or policy frameworks, pushing forward sustainable, affordable, and multi-stakeholder alternatives to forced evictions or to developments that further marginalise the urban poor. Panellists included national ministers, mayors, city managers, and slum dwellers’ federation leaders from countries where SDI has a presence.

**ACHIEVING EQUITY:**

**TENURE AND SERVICES FOR ALL**

Hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Half the world’s population live in urban areas and one third, almost 1 billion, are desperately poor and live in settlements without access to adequate water and sanitation. This session showed research projects to highlight examples of effective interventions that have achieved greater equity in cities, particularly in terms of secure tenure, and access to water and sanitation. The presentations drew on experiences in Central America, India and Kenya.

**SLUM UPGRADEING:**

**COMMUNITY-LED INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE FACILITY (CLIFF) – THE GREAT DEBATE III**

Hosted by Homeless International and Sida

In order to facilitate access to adequate housing and infrastructure for and with the urban poor, and to create more equitable and socially harmonious cities – government support in terms of policy and legislation along with human and financial resources, is vital. This session gener-
MORE SPACES FOR SPORTS

Reynaldo Conde
ated a debate on the critical issue of “what’s really stopping government from investing more resources and capacity in improving the lives of slum dwellers and providing adequate alternatives to new slum formation”. The question was explored through a panel presenting their views and drawing on experience of implementing the Community-Led Infrastructure Finance Facility (CLIFF), after which a debate opened up.

HOUSING FINANCE:
INNOVATIONS FOR LAND AND SHELTER
Hosted by Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) and Sida
The CGAP working group held a Network event bringing together experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America on innovative examples that have enabled the poor to access affordable and scalable land, housing and services. The event featured testimonies from households and finance institutions that have been instrumental in providing increased access to shelter. The audience learned first-hand how bottlenecks in the housing value chain have been tackled in different contexts; the factors that have determined success, things that have been less successful and the challenges that remain.

ECONOMIC HARMONY – MAKING CITIES PRODUCTIVE AND EQUITABLE
THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN HOUSING FINANCE SYSTEMS: THE SUB-PRIME MORTGAGE CRISIS IMPLICATIONS, LESSONS AND OPTIONS
Hosted by the Swedish government
This special session discussed the current housing finance crisis and its impacts on the global housing sector and affordable housing and economy. It examined the underlying factors and evolution of the sub-prime crisis and its spreading, as well as the major players in the crisis, particularly the role of government, government-sponsored enterprises and specialised housing finance institutions, and innovative funding instruments. The Swedish experience from housing finance crisis and the Swedish policy for assisting a sustainable financial market development were described by Mr Dan Ericsson, State Secretary from the Ministry of Finance. He pointed at three major issues to be solved: A more transparent system to evaluate risk; “social housing” should be directly supported through the social security system

I think the most important thing is to determine the real concerns of the poor. People must be given opportunities to improve their living conditions, and obstacles must be removed.

GORAN TANNERFELDT
Senior Advisor of Urban Development
One of the authors of More Urban, Less Poor
FOTO: GLOBAL REPORTING
and not through high governmental subsidies to the construction and housing sector; and a system change is necessary from government building regulations to market-regulated codes and standards.

**FINANCING WATER AND SANITATION IN ASIAN CITIES**

Hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the participation of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

This session discussed the latest trends in meeting the huge investment requirements for urban water and sanitation in Asian cities. The session focused on the new frontiers of water financing in selected Asian countries. It is particularly interesting to note that more efforts are being made by international development agencies to promote private investments and non-sovereign lending in financing of urban waste and sanitation. On the other hand, the public-public partnership is gaining new interest by the region’s utilities. Innovative ways of financing water and sanitation is therefore a continuous challenge to all involved in the sector.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HARMONY – HARMONISING THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS**

**CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: FROM BALI TO COPENHAGEN**

Hosted by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

A new agreement for the fight against climate change is to be signed by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen and will be come into force on January 1, 2013. The stakes are high: the new agreement has to reconcile essential developmental requirements with those of the fight against climate change. At this session, UNEP brought together a range of leading experts to actively discuss the role of local governments in the new agreement. This session focused on the need for local governments (LGs) to be recognised actors in climate change adoption, stressing that the LGs’ role in the post 2012 climate agreement needs to be pinned down on a roadmap so that they can be mobilised. The meeting agreed on the importance of clarifying the different roles to be headed by

*People don’t see that housing is a human right. The dominant paradigm is usually that housing is a commodity. But adequate housing is an enter point for individuals' economic, social and human development in urbanisation.*

**RAQUEL ROLNIK**

United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing

FOTO: GLOBAL REPORTING
different government levels. National governments would for example need to take the lead and provide LGs with a mandate and support them with institutional, regulatory and financial frameworks. Norway was referred to as an example where the national government has made it compulsory for LGs to include climate change adaptation in their local development plans, along with innovative ways of mobilising finance and technological solutions.

CITIES BEYOND OIL
Hosted by the Swedish Ministry of the Environment / The Royal Institute of Technology
This event presented seven Chinese and Swedish contributions in the student competition Beyond Oil. The competition aimed at finding alternative solutions and strategies to make our cities more energy efficient and less dependent on oil (fossil fuels). The competition was launched during World Urban Forum III in Vancouver and invited the main academic institutions in Sweden and China. The entries of the competition were published in a book. Still being a student based-activity, the competition seemed to be very successful in identifying areas and raising a discussion on some of the alternatives available to transform our cities to being less dependent on fossil fuels, while also discussing social, economic and spatial dimensions to development.

CITIES AND THE POST-KYOTO AGENDA
Hosted by ADB and Sida
This session reviewed the efficiency of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and discussed a new approach to climate change assessment, finance options for climate change investments, energy efficiency initiatives and urban transport. The CDM was an important feature of the negotiations leading up to the Kyoto Protocol, however its efficiency has been debated and ADB have analysed the CDM and its role in promoting systemic change. The presentation revealed that ADB had found CDMs utility in this role to be marginal and the audience could learn about the approaches formulated to rectify the situation, which will be incorporated in the negotiations for a Post-Kyoto GHG regime.

Sida presented some Swedish experiences from dealing with sustainability aspects in municipal development. The examples of Hammarby Sjöstad’s environmental targets were presented together with the government subsidies for stimulating environmental innovative solutions through the Local Investment Programme (LIP) and Climate Change Investment Programme (KLIMP). The Sida supported Sustainable City concept and guide were also displayed.

BUILDING-LIVING AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE
Hosted by the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
The dialogue project Building-Living and Property Management for the future, called the Building-Living Dialogue, is a unique form of cooperation between Swedish companies, municipalities, national and local authorities, and the government. Those involved seek to reach beyond the limits laid out in laws and regulations to achieve a sustainable building and property sector before 2025 in three prioritised areas: the indoor environment, the use of energy and the use of natural resources. This session explained how the Building-Living Dialogue works.
Firstly, financing, planning and the will of political leaders is very important. Secondly, urban land consolidation, that is to say not only to use the land for housing but also for financing.

ADDRESSING URBAN RISK IN AFRICA – LOCAL PERSPECTIVES
Hosted by the African Urban Risk Analysis Network and ProVention Consortium
Urban Africa is prone to a multitude of risks triggered by environmental, technological, socio-economic and politically induced hazards, at the same time as there is a lack of disaster risk reduction in policy, planning and practice. Disasters are often the result of different factors and may be small, large, sudden or slow on-sets. At this session the presenters and the audience discussed how to push for action to get authorities and organisations to acknowledge the severity of risks and consequences of hazards in urban areas. One idea was to develop indicators for when hazards result in a disaster, which may contribute to more attention being paid in due time. The need of integrating disaster risk reduction measures in strategic and integrated planning processes and plans was highlighted, along with the need to consider urban and rural links.

WATER AND SANITATION FOR DEVELOPING CLEAN AND HEALTHY CITIES
Hosted by SIWI and Sida
This seminar presented the findings of the multiple workshops and seminars at the 2008 World Water Week in Stockholm (August 2008). Presentations and discussions focused on how planning in growing cities, particularly in developing countries, can be carried out to make sanitation, stormwater, solid waste, water supply and other infrastructure systems energy efficient and guarantee quality environmental conditions. The session presented strategic approaches to addressing the critical lack of access to sanitation in slums and integrated policy options to improve infrastructure and adapt to changes in hydrological variability and catastrophic weather incidents.

LEARNING CITIES – INTERACTIVE RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING PLATFORMS
Hosted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra)
Research and capacity building are key to tackling urban challenges ahead. However, a lot of existing know-what, know-how and know-why is not used in everyday operation. There is an urgent need for more policy relevant urban research and more knowledge-based urban development. This session invited practitioners,
researchers and policymakers to a discussion on new modes of operation in knowledge production and mutual learning, corresponding better to the needs of people responsible for urban action. The discussion was illustrated by presentations of existing interaction platforms for urban research and innovation.

CULTURAL HARMONY – PRESERVING THE HISTORICAL ROOTS AND SOUL OF THE CITY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND URBAN REGENERATION
Hosted by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

A panel discussed the important role of historic preservation in urban regeneration and providing affordable housing in inner cities. The cases and lessons in this panel covered culture balance, financial feasibility, social harmony, and economic sustainability. The event focused on three areas: 1) policy comparisons among cities in developed and developing countries; 2) effective public and private partnership cases; and 3) Strategic and sustainable urban redevelopment.

A CITY FOR ALL GENERATIONS

As part of WUF 4, a World Urban Youth Forum was held – which called for more inclusion of young people in decision making.

The Youth Forum was hosted by the Nanjing Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Youth League, and gathered more than 500 youth activists from over 50 countries worldwide in Nanjing. This year, youth delegates discussed the theme, “Harmonious Urbanisation: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development.” The most challenging issue for the future will be providing housing in cities. Lack of land and construction projects in urban areas are turning into major problems for the present urban population, and in-mov- ing people from rural areas, predominantly young people. The World Urban Youth Forum in Nanjing, China, treated these issues with gravity.

PREVENTING AND MITIGATING HIV/AIDS IN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT
Hosted by ADB and Sida

ADB, Sida and CityNet jointly organised an event on the HIV and AIDS response in Asia where the main message to the conference was that local government should take a greater responsibility for a broad-based approach to addressing the HIV and AIDS problem which goes beyond the health sector. The HIV and AIDS prevalence is rising in Asia where an estimated 5 million are infected, particularly among sex workers and their clients, drug users, and men having sex with men. Behaviour changes among individuals are needed but are not enough. Awareness rising among decision makers in local government and local communities are needed. The event came up with a

TRAINING POSSIBILITIES

A number of trainings were arranged at the WUF 4. Participants were able to attend courses in a broad range of subjects from local climate action to participatory governance processes and technical/financial/administrative aspects.
number of recommendations including mapping good practices of HIV responses in urban settings, and that HIV and AIDS issues need to be integrated into existing tools and methodologies for urban development. The event further gave important ideas to be applied in the joint Sida-ADB trust fund for combating the endemic in Asia.

**HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLES**

As well as being a forum where professionals come together to share ideas, WUF is also an opportunity for high-level profiles to meet and discuss policy issues. High-level discussions were held through mayors’ and minister’s roundtables.

**MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE**

At the roundtable a number of issues and experiences were addressed by the ministers. The vital role of local government for sustainable urban development was mentioned. Several countries also raised the current global financial crisis and the expected adverse effects on the urban poor. The Ministerial Roundtable had five main objectives: 1 to make recommendations to the UN-HABITAT Governing Council; 2 to provide practical and concrete recommendations to regional groups such as the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Housing and Urban Development; 3 to present specific recommendations to UN-HABITAT to strengthen the normative capacity of the agency; 4 to provide specific recommendations to bilateral agencies and partners that support technical cooperation at country level to harmonise urbanisation, 5 to advance the national and local implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promote harmonious cities. In her intervention, Ms. Elisabet Falémo, State Secretary of the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, highlighted the connections between sustainable urban development and the fight against poverty and climate change. Citing examples from Swedish experience, she maintained that it is possible to decouple economic growth from increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and that integrated urban planning and the use of environmental technology has much to do with this development.

**MAYORS ROUNDTABLE**

Hosted by United Cities and Local Governments and the Chinese Mayors’ Association, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT

The Mayors’ Roundtable built on the momentum gathered by the local authorities’ movement around the world and discussed the role
of cities and city managers in assisting national government in the search for “harmonious urbanisation”. The event emphasised the important contribution made by local authorities to ensure harmonious urbanisation, based on the fact that if local authorities were responsible for implementing policies in order to respond to the changing conditions in increasingly multicultural societies then they must be internationally recognised and nationally empowered to create an environment that is conducive to sustainable development for all.

Anders Knape, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities participated in the roundtable discussion along with Mr Dan Ericsson, State Secretary from the Swedish Ministry of Finance.

PRIVATE SECTOR EVENTS – BUSINESS SOLUTIONS FOR HARMONIOUS CITIES

WUF 4 also held business events for business owners, managers, purchasing agents, salespeople, human resource managers, CEOs and all decision-makers from small to large companies, including urban professionals, civil society organisations and research partners working towards better cities with the business community. The Business Expo was open to all private sector companies from China and countries from all over the world to show products and services for sustainable cities. The Private Sector Consultation Meeting on corporate responsibility for harmonious cities, consisted of private sector companies committed to corporate responsibility, improving living conditions and achieving harmonious cities and who are incorporating these goals in their business activities.
A WORKING ELECTRICITY AND WATER SYSTEM!

+ MORE TREES

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A GAZE INTO THE FUTURE OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Swedish Policy for Global Development highlights sustainable urban development as a prioritised area. The World Bank and WHO have recently published reports focusing on urban development as a key issue to face the global challenges of the planet.

How does Sweden tackle these challenges? And what is the Swedish role on the global urban development agenda? Three leading Swedish experts, attending the World Urban Forum Nanjing, give their views.

OLA GÖRANSSON
Senior Officer at the Ministry of the Environment

“It was very satisfying to see so many Swedish active partners in Nanjing from so many sectors acting as one team. I had never before experienced such coherence in the Swedish work for urban development. What we do in the UN, what we do in Sweden, the European Union and in development cooperation connect to each other and points in the same direction.”

This seems to be a global tendency. One of the most evident results of this process is that countries can learn from each other to a larger extent than before. What is done in Sweden has significance for other countries and vice versa.

There is a clear connection from the work of this Delegation to Sweden’s international engagement, specifically concerning environment technology and the climate issue.

“We nourish a hope that more sustainable cities are built and that they can serve as an inspiration, in Sweden as well as in other countries.”

“Urban development expertise and cleantech have also become important parts of bilateral cooperation. The Swedish Government has recently appointed a high level coordinator to assist in realising the agreements between Sweden and China in this field. The aim is to assist Chinese authorities and companies in finding sustainable solutions that can relieve the pressure on the country’s congested and polluted mega-cities.”

During the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council, the informal meetings of the ministers for environment, energy and competition
– important parts of the EU-presidency – will be arranged along the lines of ‘Europe towards an eco-efficient economy’.

Sustainable urban development plays an important part in this concept. One challenge is to strengthen the link between the climate issue and urban development.

“It can be done in several ways, such as the sharing of knowledge and the transferring of environment technology”, says Ola Göransson.

The single most important event of the presidency, however, will be the December climate summit in Copenhagen.

Meeting the environmental challenges is also a central part of Sweden’s Policy for Global Development. Gunilla Carlsson, the Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation, is also Chair of the International Commission on Climate Change and Development, appointed by the Government last year. The purpose of the Commission is to analyse how poor countries can cope with the consequences of climate change.

“In 2010, Sweden will participate at the Shanghai Expo, highlighting urban issues, and at WUF V being held in Rio de Janeiro. All in all, there is a lot of interesting work coming up concerning sustainable urban development.”

OLOV SCHULTZ
International Secretary at the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning

“I believe that WUF4 showed that different countries are to a higher extent facing similar problems, says Olov Schultz, International Secretary at the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket).

“Our international experience is mainly related to EC directives for the building sector and cooperation within the European Union. Urban development in other countries has mainly been Sida’s responsibility. Now, Boverket is focusing on the international arena, jointly with other Swedish stakeholders, in line with the Swedish Policy for Global Development”.

He points to Sweden as a good example of urban planning, but also mentions that there is a growing awareness among Swedes that we are living in a globalised world and that efforts to improve the quality of life need to be global.

“Globalisation has led to people from different parts of the world having a similar view on urban development, so there are good conditions to transfer knowledge and exchange experiences.”

One example close at hand is Nanjing, where Olov Schultz experienced traditional houses being bulldozed and new blocks being built.

“It reminded me a lot of Sweden in the 1960s. Hopefully, we can help China not to make the same mistakes as we did.”

Olov Schultz believes that the process of making good urban environments will be a major issue in the future.

“The possibility for people to influence their living is essential, and this is just as valid for well-off people as those living in slums. The concept of housing includes so much more than just staying in a home, people also need to be active citizens, engaging in development”.

Olov Schultz argues that spaces for social and economic activities are essential for a sound urban environment. “This is well in line with the Lisbon agenda, providing the citizens space to social and enterprising activities”.

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Olov Schultz
International Secretary at the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning
THOMAS MELIN
Lead Urban Specialist at Sida

“The broad Swedish participation in Nanjing demonstrates an impressive commitment from a wide variety of Swedish sectors to engage in urban development,” says Thomas Melin, lead urban specialist at Sida. “This is indeed an excellent example of the Swedish Policy for Global Development in practice!

One Swedish key issue for the future is housing as a human right. Housing embraces a multitude of sectors; social, legal, economical as well as health and education. “I have good hope that Sweden will show that housing is not mainly a technical issue when the world gathers for the next World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in 2010”.

Sida has developed a number of tools since the 1990s within the field of housing, particularly concerning participation and financing. “The challenge is to reach the poorest and to provide them with possibilities to improve their livelihoods. We have several interesting best practices from Latin America that we now want to adapt to Africa and Asia”.

The future for urban development discourse depends on a number of factors. “One key factor is the reformation of UN-Habitat. This small UN agency has limited resources but a breathtaking mandate of assisting in the improvement of the lives of the 1.2 billion people living in urban slums. Sida hopes that the UN-Habitat reformation plan will be continuously implemented,” Mr Thomas Melin says. Another challenge for urban development is that very few countries have a national focal point for multisectorial urban development. India, China and Ethiopia are among the few countries with a minister for urban development, but usually urbanisation is not on the development countries agenda.

According to the World Bank’s Development Report 2009 – Reshaping Economic Geography, sound urban development is a condition for economic growth and it is not possible to make development “spatially balanced”, people continue to be born and also rush to the cities. The World Bank argues that efforts to spread economic growth geographically might even jeopardise economic progress. The results can however be spread. Another challenge is to make urban development inclusive, including people living in slums.

It was positive to note the acknowledging of planning as a fundamental component in the creation of sustainable cities. The documentation of Sidas planning experiences is very timely.

“In view of the massive urbanisation and the global recognition of the need for concerted action, it is indeed satisfying to view Team Sweden’s growing interest for urban matters manifested in Nanjing. Sida now has to be even more proactive in order to harbour and build on this Swedish commitment.”

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY IN THE EU COUNCIL 2009

During the latter part of 2009, Sweden will have the Presidency of the Council and lead EU’s work for six months, thus being responsible for moving developments forward on a number of important EU issues. During the Swedish presidency one of the main themes will be “Europe towards an eco-efficient economy” and, among other events, Sweden will arrange a high level conference on sustainable urban development in Stockholm and play an important role at the upcoming UN climate summit in Copenhagen.
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
The Swedish government www.sweden.gov.se/
The Swedish EU Presidency Government www.regeringen.se/sb/d/10302
Swedish Trade Council www.swedishtrade.se
The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning www.boverket.se
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency www.sida.se
The Royal Institute of Technology www.kth.se
The Swedish National Heritage Board www.raa.se
The Stockholm International Water Institute www.siwi.org
The Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research www.mistra.org
The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences www.slu.se
Housing Development & Management – Lund University www.hdm.lth.se
The City of Malmö www.malmo.se
The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions www.skl.se
The Blekinge Institute of Technology www.bth.se
Symbiocity www.symbiocity.org
Hammarby Sjöstad www.hammarbysjostad.se
Stockholm City www.stockholm.se/-/english/
The Swedish Road Administration www.vv.se
The Swedish Rail Administration www.banverket.se
The Municipality of Jönköping www.jonkoping.se
The Municipality of Norrköping www.norrkoping.se
The Municipality of Uppsala www.uppsala.se
The Municipality of Kiruna www.kiruna.se/start_en.html
The Municipality of Växjö www.vaxjo.se/english
The Swedish Energy Agency www.swedishenergyagency.se
SWECO www.sweco.se
Sida’s 10 year Programme for Integrated Urban Development in South Africa www.citiesofopportunity.com
The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning www.formas.se
Swedish municipalities and authorities - Planning and building liveable cities http://www.liveablecities.org
The Swedish Cooperative Centre www.utangranser.se
The Royal University College of Fine Arts www.kkh.se
The Swedish Institute www.si.se

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The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor’s access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development. The World Urban Forum is gathering a wide range of partners, from non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. With a large delegation to the Forum and active contributions in seminars, meetings and networking events, «Team Sweden» was one of the most recognised participants and Swedish Centre in the exhibition hall worked as a platform for visions of sustainable development.