

AGI/MN/SW/

General information

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Introduction

The First Habitat Forum of Turkey – a revitalized and enlarged version of its National Preparatory Committee for the 1996 Habitat II Conference, convened on 7-8 September, 2000 in Ankara with about 800 participants representing the full range of Habitat Partners on the invitation of Prime Ministry Housing Development Administration, which has been assigned as the focal point for the Istanbul+5 activities by the Government.

With due consideration for the Istanbul+5 preparations in the short-term, the Forum is established as a permanent platform of information exchange and follow-up activities for the Habitat Agenda and Turkey's Habitat Plan of Action.

In seven thematic workshops and two plenary sessions, the participants from government organizations, local governments, academia, private sector and NGOs reviewed the domestic status of the key issues of the Habitat Agenda and underlined problem areas and ongoing constraints and displayed best practices on a wide geographical basis.

The workshop conclusions were summarized in a 67 point final declaration, under the headings of Shelter, Social Development and Eradication of Poverty, Environmental Management, Economic Development, Governance, International Relations and Development of Partnerships, and Disaster Management. Due to devastating effects and great human suffering caused by the two major earthquakes in 1999 in Turkey, the Forum has decided to organize a workshop on disaster management, although it is not included in the country reporting format as specified by UNCHS.

As input for future action, all workshops put forth requirements for legislative changes, a need for capacity building and new institutions and the urgency of creating an environment of stronger partnerships.

To follow-up on the establishment of the proposed Habitat Regional Office in Istanbul, the initiation of Urban Observatories and the planned Housing Data Bank without further delay were stressed, followed by re-affirmed commitments from the parties concerned. Furthermore, the Forum has decided to keep in international platform the offer of the Turkish Government hosting "the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Istanbul+5" in Istanbul.

The significance of the non-governmental organizations appeared as a cross-cutting issue in all sessions and was noted as an essential element of good urban governance.

The Forum also reviewed the ongoing and ever increasing Local Agenda 21 initiatives which has just entered its second stage, bringing the number of participating cities up to 40, and discussed the potential for developing Local Habitat Agendas either as a part of or in parallel to these local commitments.

The summaries of the workshop reports are presented below. Since process of reaching agreement by all related partners on the report of the Disaster Management workshop is in progress, it is not included in this document.

Chapter One: Shelter

Question One:

Progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends, emerging issues, and major areas of concern

- The two major earthquakes that occurred on the 17th of August and 12th of November, 1999, along a 300 kilometres long corridor on the north-western regions of Turkey were the most important events since the Habitat II Conference. About 18.3 thousand people lost their lives and 200 thousand households became homeless in these earthquakes. It has been realised that many legislative and policy changes have to be made to prevent casualties in future disasters.
- An emerging need to identify shortcomings of the planning legislation and building codes against natural disasters, particularly earthquake risks and to make urgent changes.
- The requirement to review by-laws on engineering codes for designing and construction of buildings as well as on construction control, particularly in the regions that are subject to earthquake risks.
- The necessity to meet requirements of groups needing special cares (disabled persons, aged persons, children, etc.) in planning and designing of indoor and outdoor spaces of settlements.
- The need to review legislation and institutions regulating land development and removal of bottlenecks in the supply of land for lower income households.
- To review and revise state housing policies.
- To revise legislation pertaining to mortgage loans and related institutions.
- Ensuring access of lower-income groups to housing and land.
- The need for regulating unauthorised housing without enacting a new building amnesty law, but by creating a planning legislation that would cover unauthorised buildings as well.

- Revision of the legislation on building cooperatives with a view to provide their members increased guarantees.

Question Two:

Policy and legislative changes since Habitat II

- The Housing Development Administration procured a Housing Policy Development Study by using a grant from the Japanese Government secured through the World Bank.
- Suggestions made in the Housing Policy Development Study have been incorporated in reports drawn up by the 8th Five Year Development Plan Special Experts Committee. Some of these suggestions were included in the 8th Five-Year Development Plan.
- Some changes were made in the planning legislation and building regulations after the earthquakes in 1999.
- Regulations on construction of buildings in disaster areas were amended in 1998.
- A new building and construction supervision system has been created with a view to ensure safety of construction works and buildings throughout the country (2000).
- Building, housing and land taxation systems have been modified so as to reduce tax rates and new rules were brought for determining the value to be used for taxation (1999).
- Regulations on house insurance system were amended, and it has become obligatory to insure every dwelling unit against natural disasters (1999).
- A law on limiting rents was enacted as a part of the Government's program to reduce inflation. Rent increases are limited by 25 % in 2000 and 10 % in 2001 (2000).
- To accommodate approximately 800 thousand persons who become homeless as their houses have been destroyed or could not be used before repairing damages that are caused by the two earthquakes, 121 tent cities were established to meet immediate shelter needs those households. As a medium term accommodation 42 thousand prefabricated housing units were constructed under coordination of the Ministry of Public Works and Settlements by contributions made by public and private sector, and a monthly amount of TL 100 million was paid to those who did not prefer to be accommodated in temporary housing units.
- Plans have been prepared for building 40 thousand permanent housing units, together with required infrastructure, in order to make up for losses suffered by citizens whose houses were destroyed by the earthquake, and construction of some of these housing complexes has already started. In addition to this, 6 billion TL is provided, in the form of an interest free loan with 20 years repayment period, for each of the eligible persons wishing to purchase a house.
- A certain amount is paid to owners of houses which have been damaged slightly or at a medium level as a contribution to renovation costs notwithstanding whether they hold a permit or not (about 3.5 thousand USD for medium damage and 1000 USD for minor damage).

A Best Practice by the Municipality of Aydın on Enabling Low Income Households to Acquire housing: Project and Construction and Occupancy Permit Fees Support Program

The aim of the program to enable low income households produce their housing by fulfilling building regulations in Aydın, which is a provincial center with about 150 thousand population on the south-west of Turkey. Eligible households are those whose per capita income is under one-third of the minimum wage, and who do not own a dwelling unit.

In order to benefit from this program, a legally subdivided parcel has to be owned in areas where housing prices are not high, and up to three dwelling units can be built on the parcel. The municipality supplies architectural and engineering projects, and issues the construction permit without charging the fees. Occupancy permit is also issued free of charge when construction is finished in accordance to the projects.

The program started in 1997, 483 applications have been accepted in three years, and 403 households have completed construction. In addition to new building, 1882 households have applied to regularise within the scope of this program the construction of their dwelling units that began without construction permits, and 1230 of those applications have been accepted. Unauthorised house building has totally stopped in Aydın after this program was put into operation.

A Best Practice By an NGO To Build Prefabricated Housing for Earthquake Victims

In two major earthquakes that occurred on the 17th of August and 12th of November, 1999 in Eastern Marmara Region of Turkey about 200 thousand households became homeless. Provision of suitable accommodation for those households until their permanent housing is built was the primary national concern following the immediate relief works. A total of 43 thousand pre-fabricated dwelling units have been built within three months, about a quarter of which by the private sector, NGOs and the Governments of some countries.

The Istanbul Branch of the Alumni Association of Middle East Technical University and the Eymir Foundation in Istanbul mobilised the financial and professional contributions of other NGOs and the private sector, both in Turkey and abroad in a very short period of time, managed to get the assistance of the municipalities of Degirmendere and İzmit, which are among badly damaged cities in the first earthquake. A total of 410 dwelling units, each having 40 m² floor area were built on two sites that the Municipalities allocated for this purpose and installed the necessary infrastructure.

Question Three:

Institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered

- Problems and bottlenecks faced in formulation of new policies pertaining to production of housing and land and in enacting new laws due to inadequate institutional structure.
- Lack of funds which would enable municipalities to implement policies to make housing affordable for lower-income households.
- Coordination problems between institutions (including the government, local governments, private entities and non-governmental organizations).

- Delays in enacting laws for buildings not conforming to building legislation.
- Ambiguities relating to distribution of powers and responsibilities between municipalities in metropolitan areas.
- Insufficiency of housing loans extended by public and private finance institutions, both in terms of their number and amount.

Question Four:

Lessons learned with emphasis on sustainability and impact

- Though regulations on safety of buildings in regions with a risk of natural disaster were amended in 1998 the failure to check resistance of the existing housing inventory to earthquakes has eventually cost a large number of lives and total or nearly total destruction of many buildings.
- Severe damages caused by the recent earthquakes are closely related to the fact that there was neither a reliable construction control nor a professional insurance system.

Question Five:

Recommendations for priority action

- Necessary actions must be taken to enable low-income groups to have access to lands and housing, and land owned by the government should be allocated to this purpose accompanied by enhancing the role to be played by municipalities.
- Laws and regulations on mortgage credits have to be revised to enable the development of a well functioning housing finance system in the financial market as inflation falls. Creation of institutions, including contractual types, which would channel small savings for housing finance, has to be encouraged. Special consideration has to be given for meeting subsidised loan requirements of lower-income groups.
- Realisation of legal arrangements which would enable housing cooperatives to operate in a more efficient and reliable manner. Measures should give priority to enable lower-income households acquiring housing by fulfilling membership obligations of housing cooperatives.
- In order to prevent a new amnesty for unauthorized buildings, amendments should be made in the Planning and Building legislation so that their articles pertaining to sanctions, restrictions and policies should cover both authorised and unauthorised buildings effectively.
- A Housing Data Bank has to be created.

Chapter Two: Social Development and Eradication of Poverty

Question One:

Progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends, emerging issues, and major areas of concern

- Paying more attention to women living in rural areas forming a part of female population and suffering from increased poverty both in absolute and relative terms,
- Giving priority to integrate groups needing special care (disabled persons, aged persons, children, and women) as well as to disadvantageous groups, who are effected by the change in social tissue caused by the rapid

- population increase, deteriorating economic stability, migration to cities and the rapid change in urban, with the rest of the society,
- Preventing abuse of child labour and protecting young female workers and disabled workers.
 - Ensuring that health services are equally brought to all regions together with a balanced distribution of medical personnel.
 - Ensuring continuity of vaccination programs against infections that threaten lives of children.
 - Taking integrated actions aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women.

Question Two:

Policy and legislative changes since Habitat II

- On 30.05.1997 the definition of "Child and Youth Centres" was incorporated into the Social Services and Orphans Care Organisation (SHCEK) Law. The total number of these centres, aimed at rehabilitation of homeless children and providing boarding and day-time rehabilitation services rose to 16 in 2000.
- A paragraph stipulating payment of medical treatment costs of disabled persons and the cost of tools designed to help such people was incorporated in the Law on the Promotion of Social Solidarity and Mutual Assistance.
- "Ministry of Education Special Education Services Regulation", which encompasses provisions pertaining to compulsory education for children who need special education, was published in the Official Gazette on 18.01.2000.
- A supplementary and a provisional article have been incorporated into the planning legislation which require compliance with the standards as defined by the Turkish Standards Institute, in city plans as well as in rural, social and technical infrastructure designs, with a view to make the physical environment accessible by disabled persons.
- The Labor Code no. 1475 was amended by the Law No. 4382 of 21.10.1998 to increase the fine which an employer would be required to pay for each position in respect of which he has failed to employ a disabled person pursuant to applicable laws.
- The Income Tax Law No. 193 was amended by the Law No. 4369, which was published in the Official Gazette on 29.07.1998, extending the scope of the disability rebate and setting new tax rebates applicable to disabled citizens.
- The Prime Ministry has issued a directive ordering public agencies to organise entrance exams to employment for the disabled.
- Provisions of the Turkish Penal Code pertaining to adultery committed by men and women, which discriminated against women, was annulled by the Constitutional Court in 1996, and adultery is now considered not an offence, but a reason for divorce.
- In 1997 women were granted the right to use their family name before that of their husband.
- The Government decision requiring public agencies and institutions to allocate 3 % of their positions to disabled persons, was included in the Civil Servants Law No. 657. Meanwhile, the rate for employment of disabled persons was increased from 2 % to 3 % by means of modifications to Article 25 of the Labor Code No. 1475.
- 16 research projects have been undertaken in different sectors, covered by the "Project for the Improvement of Employment of Women", as financed by the World Bank and the Turkish Government.

- Financial assistance has been lent to pilot projects containing revenue generating activities for women which support development of rural women, with emphasis laid on the Southern and Southeastern Anatolia under the "National Program Project for Reinforcing Women's Contribution to Development" sponsored by the Turkish Government and the UN Development Program.
- Medical treatment costs of patients who have no social security and those who are unable to pay such costs are paid by the Government under the green card system.
- The Greater Istanbul Municipality is providing disabled persons with free transportation. Disabled persons are given due consideration in procurement of vehicles.

Question Three:

Institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered

- The Prime Ministry Women's Status and Issues General Directorate functions as the principal national mechanism aimed at enabling women to acquire a status they deserve in social, economic, cultural and political fields based on equal rights with men.
- There are difficulties in having access to funds needed to ensure continued implementation by non-governmental organizations of projects and finding offices and personnel commensurate with these activities.
- Low awareness among local governments regarding groups needing special care leads to problems in implementing pertinent laws and regulations.
- Groups needing special care, particularly disabled persons, have inadequate access to education opportunities, and this creates an obstacle to their employment.

Question Four:

Lessons learned with emphasis on sustainability and impact

NO

Question Five:

Recommendations for priority action

- Financial assistance lent by the Social Solidarity and Mutual Assistance Fund to homeless aged persons over 65, who need protection, must be brought to a level adequate to ensure a minimum living standard.
- People with inadequate incomes must be provided with social services in addition to financial assistance. In this context, social service programs targeting needy people must be included in programs being implemented by the Social Services and Orphans Care Organisation, Social Services Solidarity and Mutual Assistance Fund, Social Security Organisation (SSK), Self-employed Retirement Fund (Bag-Kur) and Civil Servants Retirement Fund (Emekli Sandığı).
- Aid in kind or cash provided by the Social Services and Orphans Care Organisation must also be improved and increased to a level adequate to ensure minimum living standards. To this end, cooperation with private and civil actors must be encouraged.
- Applicable laws and regulations must be amended to ensure participation of groups needing special care in the workforce.

- Actions aimed at provision of loans with a view to facilitate working and employment of groups needing special care are recommended.
- Any place of business employing more than 100 workers shall be required to establish a day-care centre and financial incentives such as tax rebates shall be provided for such places of business.

Chapter 3: Environmental Management

Question One:

Progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends, emerging issues, and major areas of concern

- Plans at 1/25 000 scale are being prepared for the areas that are important in terms of environmental and ecological problems or considerations.
- Planning of irrigated areas that are under the pressure of 2nd homes development has been given priority.
- Urban air pollution problem continues due to still high rates of urbanisation and limited use of central heating systems. It is sought to solve the air pollution problem by improving the quality of the fuel to be used in heating and industry.
- The earthquake risk map published in 1972 was not a realistic one, and the last earthquake risk map published in 1996 shows that much greater area than shown in the earlier map is subject to earthquake activity.
- 400.000 hectares of irrigated land has been occupied by industry and 1.200.000 hectares by residential settlements, mostly unauthorised.
- The water utilisation intensity increased to 15% from 7% between 1980 and 1997; and this rate is close to the OECD Europe average. However, the maintenance and replacement works in water supply networks are usually late or unplanned. Throughout the country, only half of the supplied water can be sold due to transmission losses and uncollected bills.
- 78% of urban population and 62% of the rural population have access to healthy and sufficient drinking water. 20% of urban population and 17% of rural population have insufficient drinking water. 2% of urban population and 21% of rural population are not supplied with drinking water.
- River pollution, mainly caused by industrial and residential waste water, has become particularly severe in regions with large urban and industrial agglomeration.
- The role of exhaust emissions in the urban air pollution increases due to ever-increasing number of vehicles and the types of fuel that are used.
- The use of benzene without lead was 6,6% in 1996, it has become 24,2% in 1999. It is estimated that this rate will continue to increase in the following years. As of the year 2000, all the new cars manufactured in and imported into Turkey will be equipped with catalytic converters.
- In recent years, an increase in the number of vehicles with LPG transformation is observed especially in the cities. This practice, that started with the commercial cabs in metropolitan centers, such as Ankara, Istanbul and zmir, was followed also by the owners of private vehicles and the use of LPG, with 40% less exhaust emission in comparison with the benzene, has become widespread.
- The studies performed to utilise alternative energy resources, such as geothermal and wind energy, are being supported by the Ministry of Environment.

- For the purpose of minimising the effects of medical and hazardous wastes on the environment, regional projects are being prepared.
- Within the framework of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, realised in June 1992 in the city of Rio de Janeiro of Brazil, Project studies named "Preparation and Implementation of National Agenda 21 in Turkey" are in progress with the contributions of United Nations Development Programme and co-ordination of the Ministry of Environment in order to provide a integrated structure for the environment and development strategy of our country.

Question Two:

Policy and legislative changes since Habitat II

- The preparatory work of a draft bill on the preservation of irrigated land continues.
- The Strategy and Action Plan on the preservation of bio-diversity is about to be put in action.
- Turkey signed the UN Agreement on the Struggle Against Desertion, which was approved by the Parliament on 11 February 1998.
- The Ministry of Environment has been fulfilling its obligations as defined in the National Environmental Strategy and the Action Plan (NESAP).
- Agreements have been signed between the Ministry of Environment and some establishments for building waste water treatment units by the establishments themselves.
- Environmentally harmful pesticides that were used in agriculture have been prohibited, and farmers have been informed and encouraged to use environment friendly pesticides organic methods in agriculture.

Question Three:

Institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered

- Lack of co-ordination between institutions (including public, private institutions and non-governmental organisations),
- Unfulfilled distribution of labour between central and local administrations,
- The rights, authorities and responsibilities related to the use of water resources are distributed among many institutions having activities according to a series of laws; and this decreases the affect of interventions pertaining to the protection and management of water resources.
- Absence of an effective regulation and control mechanism as well as sanction as related to the environmental legislation.

Question Four:

Lessons learned with emphasis on sustainability and impact

- People are not much conscious about the environmental problems. Programs for informing and educating people on these issues have to be launched.
- After the Marmara earthquake, it was observed that a lot of damage occurred due to sea sand. However, in case the granulometer of the concrete is not in compliance with the specifications, the buildings will be in danger even if the material does not have sea origin. The use of materials protecting the reinforced concrete and in compliance with the specifications in terms of quality must be provided.

- It appears that existing maps showing earthquake risks are not realistic. Settlement plans in the regions, which are subject to the earthquake risk, should be revised.

Question Five:

Recommendations for priority action

- A planning model considering the ecological planning concept must be developed and implemented for the preservation sensitive ecosystems.
- The concept of Ecological basin must be included in the environmental plans, and it must be supported with some pilot projects.
- The buildings must be documented with "building quality certificate", and must be insured against natural disasters.
- Environmental Order concept must be included in the environmental regulations via legal arrangements.
- The drinking water need of all settlements must be met.
- All the villages must be supplied with drinking water; the studies for the provision of long-term water requirement of the cities must be completed.
- The water losses must be decreased to a reasonable level and the water utilisation efficiency in agriculture must be improved.
- The rehabilitation of the lakes and rivers under the threat of pollution must be given due importance.
- On the basis of river basins, water management must be given priority.
- In order to protect the drinking water supplies and basins, the regions with environmental risks must be determined and the location of polluting establishments must be carefully planned. In terms of a healthy urban life, the solid wastes must be collected, taken away, purified from its hazards and managed.
- Geological surveys and geophysical analysis must be given importance, particularly in high earthquake risk regions.
- Disasters other than earthquake must be included in the agenda.
- Emergency programme and plans must be prepared for natural disasters.
- In order to create an efficient transportation system, railroads must have a greater role than they have at present.
- All water resources must be protected with great care.
- A new disaster law is required, for the application of new and modern disaster management techniques, which adopts the prevention and diminishing of losses in natural disasters as the main target, and establishes an efficient cooperation system between national and local governments.
- Unauthorized building within the protection zones of water resources must be prevented.
- Monitoring systems for all types of environmental pollution have to be developed and put in effect.

Chapter 4: Economic Development

Question One:

Progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends, emerging issues, and major areas of concern

Since 1996, various activities were initiated to create new areas of employment, to develop entrepreneurship, to improve the labour market and employment conditions

and especially to enable the participation of disadvantaged groups to the labour force.

- a. *The developments that have been on the agenda for the purpose of forming new areas of employment, to encourage new enterprises and to improve the competitive power of the existing ones:*
 - "Entrepreneurship Investment Finance and Information Center" started its activities for the purpose of providing financial and technical information and consulting to KOB s (Small to Medium Scale Enterprises).
 - Turkish Halk Bank, TOBB (Union of Turkish Chambers of Trade and Industry), TESK (Turkish Confederation of Artisans and Tradesmen), KOSGEB (Directorate of Small and Medium Sized Industrial Development), as well as individual Chambers of Trade and Industry founded "Partnership to KOB Investments Corp." for the KOB s to renew their technology and to achieve productivity improvement in their manufacturing activities.
 - Debenture capital is an important means of finance, making significant contributions to the development and renewal of technology in countries where it is applied. Foundation Debenture Capital Investment Joint Venture Corp. was founded.
 - Entrepreneurship Network was founded with the aim of improving co-operation between organisations that support entrepreneurs.
 - Various training and consulting services were developed to encourage young people and women for entrepreneurship. Business Development Center is also active as a local means of development.
 - "KOB NET" (Information Network Between Small to Medium Scale) is established to prepare KOB s to engage in electronic trade, to have faster and easier access to the information they require, and to establish relations beyond boundaries.
 - A Small Entrepreneurship Project and an institutional mechanism to serve especially to women entrepreneurs were developed.
 - A micro loan programme was developed for the low-income women to found their own businesses and to strengthen their economic and social status.
- a. *Attempts to improve the functioning of the labour market and the contribution of disadvantaged groups to the labour force:*
 - Since 1991, business and occupation consulting services have been performed.
 - Labour training courses are being organised for the unemployed so that labour force is trained for the jobs that are required in the labour market.
 - "Occupational Rehabilitation Studies" have been undertaken for the disabled without any occupation to acquire information and the skill for the jobs that are in compliance with their needs.
 - Within the scope of the "National Project for the Improvement of Women's Contribution to Development", pilot projects covering activities bringing income to the women were supported, with priority being given to Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia regions. In order to provide the continuity of the project, Women's Research and Application Centers of universities and voluntary woman organisations were supported, and training programmes were organised for the development of women in rural areas on issues such as leadership, social participation, entrepreneurship and running one's own business.
 - Multipurpose Social Centers (ÇATOM) have been established with the aims of raising the status of women, helping to eliminate the difference between sexes in the labour market.

- The non-governmental organisations help the products women produce at home reach to the market in co-operation with local administrations.
- a. *The activities carried out to vitalise the economy in less developed regions:*
 - Special incentives are granted for investing in cities that are located in the "Regions granted Priority for Development". Exemption from certain taxes and import duties and benefiting from low-interest loans of the Government are the important incentives.
 - The Eastern Black Sea Region Project (DOKAP) is prepared to accelerate the regional economic development and to overcome regional problems. Studies for a similar approach for the Eastern Anatolia are in progress.
 - Within the regional development services, potential entrepreneurs are given consulting services on topics such as direct investment, preparing preliminary project and feasibility studies, producing solutions to the stopped and halted investments.
 - During the period of Seventh Five-Year Plan, Rural Development Projects continue to be implemented. Particular emphasis was on the reinforcement of rural infrastructure and training of the people living in rural areas.

Question Two:

Policy and legislative changes since Habitat II

- a. *In relation with employment and labour:*
 - Unemployment Insurance Law numbered 4447, stipulating that unemployed people who lost their jobs without their intentions and faults be compensated for a specified period of time and for a specified amount was enacted.
 - With the modification of the Law on Income Tax, the scope of the disability discount was widened,
 - Two clauses and sub-articles were added to the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities numbered 3030. According to these; it was aimed to provide facilities for opening courses and occupational training centers for the young and adult disabled to enable them get employment.
- b. *In relation with the development and support of industrial management and areas;*
 - State Aid to Small to Medium Scale Enterprises, the scope of KOB investments and the facilities provided were enhanced by making legislative changes in accordance with the European Union regulations.
 - The Board of Competition, responsible to assess the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Competition numbered 4054, was founded.

Question Three:

Institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered

- There have been problems in the establishment of Small Industrial Estates.
- Small Industrial Estates are founded with the contribution of the co-operatives in addition to the support of the state. However, co-operatives can not pay their contributions regularly, especially in the regions with priority for development, as the co-operative members do not pay their membership fees.
- In many Small Industrial Estates that have been recently built, most buildings remain empty as establishments are reluctant to move from their centrally located premises, and local authorities are unwilling to interfere.

- There are many problems related to the chosen location of Organised Industrial Zones, where moderate-to-large scale industries are located.
- The mechanisms to facilitate women entering into the labour market are not sufficiently developed. Absence of day-care centres for small children in a locality makes it difficult for women to get employment.
- The participation rate of women to the labour force is 29% in Turkey, and it is comparatively low. Furthermore, most of those are employed in agriculture in the status of unpaid family labour, having no social security.

Question Four:

Lessons learned with emphasis on sustainability and impact

- Loans provided to KOB s from public funds have more suitable terms than credits in the financial market, since it is aimed that KOB s should be able to do business in the competitive environment when Turkey joins the European Union. The types of the loans that are provided are: Sector Growth Loan, Product Development Loan, Spot Loan and Business Renewal and Acquisition Loan.
- In the implementation of "The Project on Increasing Employment and Work Potential in the Urban Informal Sector", in the city of Diyarbak r, a model for the increase of productivity and labour absorption capacity in the informal sector was developed, which may be extended to other cities in the region.

Question Five:

Recommendations for priority action

- Regulations necessary on the national scale*
 - "Regional policies" that are necessary for economic development must be prepared, and institutional regulations for the realisation of plans and new "Regional Policies" in the process of joining EU must be developed,
 - Local agenda initiatives must be supported for development, and co-operation between non-governmental organisations and local administrations must be encouraged.
- Suggestions for the participation of the disadvantaged groups (women, the young, children, urban poor, migrating people, people without land of their own, ex-convicts, the disabled etc)*
 - Studies for a greater coverage of disabled persons in the law numbered 4369 have to be initiated.
 - In order to increase social consciousness and sensitivity to the problems of disabled people, more research has to be conducted on this issue, research results must be the basis of new regulations, and the implementation of existing regulations must be carefully monitored.
- Suggestions for supporting KOB s and entrepreneurship*
 - The micro loan system has to be initiated.
 - Training of nominees for entrepreneurship in virtual environment by using technological facilities must be encouraged.,
 - A law for the establishment of companies to provide services for entrepreneurs (or KOB s) with public support need to be enacted.
 - Introduction of tax incentives for KOB s and entrepreneurs is requested.
 - A law for the foundation of the companies providing finance and loan guarantee to the KOB s with public support is required.
 - Efficiently activating the debenture capital and informal debenture capital systems are needed.

- The reduction of bureaucracy in the establishment of new factories, especially in regions where there is a high concentration of industry is required. An public agency could be created for this purpose.

Chapter 5: Governance

Question One:

Progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends, emerging issues, and major areas of concern

- Action groups of civil initiatives, launched under the Local Agenda 21, which brings together local assemblies and NGOs, have contributed to the expansion of the local participatory democratic governance concept. City councils established under the Local Agenda 21, set an example for encouraging civil contributions.
- Municipalities have initiated planning efforts regarding participation planning in cooperation with actors concerned.
- The central and local governments have jointly taken actions with a view to establish and expand civilian organizations within the society.
- Agencies of the central government have taken initiatives together with NGOs.
- Steps have been taken towards multi-actor arrangements and NGO's efficiency.
- Actions have been taken to enable citizens to have access to information. Civil communication channels have been established.

Question Two:

Policy and legislative changes since Habitat II

- The General Directorate of Local Authorities the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has drawn up a "Bill on Restructuring of Local Governments and to Amend Laws Governing Them" which has already been submitted to the Prime Ministry.
- The European Charter on Local Self Government was signed on 21.11.1998 in Strasbourg and ratified by the Council of Ministers on 06.08.1998.
- The European Framework Agreement on Cross-border Cooperation Between Local Communities and Management was signed on 04.02.1998 and enacted on 10.05.2000 as the Law No. 4517.
- The Directive no. 50042 of 19.03.1998 issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in respect of Agenda 21 initiated joint active efforts by governors, sub-governors, mayors, local government unions, associations and NGOs to organize training programs, meetings and to publish promotional materials in order to transform National Agenda 21s to Local Agenda 21s.
- Project proposal on Strengthening of Village Heads and Local Governments, which was submitted by the World Academy of Local Democracy to the European Commission's MEDA program, was accepted and signed in January 1998 and put into effect in June in the same year.
- Preparation of an ombudsman law is under way.

Question Three:

Institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered

- The existing law governing local governments do not permit required changes in decentralization and participation.
- Resistance put by politicians and bureaucrats, who are keen to maintain the strictly centralized system, obstruct efforts towards decentralization.
- NGOs comments and suggestions are not adequately considered by administrations as the participatory administration concept is not deeply rooted in the society.
- Accumulation of data in a single centre prevents them from being transparent and accessible.
- In spite of an article of the Constitution stipulating that local governments will be provided with an income commensurate with their responsibilities and the European Charter of Local Self Government, which constitutes a part of the domestic legislation, local governments and the central government have not achieved a fiscal equalisation including distribution of responsibilities and revenues among different levels of government.
- In the past five years draft laws designed to trim powers of local governments have been prepared although no promising change has been observed in the field of decentralisation compared to previous periods.
- The Associations Law restricts NGOs activities in terms of institutionalisation, higher institutionalisation, capacity expansion and international relations.
- In Turkey creation of an NGO with international status or establishing cooperation with a foreign NGO is subject to the Council of Ministers' permission which creates a central control on and a bureaucratic obstacle to NGOs.
- Lack of coordination between civil organizations emerges as a critical problem area.

Question Four:

Lessons learned with emphasis on sustainability and impact

- A weak awareness of being a citizen and absence of a culture experienced in establishing organisations, a prerequisite for participation, result in raising of the issue of participation only at specific forums and ignorance of a large part of the society on the matter and opportunities.
- Coordination and communication is poor among NGOs and public agencies focusing on a specific issue and between both groups.
- Efforts currently being maintained do not make a sufficient use of facilities and opportunities offered by information technologies. Organizations must be informed about information technology and supported in establishing an infrastructure in this area.
- International funds must be used for implementation of models in which civil potential can fully exploit its potential.

Question Five:

Recommendations for priority action

- Removal of obstacles to establish organizations set forth in the Associations Law with a view to facilitate creation of organizations and to reinforce NGOs (it is recommended the law permits establishment of federations consisting of associations pursuing the same objective and confederations made up of federations).

- The bill on local governments and other applicable laws must be amended to include articles permitting all actors concerned to take part in decision making mechanisms (municipality assemblies, provincial general assemblies) and vote.
- Participation in deliberations on ombudsman bill.
- Provision of a larger project support or physical support such as space and materials in order to strengthen NGOs from financial and technical point of view.
- Amending articles of the Local Governments Bill regarding participation (improvement of municipality assemblies so as to enable them consulting city-wide platforms and working parties on problem areas and actions to be taken in future).
- Ensuring that civil servants take part in decision-making process within their organization.
- Development of legislation aimed at ensuring that responsibilities are distributed based on professional aptness, specialty and merits.
- Creation of urban data gathering and sharing system (by using modern information systems) in order to facilitate access to information and to establish a more transparent administration approach (preparing the legal ground for creation and functioning of such formations).
- Development of discussion, consultation and information sharing mechanisms at district and community level with a view to enable public to have access to general information.
- Establishment of a "best practices" data bank within the Turkish Habitat Forum in order to promote best practices on local and international platforms and to assess them and to transfer experiences gained.
- A review and improvement of the local governments bill and other applicable legislation in terms of participation in decision making and implementation mechanisms.
- Creation of platforms in districts and cities in the process of creation partnerships and participation in decision making and implementation mechanisms.
- Informing public during decision making and implementation processes (informing of actors who are to be effected by decisions made).
- Ensuring that community organisations are not excluded.
- Creation of consulting and reconciliation mechanisms / platforms to ensure participation of all actors in a city take part in decisions on major public investments or plans (improving legislation in that regard).
- Ensuring that employees of an organization take part in decision making and implementation mechanisms in that organization.
- Extending city councils established in Izmit, Izmir, Bursa, Antalya, Aliaga, etc. to the rest of the country accompanied by legal arrangements.
- Transforming local agenda 21 policies into governance policies and using the partnership concept as a basis in every domain of the social life.
- Distribution of responsibilities among the central government and local governments must be clarified to ensure transfer of powers to local governments, and the central government's role should be limited to setting standards while local governments must be responsible for their application.
- The Greater City Municipalities Law must be amended so as to extend powers and boundaries of greater city municipalities.
- Ensuring allocation of funds to local governments proportionate with their responsibilities.

- Distribution of powers and responsibilities among greater city municipalities, district municipalities, community governments and local organizations of the central government must be clarified for an efficient distribution of powers between local governments.
- Local assemblies must be redefined in terms of their functions and from an administrative point of view.
- Creation of mechanisms is recommended for enabling all the actors to supervise and monitor administration. Mechanisms ensuring fiscal supervision by public of local governments must be developed.
- Platforms enabling civil, public and private entities to be informed of activities undertaken by others and ensuring increased cooperation should be established.
- In order to ensure that public participation is achieved in coordination with functioning of local governments the latter shall encourage participation through various methods and approaches.

Chapter 6: International Cooperation

Question One:

Progress made since 1996, prevailing conditions, new trends, emerging issues, and major areas of concern

- Implementation of Local Agenda 21 project is under way with contributions from IULA-EMME, ICLEI, UNDP, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, young people and women.
- Foreign loans and funds have been and are being used in improvement and rehabilitation works relating to natural disasters.
- In order to eliminate potential environmental problems which could occur in the Black Sea and the Straits, the International Black Sea Partners (IBSP), an international environment and security network, has been established in Istanbul.
- Mediterranean Countries Academy Foundation has been admitted to the UNEP-MEP organization as a member in order to conduct necessary research and works relating to the Mediterranean.
- Efforts to form an European Countries Women Cooperation Group are under way.
- Scientific cooperation protocols in the field of history have been signed between Turkey and Romania, Russia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.
- Youth for Habitat international communication network secretariat is maintaining its works relating to youth issues at national and international levels after the Habitat II Cities Summit. In this context, international summer schools and education programs are being organized.
- Turkey has received "International Water Sources Union Millenium Prize" due to its efforts designed to establish regional irrigation unions.

Question Two:

Policy and legislative changes since Habitat II

- The bill on Turkish Civil Code has been prepared in the light of the international convention entitled the Convention of Elimination of All Kinds of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and an equal opportunities committee was set up in the TBMM (1999).

- Efforts are under way to formulate provisions in the preliminary bill on changes in the Turkish Civil Code relating to juvenile delinquency according to international standards.
- Regarding amendments to environmental regulations domestic legislation has been aligned with 59 international instruments.

Question Three:

Institutional weaknesses and obstacles encountered

- Existing legal provisions are not adequate for furthering international cooperation.
- Financial resources have proven to be insufficient regarding education and project development.
- Non-governmental organizations do not have enough capacity to develop international partnerships and cooperation. Such ventures should also be supported by the government.

Question Four:

Lessons learned with emphasis on sustainability and impact

NO

Question Five:

Recommendations for priority action

- The Habitat Forum has decided to keep in international platform the offer of the Turkish Government hosting "the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Istanbul+5" in Istanbul.
- Creation of the Habitat Istanbul Office, in respect of which negotiations are under way, is vital to implementation of Habitat decisions at international level and to ensure an active participation in international efforts and to increased efficiency of the Human Settlements Centre's (Habitat) activities in this region.
- Efforts designed to establish a National Urban Observatory in Turkey must be given a new momentum.
- Necessary funds must be provided and steps taken in order to enable non-governmental organizations and local governments to keep informed of and take an active part in Habitat activities at an international scale.
- Development of "Habitat Best Practices" projects in Turkey is essential for ensuring exchange of information both at international and national levels. Therefore, capacities of all the actors in the Habitat platform to execute "Best Practices" projects must be enhanced.
- As endorsed by the United Nations, works concerning youth, who are among priority target groups of the Habitat Agenda, are being carried out by the Youth for Habitat, an international center which has its headquarters in Turkey. It shall be supported in its efforts to pioneer Habitat youth activities at both local and international levels on a global basis with contributions from the UN Human Settlements Center and efforts to this end must be reinforced.
- Works undertaken by the Global Habitat Parliamentarians organization are closely monitored by Turkish parliamentarians who actively take part in these works. Participation in activities initiated by the Global Habitat Parliamentarians must be maintained with a view to develop legal arrangements, which have a special place in Habitat activities, in a manner

including contemporary approaches and these efforts must be tied to works undertaken by other actors.

Chapter 7: Future Action and Initiatives

Question One:

Priorities for shelter development

Question Two:

Priorities for sustainable urban development

Question Three:

Priorities for capacity building and institutional development

Question Four:

Priorities for international cooperation