

Report for the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Paris, 13-17 April 2003

**FIG Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development  
Report on Activities 2002–2003**

**1. General**

The activities of Commission 8 will be focused in the years 2002-2006 on physical planning at all levels, undertake and learn from case studies and enhance understanding and knowledge of all planning systems. The Commission is aware of the importance of sustainable development, environmental issues in planning and environmental impact assessments (EIA) in spatial planning procedures and the commission will also extremely focus on issues that are dealing with the quality of life in greater cities and the importance that safety will be in greater cities as an top-issue in the upcoming years. Those issues will be the key issues throughout the plan period.

**2. Work plan**

The work plan has been published in 2002; the work of Commission 8 is divided over three working-groups:

**Working Group 8.1: Urban Regeneration**

Chair: Harry Greenberg (Israel)

The work of this working-group deals with inner-city-problems and regeneration of established urban areas. The aim of the working-group is to observe the different projects on a 12-years time to examine the projects in such a way to determine whether the methods or instruments used present are successful and applicable way for other projects in other countries.

**Working-group 8.2: Public Private Partnership**

Chair: Prof. Karl I. Levainen (Finland)

In the last years Public-Private-Partnership has become more and more important in the planning and development of project in the city-areas and land-projects. The aim of the working-group is to combine the strength of the instruments of the public-part and the private part/money that comes form the private partners.

**Working-group 8.3 : Global Urbanisation Process in Large Cities**

Chair: Diane Dumashie (United Kingdom)

Identifying:

- Global urbanisation problems and processes
- Special problems of informal settlements in large cities
- Relationship between land allocation and development economies applied to temporary housing settlements
- Coastal and environmental pressures and solutions

### **3. Annual meeting**

Commission 8 organised an annual meeting during the Washington Congress in April 2002. Main issue was the discussion about the 2002–2006 work plan of the Commission. Other items were the activity of people within the Commission; or better to say: the lack of active people within Commission 8. The delegates emphasize the participation of Commission 8 members on the topic of the quality of cities or the quality of life in those cities with elements as:

- crime
- safety
- quality of houses
- hooliganism and riots.

At the annual meeting in Washington an motion was prepared to work more together with the hosting countries (FIG Congress and/or working weeks) and to stimulate the organisation of the hosting countries to organise technical excursions in the field of the three working-groups. The aim was to organise a technical excursion at the Paris-working-week in 2003 in cooperation on the topic: riots and inner-city-safety of civilians.

### **4. Other Meetings and events**

Commission 8 chair and vice-chair have had two discussion-meetings about the future work and events of Commission 8 in February and May 2002. Commission 8 plans to participate actively in the working week of Paris in April 2003 and will try to cooperate more with Commission 7 and Commission 9 on the fields of PPS and Informal settlements in undeveloped countries in 2004-2005.

### **5. Forthcoming events**

Commission 8 will link with the UNEP. In the upcoming year the commission (i.e. working-group 8.3) will report on how this will be organised. Items are:

- monitoring sea level rise
- coastal mtion and hazard mitigation.

The Commission will assist with the implementation of Agenda 21 (from the Rio Earth Summit) and the Global Plan of Action (from the Habitat II Conference) at the local and urban level. Commission 8 will pay particular attention to informal settlements and urbanisation problems in developing countries.

At least, commission 8 will carry on looking for solutions for implementation problems and will especially focus in that way on inner cities and declined areas. It will focus in that way to work on solutions for those problems and other tools that promote planned and sustainable city, town, land-use and development.

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Commission web site: <http://www.fig.net/figtree/commission8/index.htm>