

FIG President Holger Magel
on occasion of
UIA World Congress

at UIA Sessions – Habitat Professionals Forum on 5 July 2005

“Governance – People – Professionals

Civil Society and Good Governance: how does the growing role of citizens impact on the urban planning process and the role of architects and planners?”

Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen,

In his keynote speech Cengiz Bektas yesterday has pointed out, architects and planners have to listen to and to **consult** people and they have to **like** people. No architect, no planner would admit that he doesn't like people, that he doesn't consult people. But what really means to consult people. In his paper about “Visual-Spatial Quality of contemporary Housing in Iran” Nasim Iranmanesh yesterday tried to give an answer: neither to follow own wishes and perceptions nor to follow purely the dreams of people. Supreme directive must be the quality! So far so good.

But how is the reality? How is the reality in a more and more complex world against more self-confident citizens and increasing demands on participation, transparency, subsidiarity and ideals of civil society and good governance? How is the reaction of planners: Do they transform to merely moderators and facilitators or do they – on the contrary – withdraw to an isolated role of experts who are the only trained people who can solve the problem.

That's the framework of our Habitat Professional Forum 2005 on occasion of 22nd World Congress of Architecture in Istanbul on behalf of HPF, a loose alliance of global planners associations like UIA, IFLA, IFHP, FIG and some Arab and African regional associations. I welcome you to this very topical round table. I invite you to participate our discussions.

As an input we start with short statements by

- Architect Dr. Lars Reutersward, the director of Global Division of UN Habitat in Nairobi responsible for the 3rd WUF in Vancouver 2006
- by me, President of FIG, but today speaking as the founder and consultant of special competence and training centres for citizens in Germany to better understand and participate planning processes and decisions and to better formulate and coordinate citizens wishes
- Architect Aydan Erim, representative of UIA and the Turkish chamber of architects; and finally
- Selman Erguden, urban planner, Chief of Housing Policy and Development Section of UN-Habitat and Coordinator of UN Housing Rights Programme