

MEMO

To: HIC Habitat II Committee, HIC Board, Enrique Ortiz
From: Barry Pinsky, Executive Director, Rooftops Canada
Date: October 21, 1996
Re: HABITAT II GLOBAL SECRETARIAT - FINAL PROGRAM REPORT

This is the final report on Rooftops Canada's work as HIC Habitat II Secretariat as required in the agreement between Rooftops Canada and HIC, dated 2 December 1994. (The numbering below follows the Habitat II Global NGO Program document which was appended to the agreement. There are three activities which Rooftops Canada will undertake using the small balance of funds. These will be completed by 31 December 1996.

1. Rooftops will organize the final meeting of the HIC Habitat II Committee in Mexico. This will include an evaluation and forward thinking on Habitat II follow up for presentation to the HIC Board. Rooftops will distribute minutes of the meeting.
2. Rooftops will complete an updated version of the HIC members and friends data base for use by HIC and its members.
3. Rooftops will work with HIC to undertake a special mailing of the next HIC newsletter and membership information to all 2100 NGOs accredited to Habitat II. This will be the logical transition from the People Towards Habitat II newsletter.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the HIC Board accept the HABITAT II GLOBAL SECRETARIAT - FINAL PROGRAM REPORT dated 21/10/96 and attached financial report, and that the Agreement between HIC and Rooftops Canada of 4/12/94 be considered terminated as of 31 October on the understanding that three final tasks will be undertaken by Rooftops Canada the REPORT.

REPORT ON GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

3.1 NETWORKING

3.1.1 Data Base: The data base now has 3700 organizations. This includes 1400 of the 2100 NGOs accredited to Habitat II. Almost 2100 groups have returned information forms so we have correct contact information as well as basic data about each group. We have given the HIC Secretariat in Mexico a first version of all the entries for HIC members and friends in data base format with instruction on how to use it.

Next Steps: We are using some remaining funds to enter the final 700 accredited NGOs and to update the HIC listings. Only 200 of 500 HIC members and friends returned data forms. The final version will also be given to HIC. (We are also trying to raise funds to include lists from all the other partner forums that took place in Istanbul. UNCHS is interesting in collaborating on this project. It would create a Global Habitat II Partners Data Base of about 8000. This will be a separate Rooftops project if it is funded.)

3.1.2 Communications Infrastructure: Rooftops handled many e-mail and snail mail inquiries from all over the world. The "People Towards Habitat II" newsletter was made widely available on e-mail networks. It was posted to the UNCHS WWW Page, the Earth Negotiations Bulletin WWW Page, and apc conferences on Habitat II. Thousands of people visit these sites every month and were able to access our information. We also uploaded a few other documents such as the NGO Statement from PrepCom II, and tried to get people more involved in inputs to the GPA. Robert Pollard of Info-Habitat took over a lot of this work after PrepCom II. We

also hired Robert to set up and maintain a listserver for the HIC Habitat II Committee. This largely replaced faxes and individual e-mail messages. It was the first time that the HIC focal points and other key actors worked together over the Internet.

Next Steps: HIC should take over, expand and continue to use the listserver.

- 3.1.3 Secretariat:** The HIC Habitat II Secretariat was maintained at Rooftops from November 1994. Staffing varied over the period depending on funding. Barry working about 40% time on Habitat II, and Sandy Iverson, Communications Coordinator, worked from 50-80% time. The HIC Habitat II Secretariat was the only NGO global secretariat. It reached out not only to HIC's membership but to hundreds of other NGOs. Special attention was paid to include the accredited NGOs.

From May-September 1995, Rooftops also served as the Secretariat to the International NGO Facilitating Group (IFG) for Habitat II. This role was then taken over by HIC's Past President, Han van Putten, who also worked closely with the NGO Forum Director.

During Habitat II, Rooftops organized the HIC/Women and Shelter secretariat in Istanbul which operated for one month, starting two weeks before the Conference. Thanks are due to HIC members that seconded people to work in this secretariat: COHRE, ENDA-RUP, FOSOVI, YUVA. HIC staff from Mexico also worked in this secretariat. In general, the HIC office in Mexico shared more of the Habitat II tasks than was desirable (especially fundraising for HIC member participation in the Habitat II process). There was not sufficient funding for Rooftops to allocate staff to take on all these tasks.

- 3.1.4 UNCHS Liaison:** Throughout the Habitat II process, Rooftops remained in very close contact with UNCHS NGO liaison staff and many other officials, including Wally N'Dow. This allowed us to provide accurate and timely information to HIC members and the broad NGO community. We were also able to facilitate and provide input on process and issues. HIC/Rooftops played a key role in organizing meetings of NGOs attending PrepCom II in Nairobi. This led to the formation of the IFG. As more NGOs became involved in Habitat II, HIC's prominence declined although many HIC members were active in a variety of IFG roles, e.g. representing regions or caucuses. Barry Pinsky represented HIC on the IFG.

Next Steps: The HIC evaluation in October will have to consider to what extent our working relationships with UNCHS have changed as a result of Habitat II. Principled, but not entirely popular, positions on the selection of Turkey as the venue and the right to housing may have masked the tremendous amount of work that HIC/WAS contributed to making Habitat II any kind of success. HIC and its members future roles working with UNCHS and monitoring implementation of the Habitat Agenda will also be discussed.

- 3.1.5 Habitat II Committee:** We coordinated the HIC Habitat II Committee both through email and as secretariat/facilitator for meetings in Mexico (12/94), Cuba (3/95), Nairobi (5/95), Berlin (1/96) and New York (2/96). We are also preparing for the final evaluation and forward planning meetings in October 96. Some of this work was shared with the HIC office in Mexico.

3.2 REPRESENTATION

- 3.2.1 UNCHS PrepComs:** A strong HIC delegation attended PrepCom II although it did not work as closely together as it could have. Rooftops/HIC organised two one-day meetings of NGOs with lots of help from Mazingira. We also helped coordinate daily meetings of all NGOs. Facilities were generally very poor for NGO work at PrepCom II. Many non-HIC NGOs did not work for the overall good of NGOs/CBOs. The IFG was set up with six HIC members out of 15 people. The IFG's main tasks were to prepare for PrepCom III in New York, work with the Turkish NGOs on designing the forum(s), and generally increasing NGO/CBO participation in Habitat II. The final IFG membership was over 40.

A much larger number of HIC members attended PrepCom III in New York. However, despite five days of pre-PrepCom meetings in Berlin, the HIC group was disorganized in New York. Some of the factors contributing to this were: unfamiliarity with the New York U.N. scene, lack of a proper base for HIC activities, and the dominance of USA NGOs and English language work. Lessons learned from New York led to a more successful presence in Istanbul.

3.2.2 Habitat II:

a) **Human rights in Turkey:** Between PrepComs I and II, HIC decided to work with progressive rights oriented groups in Turkey to promote human/housing rights through the Habitat II process. (The alternative being considered was to promote an NGO boycott.) This decision was based on a March 95 visit to Turkey by two HIC members which the Secretariat set up with COHRE. Barry Pinsky and other HIC members held additional meetings with NGOs and human rights groups in Istanbul in September and December 1996 at the same time as IFG meetings. Rooftops/COHRE then organized a five person Fact Finding Mission to Turkey in March 1996. The FFM report **The Impact of War and Forced Evictions on Urbanization in Turkey: Violations of Housing Rights** was released during Habitat II. Next Steps: There is much more to say about this activity. It will be an important element of the HIC meetings in October.

b) **HIC Istanbul Program:** The HIC/WAS Secretariat coordinated an extensive program of over 30 workshops, exhibits, and two large well visited booths. Workshops were organized under five themes: housing rights, habitat & environment, women & shelter, Latin America program, and government/NGO cooperation. The largest exhibit was made up of 300 "Peoples Posters" from Latin America. In addition HIC members played key leadership roles in the Women's Super Coalition, the Latin American, African and Asian Caucuses.

c) **HIC and the negotiations:** HIC members were particularly active in the Women's, Human Rights, Youth and Children's Caucuses although HIC as an organization did not have a very visible presence in the negotiations. HIC missed the opportunity to make its own presentation to Committee 2 although several HIC members did so.

3.2.3 **Other UN Conferences:** Several HIC members attended the WSSD PrepCom 3 in New York and Barry Pinsky participated in meetings with Wally N'Dow at the same time. Some HIC members attended the WSSD in Copenhagen, but this was informal and we did not receive reports. Some funding was provided to Peter Friedland, a HIC member, to link with USA processes. Barry attended the UN50 meeting (San Francisco, June 95) which had several Habitat II workshops. He and other HIC members were panelists in some of these workshops. The Secretariat supported Tabitha Siwale to set up a successful Habitat II NGO workshop in Tanzania (using Rooftops own funds). HIC/WAS members were very active in the Beijing preparations and Conference. The HIC/Rooftops secretariat reported on this in the newsletters. The Secretariat also channelled UNCHS funds to Malick Gaye and Tabitha Siwale for travel to IFG meetings in Istanbul.

- **Other conferences:** Rooftops people were on panels at many other conferences and events promoting Habitat II. Some examples: the American Planning Association, Toronto, April 95; the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association, Ottawa, May 95; Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada, Vancouver, May 95, various South African NGO meetings.

3.3 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

3.3.1 **Information Packages:** We had expected to send substantive information packages to HIC focal points, but this was not necessary. Once Habitat II momentum developed, everyone was quickly swamped with information. A limited amount of special information was distributed to

the focal points in addition to more strategic e-mail and newsletter communications.

3.3.2 Newsletter: Five "People Towards Habitat II" newsletters were published. Paper/mail circulation increased from about 2400 to over 4500. As noted above, there was also a lot of electronic distribution. Most of the newsletter content was also published by UNCHS in its NGO News. It was also used by other NGOs, regional groups, professional and other partners organizations. The newsletters had a large impact in getting many more people involved in the Habitat II process.

3.3.3 E-Mail: See above.

3.4 Issues Development: HIC Mexico did most of the work on drafts of a Habitat II themes/principles paper. It was widely circulated in Latin America but had less impact in other regions. Five summary points were used more extensively in the newsletter and at Habitat II. In general, the Secretariat did not have the resources to support policy work during the Habitat II process.

Financial Report to 30 September 1996: Attached.

CANADA LINKED ACTIVITIES

Excuse the brief notes. More work needs to be done on this section.

1. Co-op Housing Sector:

- resolution at 1995 CHFC AGM
- housing co-ops nominated and become one of 100 global best practices
- Rooftops dev. ed oriented to Habitat II - banners prepared for Istanbul
- range of activities at 1996 CHFC AGM
- links to other housing cooperators: ICA, Rooftops partners participating in Istanbul
- work with Peter Trotscha, CHFC delegate to Habitat II

2. CHRA:

- support to CHRA Habitat II consultation (provided materials, contacts, inputs)
- helped secure financial support for CHRA Habitat II workshop in Vancouver
- inputs to Canadian Housing

3. Other Canadian NGOs:

- helped kick off Youth for Habitat II process, mentoring along the way
- special Canadian newsletters sent with early issues of People Towards Habitat II
- prepared series of CMHC Habitat II newsletters
- worked with GROOTS: support for women from South attending PrepCom 3 and Istanbul, support for newsletter and special issue of "Women & Environment"
- organized meetings among Canadian NGOs and official delegation at PrepCom3 and Istanbul

4. Links to official Canadian process:

- worked closely with Canadian delegations at all PrepComs, Conference: Louise Constantin a member of the delegation played an important leadership and linkage role among NGOs
- Louise and others participated in consultations in Canada

Next Steps/Canada: We are trying to get CMHC funding for a guide to Habitat II, probably in partnership with CHRA.

FUNDING:

We raised over \$200,000 for Habitat II work. More details to come.

Attachments:

- "ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR ALL" IN THE HABITAT AGENDA
- COOPERATIVES/SOCIAL HOUSING IN THE HABITAT AGENDA