

The Marrakech Declaration

Urban-Rural Interrelationship for Sustainable Development



A vision and challenge to shape the future of Urban Rural Interrelationships

Robert P. Mahoney

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Presentation overview

- Background
- Marrakech Declaration
- FIG achievements
- The future challenge

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Background

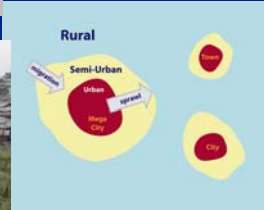
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We have problem

Background

Now there is one outstandingly important fact regarding the spaceship earth, and that is that no instruction book came with it
R. Buckminster Fuller



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Background

By 2015

- 400 million people will live in Megacities
- 3 billion people will live in small towns and cities

Leading to

- Increasing demand for food and water
- Changing consumption patterns
- Increasing costs to supply, distribute and access food and water

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Background



Semi Urban Areas

- Rural migrants settling near the city
- The city expanding to rural villages and loss of access to land by the poor
- Unsustainable farming practices contaminate food, soil and water
- Uncoordinated policies and actions

Source FAO

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Background

Rural Areas

- In 2015, 60% of global poverty will be rural
- More rural households are being headed by women
- Growing inequality between rural and urban areas



Source: FAO

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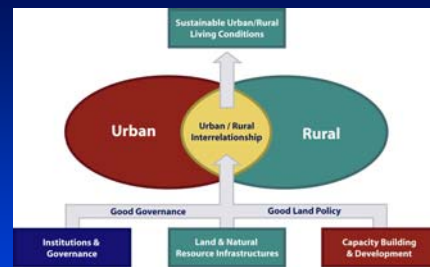
2nd FIG Regional Conference
 "Urban-Rural Interrelationship for Sustainable Environment"
 Marrakech, Morocco 2-5 December 2003

The aim of the conference was to shed some light on selected issues of urban-rural interrelations and to raise awareness of this complex topic. The conference also tried to explain the close linkage of land policy and land administration



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A simplified view of the urban-rural interrelationship (Graphic: Slog Eneamk)

Knowledge is of two kinds. We know the subject ourselves, or we know where we find information upon it
 Samuel Johnson

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The world can only be grasped by
 Action, not by contemplation
 Jacob Bronowski

The Marrakech Declaration
 is intended to support

- Politicians
- Senior managers
- Professional organizations
- Decision makers



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The Marrakech Declaration

Institutional and Governance Concepts
 Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
 Capacity Assessment and Development

Each section is set out to describe:

- Objectives
- Context
- Guidance
- Lessons Learnt
- The Way Forward



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Institutional and Governance Concepts
Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
Capacity Assessment and Development

New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common.
John Locke

- Good governance of the urban-rural interrelationship involves the interaction of complex political, social, economic, environmental issues, planning controls, land availability and an effective land market

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Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
Capacity Assessment and Development

- The past is not necessarily a good guide to the future
- The professional skills required to provide appropriate governance do not lie in one professional group alone
- The structure of governance needs to adapt over time and requires downstream flexibility as relationships mature

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Capacity Assessment and Development

- Establish a single authority for the coordination and development of integrated policy
- Create regular and frequent dialogue between urban and rural representatives
- Ensure that technical solutions do not dominate good governance

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Institutional and Governance Concepts
Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
Capacity Assessment and Development

- The management of land and resources is central to most societies. The critical issue is to find a balance between the economic and environmental forces, where the human being remains both the problem and the solution

Where observation is concerned, chance favours only the prepared mind.
Louis Pasteur

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Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
Capacity Assessment and Development

- Only a combination of regulatory and voluntary approaches can encourage sustainable development and commit people to its success
- Remove silos of "information is power" amongst professional groups
- Empower local communities. Use citizen based participatory planning and design to ensure that the population becomes part of the process

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Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
Capacity Assessment and Development

- Establish land evaluation practices to reduce the urbanisation of good agricultural land
- Establish appropriate and viable land markets together with supporting financial systems and legislation
- Education is a central component regarding the process and implementation of environmental decisions

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Institutional and Governance Concepts
Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
Capacity Assessment and Development

- **Capacity Assessment**
 - Is an essential basis for the formulation of coherent strategies for capacity development
- **Capacity Development**
 - Is a concept broader than Human Resource Development (HRD) - it includes an emphasis on the overall system, and the environment and context within which individuals, organisations and societies operate and interact

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Capacity Assessment and Development

- **Improvement of urban-rural interrelationships implies adoption of long-term strategic actions. This includes:**

- formulation of political objectives;
- adoption of relevant land development policies and policy instruments for implementation;
- establishment of the legal framework for dealing with land development issues in general and especially the urban-rural divide

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- **Include capacity building as a mainstream component that is addressed up front, not as an add-on**
- **Attention should be given to the medium and long term needs for dealing with problems of land administration and development including urban rural interrelations**

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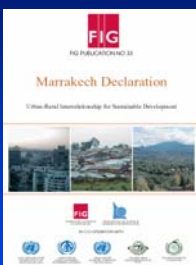
- **Promote the need for continuing professional development (CPD) to maintain and develop professional skills and interaction between education, research and professional practice**

Common sense is the best distributed commodity in the world; for every man is convinced that he is well supplied with it.
Henry Descartes

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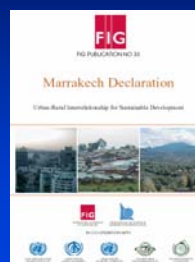
The declaration recommends the development of a comprehensive national land policy which includes:

- Institutional and governmental actions required for providing good governance;
- Land administration infrastructures for control of land tenure, land value and land use; and
- Tools for capacity assessment and development at societal, organisational and individual level.



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The world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation.
Jacob Bronowski



NGOs such as the FIG have a **three-fold role** in connection with the theme of urban-rural linkages for sustainable development in cooperation with our global, national and local partners

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Role 1

NGOs such as FIG and their member associations and individual members can be enablers, that is, they can act as community developers, organisers or consultants alongside community based organisations;

Role 2

They can be mediators between people and the authorities that control access to resources, goods and services; and

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Role 3

They can be advisers to governmental institutions on policy changes to increase local access to resources and to provide greater freedom to use them in locally-determined ways that includes urban-rural linkages.

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Presentation overview

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- **FIG achievements**
- The future challenge

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FIG achievements



The outcomes of the conference were used by Dr. Anna K. Tibaljuka in her address about the conference at World Habitat Day in Nairobi.

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FIG achievements

What have we (FIG) achieved?

- Developed a valuable document as a UN NGO for:
 - Politicians
 - Senior managers
 - Professional organizations
 - Decision makers

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FIG achievements

What have we achieved?

- Responded to societal needs
- Worked across commissions
- Delivered in an appropriate time frame

What have we learnt?

- We can be well focused
- Commissions work well together
- We can deliver in an appropriate time frame

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The future challenges

FIG needs to respond more effectively to the challenges facing society TODAY through:

- More inter Commission working
- More focus on immediate issues
- Outward rather than inward focus

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The future challenges

FIG needs to respond more effectively to the challenges facing society TODAY through:

- A different style of working
 - Creation of short term highly focused response groups

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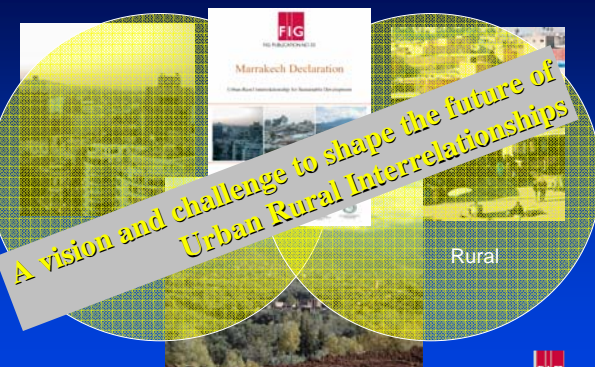
The future challenges

- What do we want to achieve?
 - FIG Strategic Mission ?
- How do we want to achieve it?
 - More targeted and focused objectives with our partners ?
 - Formation of more cross commission groups to address specific issues and deliver ?

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Shaping the Change

And so boldly we must go...

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