

Some Reflections about Rio+20, and its relevance for UN-Habitat¹

Draft text by Claudio Acioly jr.²

The “FUTURE WE WANT” lacks enforceable commitments on climate change and many other global challenges amongst the world’s nations.

However, the conference demonstrated that global social movements, civil society agents, NGO’s, private sector and cities’ governments represented by their respective mayors were capable to be much more assertive and able to agree and commit to undertake bold steps to address current global environmental challenges.

This has certainly implications for future strategies of UN-Habitat, and particularly for the design and implementation of the subsequent WUFs and Habitat III. There are lessons to be learnt.

The Event

With more than 50,000 participants and more than 100 heads of state and governments, the conference brought together an unprecedented number of people and organizations from all walks of life to discuss the future we don’t want and set in motion actions to achieve the future we want. More than 1,000 events took place side-by-side the official debates and negotiations. This created an event of proportions and magnitude never seen before.

Impact at the Local Level

The coverage given by the national and local press, newspapers, TV and Radio, and the engagement of the population of Rio de Janeiro in all side events of the conference are signs that the conference is likely to leave a legacy in the city’s citizenry in terms of critical attitude, knowledge and awareness about the future of our planet. Never before issues such as sustainability, clean environment and the notion of common responsibility have been placed on the forefront of public discussions in the city. The outcome of Rio+20 for the city is to be seen and monitored. Who will monitor this? It would be very important to pick up a few indicators to do a reality check in the city of Rio de Janeiro having the conference date as baseline and repeat it a few years down the line at a certain point in time in the future?! The social urban movement called “Rio Como Vamos” in cooperation with the “The Climate that Works” undertook a survey that was executed by the M.Sense Pesquisa and revealed that 74% of the population of Rio knows what the Rio+20 conference is all about. The survey revealed that health, education, environment, urban mobility, work/firms and art & culture are aspects that, according to respondents, contribute to quality of life, individually and collectively, if they are grouped and kept at a satisfactory level. The result of the survey demonstrates a high level of information and consciousness amongst the population³. Many other surveys and opinion polls were carried out to assess views of the population reflecting on their understanding about the issues at stake in Rio+20. It was amazing to see how much it was known by lay citizens.

Response of the Population of Rio de Janeiro

The population of Rio was responsive to the conference. Huge demonstrations in the city centre; long cues for accessing the Humanity Exhibition in the fortress of Copacabana (nearly 200,000 people converged to the venue and visit the exhibition); school visits organized to several side events of the conference and the debates in coffee shops and restaurants gave other signs of civic engagement. In parallel to that, local issues and politics played their role with residents associations, activists and political leaders taking their chance to challenge the current urban policies of the municipality of Rio de Janeiro. Issues such as evictions, housing rights and access to land were raised repeatedly in events and public demonstrations. In one of the days of the conference, we were caught in heavy traffic jam close to the venue Riocentro due to another huge demonstration by residents of an informal settlement – Vila do Autódromo – situated inside the Formula 1 racetrack scheduled to be demolished and families expected to be relocated in order to

give room for projects related to the Olympic games. Some argue that the purpose for freeing the land is to promote higher income real estate developments that are more suitable to the area. There is an ongoing negotiation involving lawyers of the city and the residents.

It was equally interesting to see the municipality of Rio announcing its initiative to apply principles of sustainability in its programmes and projects. The city's municipal secretary of housing announced that the city is actually working hard to earn the sustainability stamp issued by the CEF-National Savings Bank. This quality control stamp is given to projects that succeed to fulfil a series of sustainability criteria resulting into access to special additional funding.

Rio is going green in slum upgrading! The topic was widely covered by the press showing that several municipalities in Brazil are following this line of action.

Critique of Civil Society and Lessons for UN-Habitat

Nevertheless, civil society organisations and social movements from all over the world that were engaged in all side events and mobilization prior and during the Rio+20 conference have criticized the lack of firm agreements and commitments to achieve sustainable development targets and the lack of commitments to allocate the needed resources to implement the actions towards a sustainable future. Many called the conference "Rio Minus 20 or Rio-20".

The People's Summit taking place side-by-side to the official conference was a huge success. This may give us an indication of what we can expect for the subsequent WUF's and Habitat III. Let us remember that during WUF V in Rio, the world urban social forum, organized by social urban movements and NGO's, taking place next door to the conference venue proved to be a success of attendance in 2010. There was an articulated critique on the WUF from part of this movement arguing that the event was not inclusive, the ideas and policies tabled were not in line with the principle of social control of the state. Similar movements are being undertaken for Napoli involving many of these organizations, some of them present and active in Rio+20. What do we do to be more inclusive and establish a platform for dialogue with these global movements and international NGO's that can help us raise the importance of the urban agenda? Being a human rights-based institution – consistent with the founding pillars of the UN – it would be natural to engage with partners from civil society movements. However, the practice is not so straightforward. We do have our limitations and our bias.

Given the recognition of the right to adequate housing, the right to water and the increasing interest for the "right to the city" advocacy (France insisted in including this into UN-Habitat's 2014-2019 strategy plan), it would be possible for us to make a bold step into engaging these organisations and movements aiming at the paradigm change in urban development and city management. The Habitat Agenda, international instruments, the various international covenants provide ample framework for UN-Habitat to act on these issues and gain legitimacy and support from the international civic community. That could help bringing some echo towards their representatives in the current governing council.

Popular Legitimacy Challenged

It is true that Rio+20 is a summit gathering member states of the UN to agree or disagree on the global issues affecting us all. However, it is worth noting that a petition signed by more than 1,000 NGO's and civil society movements and institutes demanded the deletion from the Rio+20 conference document the statement "**with participation of civil society**". This petition was delivered in public during the plenary session in front of the head of states and official delegations. This takes away the legitimacy and full endorsement to the document from the side of civil society. This was followed by a statement made by Waek Hamidan from Climate Action Network saying that the future is not safeguarded. However, the final version of the document that has been uploaded for public consultation retained this statement in its first paragraph.

The Legacy of Rio 92

Looking back at Rio 92 and the commitments and agreements such as the Agenda 21, and particularly the urban agenda outlined in its Chapters 7 and 28 respectively on human settlements and the local agenda 21, one has sufficient reasons to leave Rio de Janeiro with some degree of disappointment 20 years later. The document of Rio92 was more robust, outlined an Agenda 21 and laid down the foundations for subsequent agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and conventions on climate change, biodiversity, desertification, etc.

I am of the opinion that those in charge of the negotiations representing member states have forgotten the boldest definition of sustainable development emanated from the Brundtland report and the Rio92 conference document that says **“sustainable development meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”**. The Rio+20 conference ended without the confirmation of this basic preoccupation because all concrete steps have been left to “the day after” or more concretely 2014 when a sustainable development forum will outline benchmarks and define the steps to be undertaken thereafter in line with the principles agreed in Rio+20.

On the other spectrum, city governments attending the conference and organizing parallel events such as the C-40, popularly named as the mayor’s summits came out more assertive and confirmed Rio92’s motto **“act locally think globally”**. City mayors demonstrated much more commitment and were capable of agreeing on concrete steps to create a better, “cleaner” and safer future at the local level where public/municipal policies really matter.

The Urban Agenda: reasons for optimism or pessimism for UN-Habitat?

For UN-Habitat, some paragraphs/extract in the new document quoting the importance of sustainable cities, references made to housing and slum upgrading, and not having a UNEP as a dominant single agency laying claim over the built environment as part of its global mandate may be a reason for timid celebration since the risk of being absorbed is now minimal. It certainly leaves open the “urban niche” to be explored by an urban/technically specialized agency. But there is a lot of hard work ahead towards Habitat III, both at the city and at the global normative levels. Given that more than half of humanity is urban, one could have expected that in its paragraph 5, the conference document should have included as part of the commitments the term ‘sustainable cities’ or ‘sustainable urbanisation’ next to the natural, social and economic resource base for sustainable development. This is not the case.

The urban agenda is not understood and fully integrated into the negotiators’ mind set. Certainly a lot of attention must be given to the diplomatic and member state relationship levels. With increasingly scarce resources from the traditional northern donor community, falling voluntary contribution, and the lack of serious international commitments with the urban agenda, it is likely that we will have to double our efforts to demonstrate the importance of cities in national development and economic growth, not mentioning the role of cities in achieving sustainable development goals through sustainable urbanisation practices.

Not mentioning the ongoing reform and restructuring of UN-Habitat which needs to deliver a better, more efficient and more authoritative “urban/city agency” that gains trust and confidence of traditional donors, attracts new donors’ voluntary contribution and gain respect within the international development agenda. Given the size and content of the urban issues into the Rio+20 document, this is certainly not the case yet. We are not managing to mainstream our agenda.

The statements about sustainable cities kept being deleted and re-inserted into the main document as the negotiations went by. This only predicts that UN-Habitat will have to change its tactics and

strategy for the years to come if it wants to seal definitively the urban agenda into global binding documents. The word ‘cities’ only appears for the first time in its paragraph 21 and repeats 11 times in the entire document. By contrast, the word “health” appears 56 times. The term ‘urbanisation’ does not appear in the entire document. The term ‘sustainable cities’ appears for the first time on page 26, heading paragraph 134. There is a recognition that there is “*a need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration*”⁴. Paragraphs 134 to 137 focused on cities and human settlements. There is a further recognition of the “*importance of increasing the number of metropolitan regions, cities and towns that are implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design in order to respond effectively to the expected growth of urban populations in the coming decades*”⁵. One may argue that the mention of housing, slum upgrading, urban revitalization, urban planning as well as the stated commitment to support financially UN-Habitat, is already reason for celebration. I tend to disagree. I am of the opinion that the document is disappointing by not addressing the challenges of urbanization and the role of cities in sustainable development in a rapidly urbanizing world. This would be consistent with the fact that more than 50% of humanity is already urban. Therefore, the document should have been clear and provide directions, commitments, bold steps in a robust and evident manner within the body of the text.

There were many comments made by different personalities saying that “after the failure of Rio+20, the UN will have to rethink if it is worth to organize such huge conferences”. This is a warning. But the mayors’ summit gives a hope that cities can and will become important partners of UN-Habitat and not the ministries and central government entities. This has obviously consequences for our governance system. It might bring us to the dialectics of engagement. It also calls for a pragmatic but politically smart set of actions from our side for the years to come. UN-Habitat needs to gain an unequivocal leadership in the urban arena in order to remain relevant and needed to bring forward the sustainable city agenda. To make it worse, there seems to exist a significant number of people who still believe that urbanisation can be tamed and halted and that investments should be directed to rural areas, to keep people in their village, to provide security tenure in the rural areas as a way to keep migration at bay. In two different occasions in Rio+20, I was confronted with comments from well-positioned individuals who still believe that focusing on cities, the demands and needs of urban residents, is a misleading policy that only exacerbates migration and the dichotomy rural-urban. This means, the nexus urbanisation-prosperity-wealth-innovation is far from being “tabula rasa” and we must bring forward strong messages about urbanisation and its benefits and what we need to do to capture and maximize its positive externalities. Furthermore, the discussions and events I have participated demonstrated that our priorities lead by “planning for better cities, producing economy of scale with jobs and better urban legislation” are in gross contrast with increasing focus on resolving the multiplication of slums and informal urbanisation. There is a gap between country-level demands and challenges and the responses we are providing. We might have to revisit the way we are unpacking our policy recommendations. The document also highlights in an unequivocal manner the commitment of the member states to promote capacity building for sustainable development, including human resources development and training, institution building, sharing knowledge and experience, research and the need to facilitate “informed policy decision-making. This is an important dimension to be explored by UN-Habitat.

No Consensus amongst Member States on the Critical Agenda Points

The lack of consensus on the critical pillars of the conference and cumbersome negotiations resulted into Brazil, as host country, to lead the reformulation of the basic conference document, with the goal of making it more objective, less controversial and compact. The proposal of G77+China to establish a fund of USD30 billion to finance the transition of developing countries to a green economy was taken out of the document as it was rejected by USA, EU, Japan and Canada.

Environmentalists and activists criticized the fact that these same countries agreed to provide USD 456 billion to IMF to rescue private banks and the financial sector in Europe but neglected the needs of the planet, the biodiversity, climate changes and other common responsibilities. In other words, the crisis of capitalism is priority; the future of our planet is not at this point in time. The principle of “common responsibilities but differentiated” was kept in the document. This has been emphasized by the BRICS (Brazil, India, Russia, China and South Africa). The controversies remained in the points (1) sustainable development targets, (2) governance and the transformation of UNEP in a specialized agency, (3) means of implementation and financing the transition to a green economy, and (4) preservation of Oceans. The original paper had 835 marked texts in disagreement. France’s president was very vocal in expressing their disappointment for not having UNEP transformed into a specialized agency.

Many argued that the document became much less firm on commitments. International NGO’s like CARE called the meeting “nothing more than a political charade”⁶. According to Greepeace, it was a “failure of epic proportions”⁷. The President of Brazil, Dilma Roussef, in her closing speech spoke of the victory of multilateralism and the search for consensus on equal commitments and common responsibilities but differentiated, which was accepted by all nations, arguing that this was a document reflecting a commitment to a road map, with 2014 as the first benchmark to define and agree on the bold steps. She disagreed from the criticism from civil society leaders that the document is weak. She also argued that never an environmental summit of this magnitude has started with an officially agreed document. “Wrap-up a document that includes the differences and at times un-reconciled opinions of 190+ countries requires negotiation skills that the Brazilian diplomats had to exercise”⁸. Some diplomats argued that the EU was the biggest loser in this debate since it was not able to “impose” its positions into all the nations.

The civil society movements delivered a 2-page document criticizing the emptiness of the final document and managed to hold a bilateral meeting with the UN secretary general, Ban Ki Moon.

Cities Taking Charge and Showing Firm Commitments

The C-40 Group Meeting that gathered the mayors of 58 cities, concentrating 320 million people and representing 21% of the world’s GNP and responsible for 12% of all GHG emissions agreed on targets and commitment to reduce significantly the emissions up to 2030. Cities like Rio, São Paulo, Shanghai, New York, London, Johannesburg, Paris and others set the tone about commitments which seemed impossible amongst the nations’ negotiations. At the start of the conference, the press in Brazil was giving wide coverage about the C-40 and the mayors’ individual commitments in their cities. The cities listed nearly 5,000 initiatives ranging from reduction of emission, improvement of mobility and public transport, to reforms in legislation and optimisation of building construction processes. The press widely announced the C-40 agreement with the Clinton Climate Initiative-CCI to boost innovations in the public and private domains. Due to the fact that municipalities enjoy a constitutionally protected autonomy in Brazil, it is not so strange that the Brazilian press placed the “cities summit” on the front page during the conference. With 86% of its population living in cities, there is little doubt amongst lay Brazilians that solutions for the global problems will be found in cities.

This seems to indicate a very interesting development and I recall a series of public lectures organized by IHS with the city of Rotterdam during 2008 under the motto “Cities are more important than Nations”. If cities have the necessary autonomy, capable to generate its own resources to self-finance its development projects, it will be at this level where we will witness major differences in tackling the global environmental challenges. The mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Eduardo Paes, in an interview for the O Globo newspaper said “cities are not making public a letter of intention but signing a solid document with concrete targets and measures. We are speaking of big cities where the process of decision making is less complex than in global fora and the UN”⁹. For example, Rio set a target to have 25% of all its garbage recycled by 2012 and to reduce 12% of

emissions by 2016. Though, when compared to some EU cities, this is rather low, but for a city without any tradition and infrastructure for recycling, this is a bold step. The city announced the closure of a huge dumping site at the margin of the Guanabara bay. Its actual closure and relocation to another site was carried out during the conference. This new site is located outside Rio's jurisdiction where separation and recycling will take place in cooperation with other municipalities that are part of Rio's metropolitan region. Very interesting proposals have been presented by Rio's mayor during the conference and ongoing actions demonstrate the firm commitment of Rio de Janeiro to improve mobility and public transport as part of the Olympic project. São Paulo, for example, announced bold steps to decrease its emissions, the enactment of new legislation and the shift towards cleaner energy sources in 2013 when 8 concessions to provide public transport in the cities will come to an end. There are 1,600 bus lines in the city with a fleet of 15,000 buses.

Cities in Action and on the Spotlight: useful tips for UN-Habitat

Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York, received significant attention by the media. He argued that the sustainability lies on the city and confirmed that cities have made significant progress during the last 20 years. They are accountable to their citizens and respond more quickly to challenges in reducing crime, improving access to education, mobility, transport, clean air. C-40 announced agreement with the World Bank and with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition sponsored by the US government and mayors made hard core commitments to pursue sustainability in public/municipal policies. More and more it is becoming obvious in many Latin American cities that it is at this level where provision and finance of infrastructure becomes critical and where innovative land management and land-based finance instruments are being widely applied. The supply of land for urban development and particularly for housing is currently a top subject in the sustainability debate in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador and Chile. The form and function of cities is being influenced by land markets and more precisely how land is managed and supplied, pushing developments to the urban fringe and strengthening social-spatial segregation patterns. This has obviously implications for UN-Habitat and its priorities when dealing with mayors and planning departments of local governments.

Conservative Positions Harm Women's Universal Rights: protests & protests

The women's groups organized a very big demonstration in the city. Calling for women's reproductive rights and protesting against the deletion of the human rights elements of the final document, the gender issue occupied great part of the media's attention during the conference. "A woman dies from birth-related complications at every 2 minutes; violence against women continues to be an epidemic illness; women earn less than men while performing the same duties and continue to be under-represented in public policies with less than 10 women occupying the position of head of state/government. Less than 1 per five parliamentary and less than 4% of all CEO's from large corporations are women"¹⁰. This is the call made by UN women.

Former Norway's prime minister Gro Bruntland and the former president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, now ED of UN Women, argued in favour of more information and power to women to decide if and when to have children. However, thanks to vocal opposition by the Vatican, a Latin American member state and several African states, the paragraph dealing with the reproductive rights was deleted and reformulated. This has caused an unequivocal criticism by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her keynote speech to the conference. Women from all walks of life and nationalities undressed their shirts and walked topless in protest through the streets of downtown Rio in a massive demonstration. This resulted into more coverage by the media to this particular issue. There was a popular discomfort with the influence of the conservative voices into the final document's chapter on women's reproductive rights. Mary Robinson, former UN Commissioner for Human Rights and former president of Ireland, a practising catholic, was more emphatic in her critique. She also made strong statements and expressed her disappointment with the final

formulation of the document. She expressed her concerns with the pressure from the Vatican for the deletion from the final conference document of all citations making reference to sex, sexuality and family planning in general. “What do men who live in celibate know about the life and decisions of poor women?”¹¹ In her speech in the event called “The Future that Women Want”, organized by the UN Women and attended by several female heads of states and former heads of states, Robinson expressed once more her disappointment for the fact that the Rio+20 doc did not follow the documents of the summits of Cairo and Beijing where references were made about the reproductive rights.

Climate Change: not all agreeing on the catastrophic prognosis

On the climate change front, Connie Hedegaard, EU commissioner for climate change, said that the document needed a more affirmative language, with more commitments since the reality we face demands some ‘bold steps’. But she recognized progress, referring to the agreements of Durban, the global warming of 2° C which are mentioned in the final doc. According to her, the EU wanted more ambition in the document particularly in the renewable energy chapter and the promotion of access to sustainable energy for all. When confronted with the lack of EU support for the global fund to finance sustainable actions, she argues that only public finance is not enough. There is a need to involve the private sector finance contribution too.

Private Sector: a serious partnership to be explored by UN-Habitat

In this respect, it is worth mentioning the events UN-Habitat organized with Siemens and with IBM. It has become clear that some businesses like mobile telecommunications and ICT see cities and particularly the big agglomerations as a substantial market place generated by the economy of scale and great concentration of consumers. Siemens and IBM are entering into the business of urban management and city development strategies through different entry points. Siemens’ green city index and its reports clearly bring forward the elements of sustainability and efficiency, and how cities are performing as an economic entity. IBM, has engaged with the municipality of Rio in order to create a one-window shop concept of strategic information management, analysis and retrieval to monitor different aspects of climate change impact and environmental issues and support strategic decision making. This means, we need to engage and explore the elements of corporate social responsibility and bring their knowledge, resources and expertise for the benefit of the urban agenda. This will strengthen our position and relevance.

The final document expresses this in a direct manner, promoting public-private partnership and the recognizes the importance of corporate social responsibility the need to promote sustainable and responsible business practices. This is certainly an area to be explored for resource mobilisation, increasing the visibility of the UN global compact and partnering in joint initiatives where expertise and flexibility of private sector agents can be maximised.

In-situ and Digital Dialogues: inclusive tools of huge outreach

The Dialogues for Sustainable Development, divided into 10 themes¹², were considered a success by many who participated and received positive commendation by the press. It is interesting to note that there were 60,000 people actively involved in the digital platform of the Dialogues, making suggestions and giving opinions. Overall, 1.3 million subscribed to the platform established by the Brazilian government and this was considered a unique success. There was on-line voting and real time voting during the plenary sessions. Recovery of forestry, community education to prevent plastic pollution, promote use of solid waste to produce energy in cities, eliminating subsidies and promote fiscal green instruments were some of the themes picked by those who participated in the e-dialogue. Through the internet, for the theme/topic Sustainable Cities & Innovation, the recommendation winner was “promote the use of waste as a renewable energy source in urban environments”. This provides useful lessons for UN-Habitat. The use of ICT in the preparation of the WUFs and certainly for Habitat III should be explored in its maximum.

Milhares de manifestantes protestam no Centro contra resultados tímidos

Paulo Whitaker

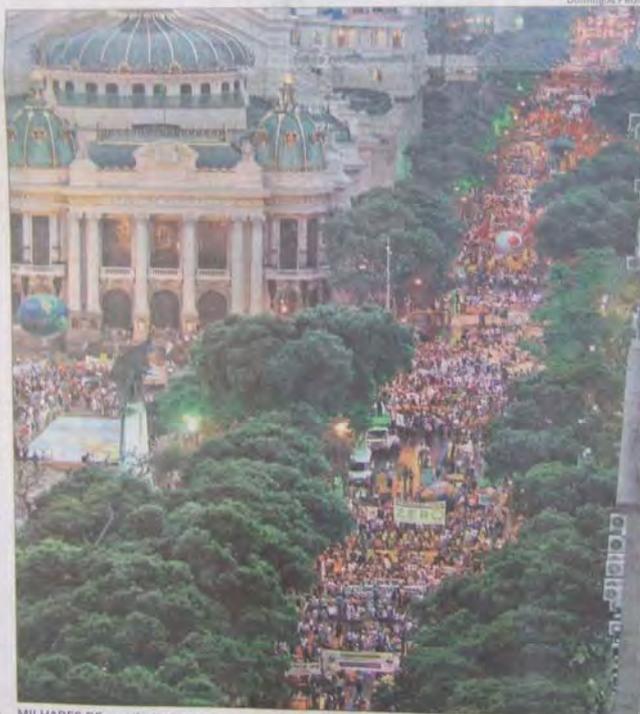


HEFES DE Estado e de governo da Rio+20 posam para foto no Riocentro: documento final está em xeque e agora restam poucas horas para diplomatas tentarem acordar

O dia de ontem foi de levante da chamada sociedade civil contra os resultados tímidos do documento final da Rio+20. Diante de dezenas de chefes de Estado e governo no Riocentro, o libanês Waek Hamidan, da Rede de Ação Climática, anunciou que mais de mil instituições, entre ONGs e órgãos de pesquisa, estavam retirando suas assinaturas do documento. Os diplomatas ainda tentam mudar esse quadro e manter os nomes. O secretário-geral da ONU, Ban Ki-moon, pediu mais ambição e foi categórico: "O recurso mais escasso de todos é o tempo. Não podemos mais nos dar ao luxo de adiar decisões." Na Avenida Rio Branco, milhares foram às ruas protestar.

"Vocês têm 72 horas para decidir o destino de nossas crianças, dos meus filhos, dos filhos dos meus filhos. O cronômetro está contando, tic, tac, tic, tac."

BRITTANY TRILFORD, 17 anos, ativista ambiental



MILHARES DE manifestantes ocupam a Avenida Rio Branco, no Centro: reivindicações em várias línguas

Demétrios Pezoto

Brics querem manter posição de pobres

• Apesar de já terem dinheiro até para o FMI, países como Brasil e China, membros dos Brics, fazem parte de um grupo de nações que recusam a financiar o desenvolvimento sustentável

Dilma: 'Houve avanços'

• Ao discursar sobre o resultado da Rio+20, a presidente Dilma garantiu: resultado de grande esforço de conciliação. O Brasil consagra avanços."

VINOD THOMAS

• A decisão dos países de reduzir emissões é o maior ganho da Rio+20

Sacola plástica deve voltar a ser gratuita em SP

ENTREVISTADO NA CÚPULA DOS SEM ESCRÓPULOS

CHICO

Lula extrapolou e deu um fora.

SÉGUNDO CADERNO

Daniela Dacosta

REVISTA BOA VIAGEM

• Cidades históricas e

Photo 1: Contrast between the photo of heads of state and the massive demonstration in the streets of downtown Rio



Photo 2: The Special Issue of O Globo Newspaper : Cities Taking the Lead and the Global Popular Party



Photo 3: The O Globo Newspaper: Women demonstrating stop the traffic and a Final Document without Ambition



Photo 6: ED Joan Clos & Minister of Cities of Brasil



Photo 7: ED signing the MoU with the ABC-Brazilian Development Cooperation Agency

¹ Responding to a lot of queries from colleagues who did not attend the conference, this internal paper is meant to provide some insights and register some reflections drawn from my participation in events as panellist or attending the discussions in several side events and the realization of one official training event focused on methods and tools to build sustainable cities. Additionally, I review the articles regularly published in the media and by the Brazilian, particularly the special journal published by the national newspaper O Globo which are illustrated at the end of this paper. I have tried to elaborate on some critical issues as I came across them in Rio+20 and highlight implications for UN-Habitat.

² As speaker/panellist I participated in several round tables and side events at the mayor's summit organized by the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, in the week programme on Sustainable cities organized by Ministry of Cities-Municipality-National Institute of Architects of Brazil and UN-Habitat, and the Conference's Official Training Events coordinating a 3 hour learning event on Tools and Methodologies to Build Sustainable Cities. Attended several side events and discussions focusing on various themes, including UN-Habitat's urban summit.

³ O Globo, Especial Rio+20, 22 Junho 2012, page 10.

⁴ United Nations (2012). The Future We Want. 19 June. Paragraph 134.

⁵ Idem, Paragraph 136.

⁶ The International Herald Tribune, 25 June 2012, page 8. Article by Simon Romero and John M. Broder.

⁷ idem

⁸ O Globo, Especial Rio+20, 20 June 2012

⁹ O Globo, Especial Rio+20, 17 June 2012

¹⁰ O Globo, Especial Rio+20, 19 June 2012

¹¹ O Globo, Especial Rio+20, 20 June 2012

¹² (1) Unemployment, decent work and migration; (2) sustainable development as a response to economic and financial crisis; (3) sustainable development and poverty eradication; (4) economy and sustainable development, including the road map to sustainable production and consumption; (5) forestry; (6) food security; (7) sustainable energy for all; (8) water; (9) sustainable cities and innovation; (10) oceans.