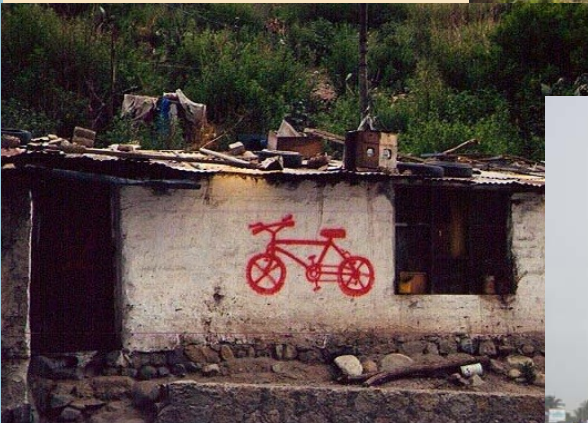
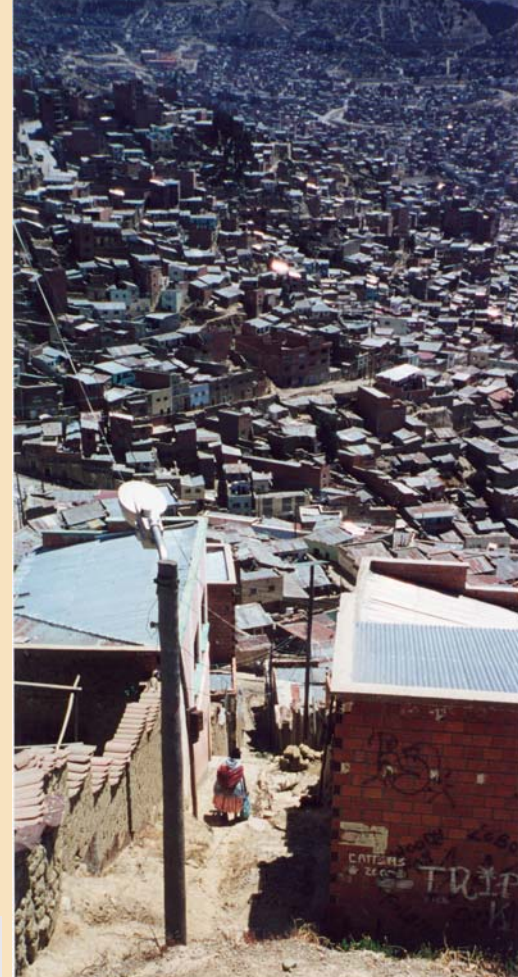




*Développement urbain et bidonvilles: Questions de société et de globalisation du monde*

Prof. Jean-Claude Bolay  
Directeur de la Coopération EPFL

Université de Genève  
Centre universitaire d'étude des problèmes de l'énergie  
24 mai 2007



Let us consider the following statement highlighted by the UN–HABITAT–backed City Mayors internet platform:

"Some 923,986,000 people, or 31.6% of the world's total urban population, live in slums; some 43% of the urban population of all developing regions combined live in slums; some 78.2% of the urban population in the least developed countries live in slums; some 6% of the urban population in developed regions live in slum–like conditions.

The total number of slum dwellers in the world increased by about 36% during the 1990s and in the next 30 years, the global number of slum dwellers will increase to about two billion if no concerted action to address the challenge of slums is taken."

These few words express the essence of the issue.

In both territorial and demographic terms, the world is becoming more and more urban.

This process now affects above all the developing countries in Asia and Africa, and Latin America to a somewhat lesser degree. The rate of urban growth in many countries in the South continues to be high, and invariably leads to a serious degradation of living conditions for the majority of city dwellers.

Depending on the level of poverty in each country, between two and four city dwellers out of five live in precarious conditions now, uncertainty as to their future existence.

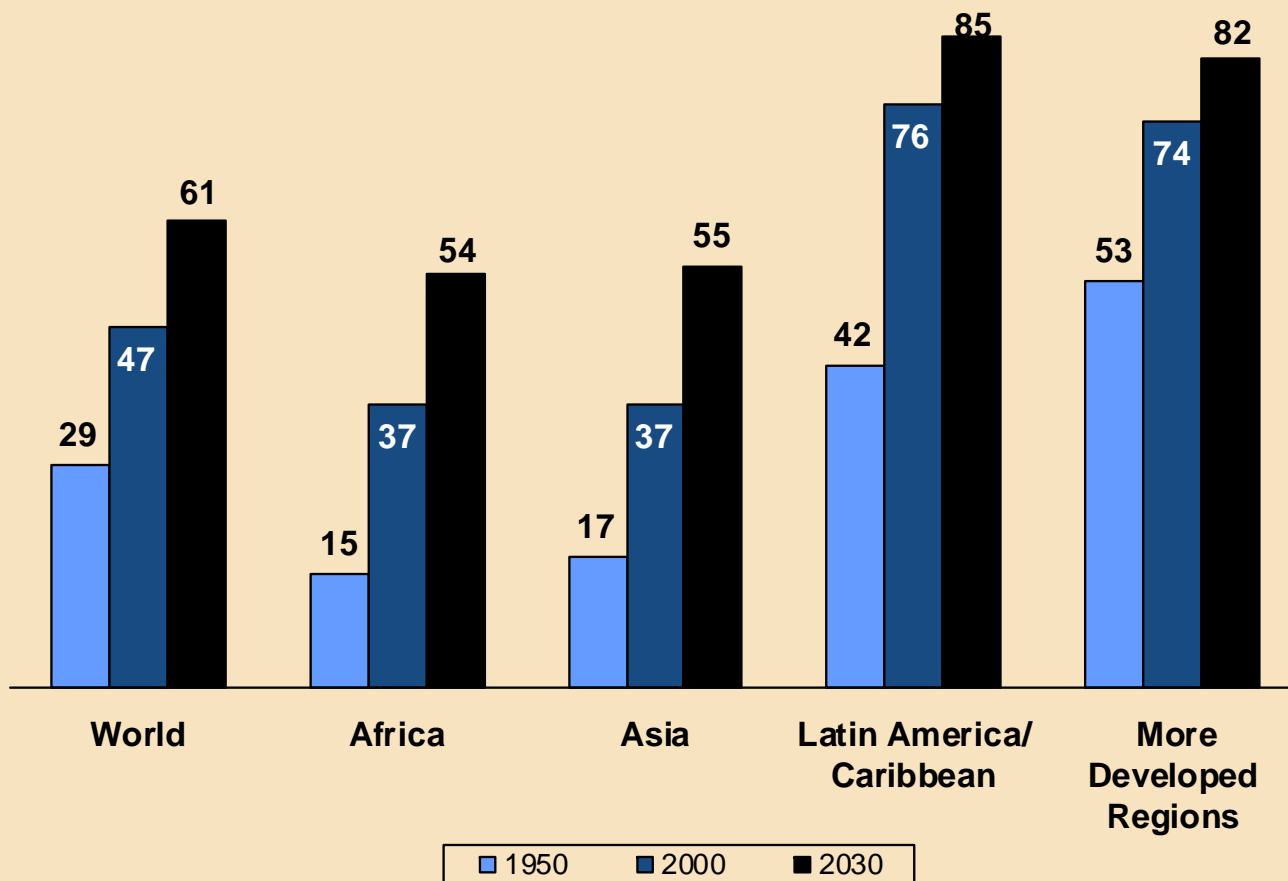
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	Urban population				Population in urban agglomerations of more than 1 million			Population in largest city		Access to improved sanitation facilities			
	millions		% of total population		% of total population			% of urban population		% of urban population		% of rural population	
	1980	2002	1980	2002	1980	2000	2015	1980	2001	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>World</b>	<b>1,741.3 s</b>	<b>2,953.1 s</b>	<b>39 w</b>	<b>48 w</b>	<b>.. w</b>	<b>.. w</b>	<b>.. w</b>	<b>18 w</b>	<b>16 w</b>	<b>75 w</b>	<b>81 w</b>	<b>27 w</b>	<b>38 w</b>
<b>Low Income</b>	348.3	763.1	22	31	..	..	..	17	18	58	71	20	31
<b>Middle Income</b>	785.9	1,438.9	39	53	..	..	..	18	15	75	82	29	43
Lower middle income	629.7	1,190.5	35	49	16	18	21	16	13	72	81	28	42
Upper middle income	156.2	248.4	66	75	..	..	..	29	26	..	..	..	64
<b>Low &amp; middle Income</b>	<b>1,134.2</b>	<b>2,202.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>
East Asia & Pacific	288.6	701.8	21	38	..	..	..	13	9	61	72	24	36
Europe & Central Asia	249.2	301.0	59	64	16	18	20	15	15	..	..	..	..
Latin America & Carib.	231.8	401.1	65	76	29	32	32	27	24	85	86	41	52
Middle East & N. Africa	83.4	177.2	48	58	21	22	24	30	26	..	94	..	72
South Asia	201.1	392.9	22	28	8	12	14	9	11	52	66	11	21
Sub-Saharan Africa	80.2	227.8	21	33	..	..	..	27	26	75	76	45	46
<b>High Income</b>	<b>607.1</b>	<b>751.1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
Europe EMU	209.5	237.3	73	78	26	27	27	17	16	..	..	..	..

# Trends in Urbanization, by Region

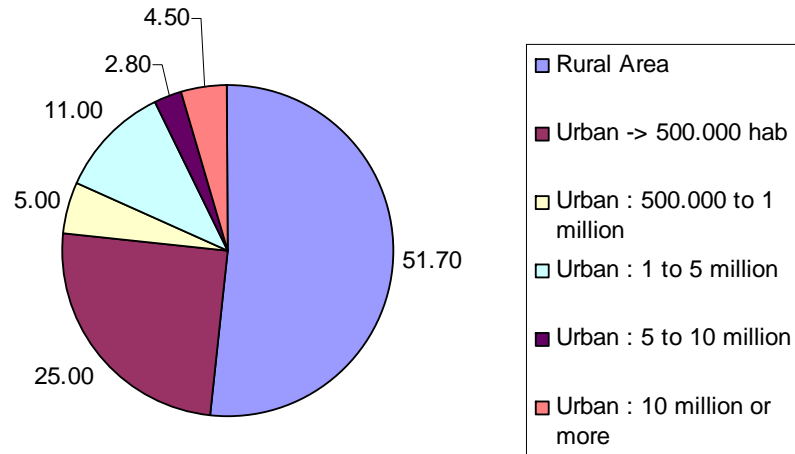
## Urban Population

Percent



Source: United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision* (medium scenario), 2004.

### World Population 2003



### Less developed regions - Urban population 2003

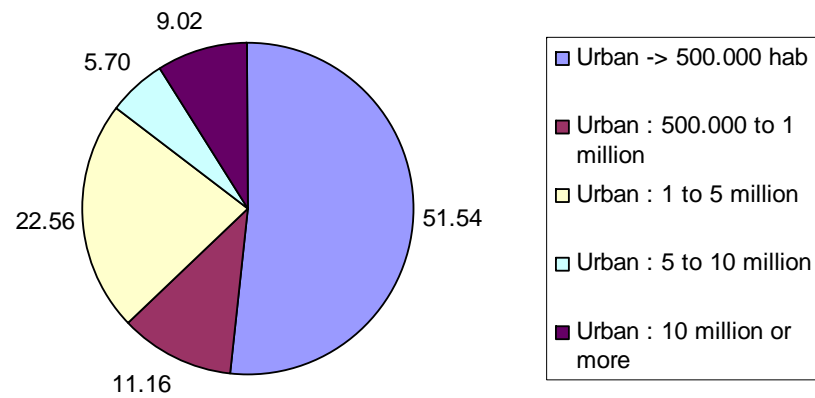
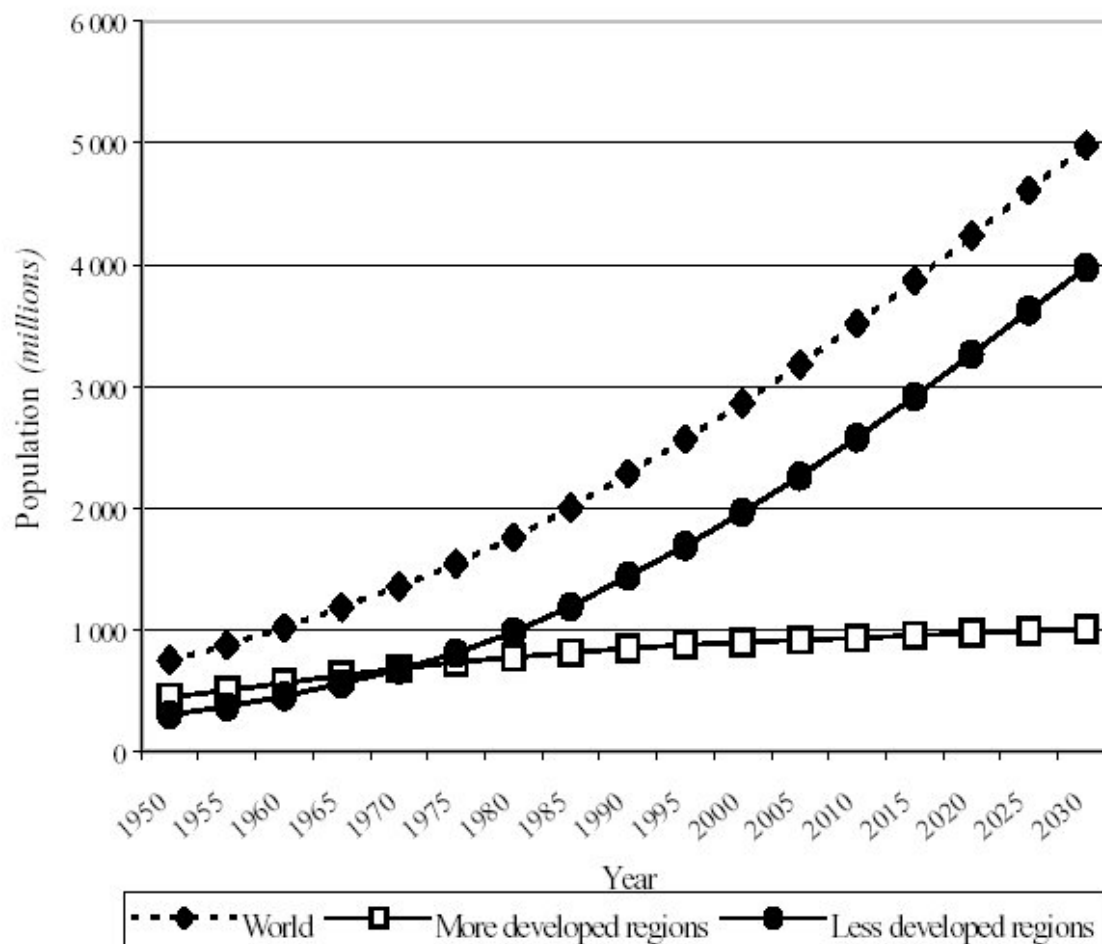


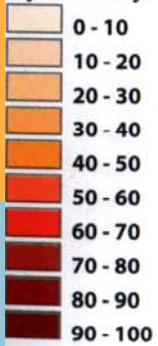
Figure 1. Estimated and projected urban population in the world, the more developed and the less developed regions, 1950-2030



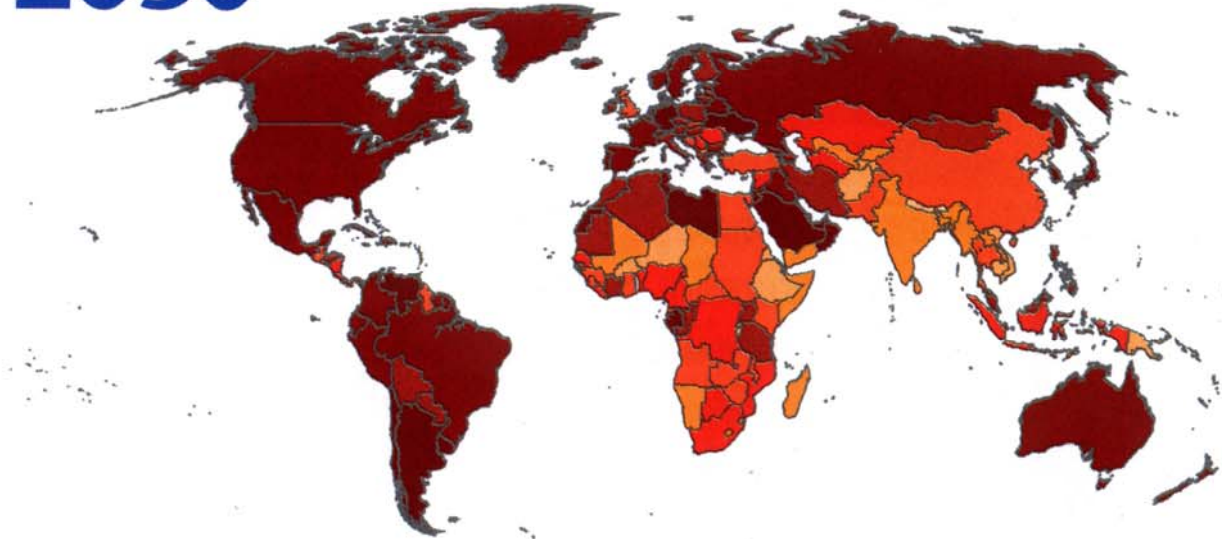
# URBANIZATION

Source: World Population Prospects: The 1999 Revision, United Nations Population Division

% of urban population, by country

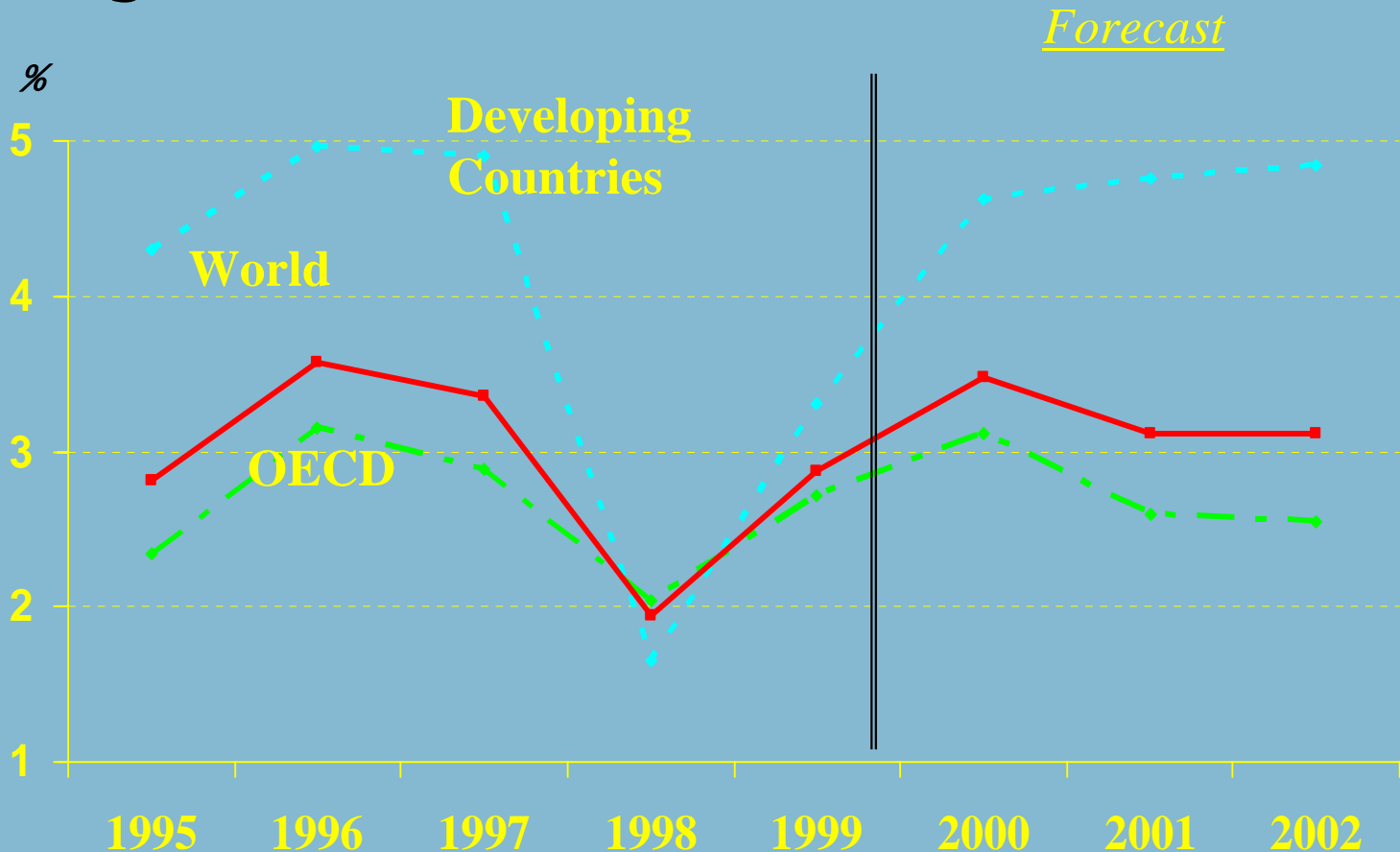


## 2030





# GDP Growth: Industrial and Developing Regions, 1995–2002



*Source: World Bank baseline, March 2000.*



# Interpreting the diversity of the urban context, and its globalising dynamics

## Major trends :

- Urbanisation is a multi-dimensional and continuous process of change that affects and has affected the entire world over several centuries
- The high rate of demographic growth one observes in developing countries goes hand in hand with a massive transfer of rural populations towards urban regions
- The level of urbanisation differs between countries and continents. It is particularly high in Europe, North America and South America (over 75%)
- Africa and Asia have remained mainly rural (in 2000: 37.2% and 37.5%); here the high rate of urban growth (3.66% and 2.6% as against a world average of 2.05% between 2000 and 2010)
- Correspondence between poverty level and size of the rural population on the one hand, and the scope and speed of urban growth: generally speaking, the poorer and more rural a country is today, the faster will be the rate of its urban growth and the more serious the problems it will have to face tomorrow

## High speed urbanisation, as it occurs in developing countries, leads to:

- Inadequate correlation between needs of city-dwellers and the infrastructures and services they are provided with
- Deterioration of material and environmental conditions of life in society
- A worrying increase in economic and social disparities within urban societies, and between urban and rural societies, to the detriment of the latter
- An expression of social segregation in spatial terms leading to ever-stronger territorial fragmentation, with well-equipped affluent residential and business areas, and precarious habitat zones (slums, favelas, etc.), in which over half of the city population lives under “survival” conditions
- Inadequate urban and regional planning policies, incapable of solving the problems facing a majority of the population.

## Mitigation through new analytic elements

- The global nature of the changes that affect contemporary societies makes it impossible to simply oppose cities in the North (well-planned) and cities in the South (informal and uncontrolled)
- Cities in the South are subject to a recurring concentration of core problems that slow down their development: strong demographic growth, precarious habitat, water pollution and scarcity, health risks for urban dwellers, policy failure  
To this we might add several socio-urban dimensions that are often overlooked: insecurity and violence, economic marginalisation of the underprivileged classes, growing poverty, unefficient public administration, corruption and clientelism
- The reorganisation of the world favours the larger agglomerations at the expense of the smaller elements in the urban network (metropolisation process)
- Lacking resources – financial and economic, but also human and institutional, make difficult for local and regional governments to respond to all the needs that must be met for balanced urban and regional development.
- Priorities established by urban decision-makers give rise to policies that clearly benefit those who are better off.

# Potential urban characteristics to meet the challenges of sustainable development

- Concentration of people, of public and private institutions, businesses, universities and research centres, of financial services and political => Cities should be seen as a driving force behind regional and national development)
- Although **infrastructures, equipment and collective services** may be inadequate and too scarce in view of the great needs of a constantly expanding population, they undeniably represent an added value for city dwellers
- New forms of **solidarity-based community organisation** that present a true alternative to more usual territorial and social management solutions
- “**Informal sector**” testifies to great individual and social drive, and to a spirit of initiative and adaptation to urban conditions
- Platforms for **intermediation** between local, regional, national or even international dynamics
- **Decentralisation** of decision-making centres and new possibilities available to urban stakeholders
- Southern metropolis function as “**hubs**” that connect national urban networks to the worldwide changes
- Great **cultural, social and economic creativity** which radiates beyond the spatial and demographic limits of the given city
- The future of the cities in the South will to a large extent depend upon the political, economic and social **capacity of urban decision-makers** to address the great issues of territorial planning and social organisation