

Dr. Lars Reuterswärd
Director, Global Division, UN-HABITAT

Urban-Rural Interrelationship in Land Administration
– Urban Perspective

Abstract

FIG and UN-HABITAT have long worked together to forward the development and promotion of cutting-edge pro-poor land tools. It is widely recognized that these tools must take into account the existing rural-urban linkages in order to promote development and poverty alleviation. For UN-HABITAT, land has been a key mandate since the agency's creation at the 1976 Vancouver conference on Human Settlements, and UN-HABITAT is now focal point for Target 11 of Millennium Development Goal 7; which aims to significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and its partners, including the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), recognize that there is a lack of sufficient land tools with which to implement appropriate land policies for the rural and urban poor. In order to reach the target set in the Millennium Development Goals on slums, innovative approaches on providing security of tenure, not limited to or based on land titling alone, as well as pro poor land administration will have to be developed. Other aspects that need to be, and are being, developed are tools which relate to dispute resolution, land administration systems designed to include cost saving features and gender sensitive land laws. One of the priorities of the Global Land Tool Network is that every land tool must be gendered, an aspect which was reinforced by partners at the GLTN events at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum, held 19-23rd June of this year. At these events, partners stressed that amongst the innovative approaches to developing land tools, it is important to view land rights as existing along a continuum. GLTN is also coordinating the development of land tools in several new areas; amongst them Islamic land tools, and tools specific for post-conflict situations.

Short biographical notes



Contact:

Dr. Lars Reuterswärd
Director, Global Division

UN-HABITAT
P.O. Box 30030
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel. + 254 20 62 3103
Email:
lars.reutersward@unhabitat.org
web: www.unhabitat.org

A Swedish national, Dr. Lars Reuterswärd, is the Director of the Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlements Development Division (also known as the Global Division) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) since 2003. Dr. Reuterswärd was the overall Coordinator of The World Urban Forum, held in September 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, and is undertaking the coordination of The World Urban Forum that will be held in Vancouver in 2006.

Dr. Reuterswärd was a Member of the Swedish Delegation to the Twenty-fifth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), also known as "Istanbul+5", held in New York in June 2001. From 1993 to 1996 he was also an Expert Member of the Swedish Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996. Dr. Reuterswärd earned a Ph.D. in Architecture from Lund University in 1984, and actually is Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture and Development Studies at Lund University since 1986, as well as dedicates time to private practice as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sweden Habitat AB, dedicated to architecture and planning. In 1979 Dr. Reuterswärd founded the Lund Committee on Habitat Studies (LTH) at Lund University, and has acted as its director for 17 years. In 1977 he acted as Research Officer of the Swedish Council for Research Co-operation with Developing Countries (SAREC) Stockholm. In 1977 and 1978 he served as Construction Co-ordinator (Vietnam) for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, Headquarters in New York), and in 1974 acted as Construction Adviser in Vietnam for the International Red Cross (Headquarters in Geneva). Other works performed, include as Design Advisor to the World Bank and the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation Housing area (for 4,000 inhabitants) in the Gilgel Gibe Resettlement Project in Ethiopia, several noteworthy architectural competition entries, and he has been elected as Lifetime Member of the Swedish Royal Physiographic Society (Academy for the Natural Sciences, Medicine and Technology, founded in 1772) since 2002. He is also author of dozens of publications and has tutored many dissertations. Dr. Reuterswärd speaks Swedish, English, French, German, Danish, and Norwegian.