

The Marrakech Declaration

Urban-Rural Interrelationship for Sustainable Development



Robert P. Mahoney

The Marrakech Declaration
Inter-Regional Conference on Urban-Rural Linkages 1- 4 October 2004 - Nairobi



Background

- In June 1999 - United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) had its first meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI)
 - The sub-commission on Geo-informatics recommended that; FIG, ICA, ISPRS and UNECA should hold seminars in 2000-2001 in Anglophone and in Francophone Africa

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Background

The International Conference on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development
Nairobi, Kenya. 2-5 October 2001

Organized by:

- ▶ Institute of Surveyors of Kenya
- ▶ FIG
- ▶ UN-Habitat



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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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Introduction

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



The Marrakech Declaration is intended to support

- Politicians
- Senior managers
- Professional organizations
- Decision makers



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Presentation overview

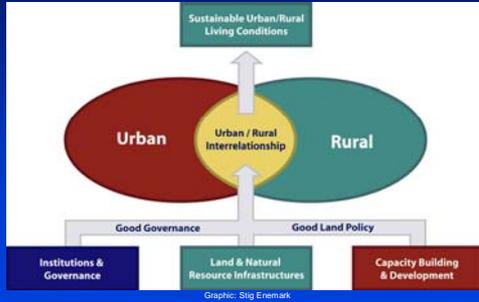
- Contextual Focus
- The Marrakech Declaration
 - Institutional and Governance Concepts
 - Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure
 - Capacity Assessment and Development
- Final Summary

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Contextual Focus

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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Contextual Focus



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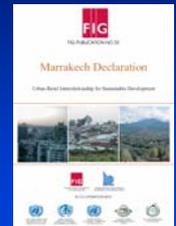


The Marrakech Declaration

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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The Marrakech Declaration Institutional and Governance Concepts

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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The Marrakech Declaration Institutional and Governance Concepts

- 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 it requires downstream flexibility as relationships mature

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The Marrakech Declaration Institutional and Governance Concepts

- 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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The Marrakech Declaration Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure

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

- 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

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The Marrakech Declaration Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure

- 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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The Marrakech Declaration Land and Natural Resource Infrastructure

- 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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The Marrakech Declaration Capacity Assessment and Development

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

- **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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The Marrakech Declaration 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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The Marrakech Declaration Capacity Assessment and Development

- 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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The Marrakech Declaration Capacity Assessment and Development

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



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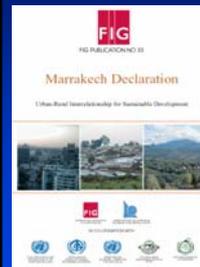


Final Summary

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

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.



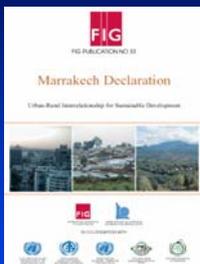
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Final Summary

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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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Final Summary

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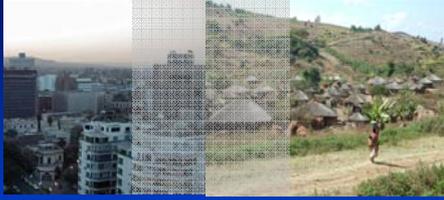
1. NGOs such as FIG and their member associations and individual members can be enablers, that is, they can act as community developers, organisers or consultants alongside community based organisations;
2. They can be mediators between people and the authorities that control access to resources, goods and services; and

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Final Summary



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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<http://www.fig.net/pub/figpub/pub33/figpub33.pdf>

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