

**UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMISSION 16TH SESSION**  
**27 April - 7 May 1997, Nairobi, Kenya**

FH-Turkey participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Human Settlements as member of the official national delegation. A three-year youth action plan was prepared and submitted to the UNCHS Secretary-General Dr. Wally N'Dow. This Action Plan consisted of five sections: Strategies, Education, Institutionalization, Networking, and Projects. Since the youth participation was lower than expected it was decided to postpone the critical decisions during the International Youth Follow-up for Habitat and Agenda 21 held in Eskisehir, Turkey from 14-21 September 1997. The hallmark of this meeting was the acceptance of Turkey's proposal to launch a youth programme with UNCHS.

# 17th COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: YOUTH PARALLEL PROGRAMME (5-14 May, 1999)

## **Background**

Several youth groups and organizations have participated actively in recent important events related to youth organized by the United Nations, such as the third session of the World Youth Forum (Braga, August 1998); World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, August 1998); Partners of UNCHS (Habitat) Consultations (Turin, December 1998), International Youth Follow up for Habitat and Agenda 21 (Eskisehir-Turkey, September 1997). These youth organizations, starting from early 1995, have organized themselves into an umbrella group under the name "Youth for Habitat International Network" (YFHIN) to focus their activities specifically on issues of human settlements development and to contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. This Network organized a "Youth Parallel Programme" during CHS/16 and adopted a plan of action to guide their activities at the local, national and global levels. In view of increasing contributions and involvement of youth in its deliberations, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted a resolution to strengthen the focus of UNCHS (Habitat) in the utilization of the potential of youth in human settlements development.

Youth parallel program was organized by the Secretariat of Youth for Habitat International Network, with the support of UNCHS (Habitat) and Kenya Youth Facilitating Group. The represented countries were, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, The Netherlands, Turkey and United States America, despite the fact that about 600 organizations had been informed about the event. This inconvenience is attributed to the lack of resources that is provided to youth.

As a positive development, the official delegations of Kenya, Namibia and Turkey had included representatives from youth organizations, which was one of the main reasons of the success of the session with regards to youth.

During the program, several training workshops were held with experts, which aimed capacity building for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and Agenda 21. The experts in the relevant fields held the workshops. The topics of the workshops were as follows:

1. The Role of Youth in Community Development by Mr. Eric Vittrup
2. Capacity Building and Youth Leadership by Mr. T. Sudra
3. Human Rights and Human Settlements Development / Realisation of Housing Rights by Mr. Selman Erguden
4. Youth Role in Urban Management by Mr. Paul Taylor
5. Promotion of Gender Equality and the Role of Women in Human Settlements Development by Mrs. Wandie Seaforth
6. Contributions of Best Practices Approach to Youth Development" by Nicholas You
7. Strengthening of International Cooperation by Ms. Christine Engfeldt

The progress report of the Youth for Habitat International Network was launched, covering the activities since the 16th CHS.

A youth representative delivered a speech on the concept of "Divided City" during the Dialogues with Partners Session from the Secretariat of Youth for Habitat International Network, along with the other partners.

The Plan of Action until the 18th CHS was adopted with the contributions of the participating organizations.

As a cornerstone of the event, the resolution called "[Partnership with Youth](#)" was launched, numbered as HS/C/17/L.10/Rev.1. The resolution was submitted and supported by Indonesia, Namibia, Greece, Sweden, Romania, Nicaragua and Turkey.

Youth for Habitat-Kenya published a daily newsletter about the youth activities during the Commission.

In the closing session, youth was the only partner who was able to address their [demands](#) to the whole delegations

As a result of the Parallel Youth Program, the Acting Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) addressed a [letter](#) to the Youth for Habitat International Network congratulating the effective youth work that has been carried out during the 17th CHS.

## 18th Commission on Human Settlements, 12-16 February 2001

Second Session of The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of then Habitat Agenda, 19-23 February 2001  
Nairobi, Kenya

Youth for Habitat Parallel Event was organised during the 18th Commission on Human Settlements and 2nd Preparatory Committee for the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Habitat Agenda with the participation of youth present for the sessions and the participants who are working in the field of youth with the facilitation of the Secretariat of Youth for Habitat International Network.

On 12 February, in the opening session, Youth for Habitat International Network was presented to the participants and all the participants presented their respective NGOs, motivations in participating the youth caucus and their expectations. After the introductory presentations, discussions and taking into account the program of the sessions, terms of reference for the caucus was prepared. ([Annex 1](#))

The draft youth resolution which was prepared by the Secretariat and sent to the member organisations in advance was discussed by the caucus and submitted by the Delegations of Kenya and Turkey. Resolution HS/C/18/8 on Youth adopted by the 18th Commission on Human Settlements. ([Annex 2](#))

In order to provide input to the Parallel Youth Program of the Special Session and to define common obstacles and problems in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda presentations on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda was carried out by present countries. The following problems have been defined the most common problems in the presentations which can be discussed during the parallel youth program of the Special Session in addition to the problems stated in the National Report on Youth Contributions to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda:

- Lack of communication
- Regional cooperation
- Poverty eradication
- Unemployment
- Street children
- Education problems
- Lack of data bases on youth issues and problems
- Health problems, sanitation and basic services
- Political representation
- Slums

The Draft Program of the Parallel Youth Program of the Special Session ([See Annex 3](#)) was discussed in the youth caucus and the following two proposals have been made:

1. Themes for revitalisation of the Network that can be discussed and if necessary themes for the workshops:
  - Strengthening of the regional focal points
  - Strengthening of and the efficiency of information flow between the Secretariat and focal points, member organisations
2. Opening of a youth unit within UNCHS (Habitat) dealing exclusively with youth related issues was stated several times by the participants. During the discussions of the draft program it was proposed by the participants to deal with the issue in an organised way during the Special Session.

Youth Caucus was represented in other parallel events and other activities during the sessions together with other caucuses and other partners:

- A presentation on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda was done during the Habitat Agenda Partners Meeting on 17 February 2001. ([Annex 4](#))
- NGOs were given space for making statements before the drafting committee on 21.02.2001 before the deliberations on the Draft Declaration which was carried out by the Women Caucus, Interim Facilitator Group, Habitat International Coalition and Youth Caucus. ([See Annex 5 for Youth Statement.](#))
- On 23 February 2001, NGOs held a joint press conference to state their outrage for the exclusion of NGOs from the drafting committee. Youth also made a statement in the joint press statement ([Annex 6](#)).