

Mexican Cities Towards Sustainability Network MCSN



NORTH AMERICA SUSTAINABLE BUILDING - INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP- Seattle, Washington, May 1-2, 2007

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¿What is the Mexican Cities Towards Sustainability Network –MCSN-?

- It is a **FORUM** in permanent construction oriented to create and socialize a message to cities (particularly local authorities) related with the need to **FACE URBAN UNSUSTAINABILITY TREND** in most mexican urban areas and metropolis
 - From the begining, MCSN has been clear regarding our **distance with political parties, governments or economic groups interests**, in order to gain legitimacy.
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MCSN Objectives

It is a **citizen's space**, settled at El Colegio Mexiquense (www.cmq.edu.mx) oriented to:

- **Promote a shared strategy**, new capabilities, research projects, public policies and instruments, among Mexican cities towards sustainable urban development.
 - **Facilitate best practices exchange** among civil servants, experts and social organisations involved in urban sustainability.
 - **Organize national / regional seminars**; offer civil servants training programs and publish documents relating sustainable urban development.
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Activities 2000 - 2007

- MCSN has organized between 2000 and 2007, **nine national seminars** (the 9th being held in Manzanillo, Colima on october 2007) and four regional seminars; has **published 4 books** comprising papers and conferences relating urban sustainability phenomena; has **offered several short curses** to local authorities and civil servants.
 - In short: After 7 years of permanent activities **MCSN is well recognized by most mexican cities**, becoming a FORUM for a political / technical dialogue.
 - On december 2006 **MCSN published a text named: TERRITORIO EN CRISIS: HACIA UNA POLITICA DE ESTADO PARA REGIONES Y CIUDADES !YA! (Territory in Crisis; A State Policy for Regions and Cities !Right Now!),** which represent an AGENDA to face urban unsustainability.
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Mexico: Urban Sustainable Development: Problems and Challenges

- Territorial and **urban lower productivity** and competitiveness
 - **Inequality and poverty** in country side and cities (between 50 and 75% of mexican population is poor)
 - **Widespread human settlements and urban disorder:**
 - **The urban land problem** (speculation, limited offer of urbanized land for the urban poor)
 - **The urban mobility problem** (around 1 million new cars every year; lack of a public transport national strategy)
 - **The housing problem** (around 60% of homes are low income and self built; national housing policy has been ahead of urban and environmental policies)
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Mexico: Urban Sustainable Development. Problems and Challenges

- **Environmental and natural resources unsustainability:**
 - **Water**
 - **Forest destruction**
 - **Urban waste**
 - **Air pollution in urban areas**
 - **Landscape and cultural heritage deterioration**
 - **Lower governance and urban culture and increasing informality**
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MCSN Main Proposals

- **To strengthen efficiency and economic competitiveness of metropolis and cities**
 - **To reduce inequality and poverty, dignifying cities**
 - **To establish a national urban land and housing policy based on a long term, integrated and participatory urban sustainability vision and strategy**
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Main proposals

- To Offer urbanized land for low income housing
 - To develop low income financing programs for housing
 - To make housing –and city- through Macro-developments
 - To support Social Production of Housing and Self Building
 - To give priority to urban public transport and mobility
 - To establish a sustainable territorial and building strategy
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Towards a new state strategy

- To promote a new federal deal among the 3 government levels, in order to define ‘who is responsible for what’ in sustainable urban development
 - Towards a new territorial – environmental planning:
 - To make territory and environment issues of high political priority
 - To transform spatial – environmental planning as to achieve: Long term policies, integration of development with spatial and environmental planning, participatory plans and programs, emphasis on spatial over sectorial planning
 - To define orientations, norms and instruments in order to ensure housing and building sustainability
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Towards a new state strategy

- Towards new planning structures for sustainable development, based on long term visions and effective participatory processes:
 - Urban – metropolitan Councils
 - Spatial – environmental planning institutes
 - Agencies or corporations for economic sustainable development
 - Spatial – environmental services enterprises and firms
 - Observatories and territorial – environmental information systems
 - Human capital formation and training for a territorial sustainable development
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