

XII MEETING OF MINISTERS AND MAXIMUM AUTHORITIES OF THE HOUSING AND THE URBANISM OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. VIII IBERO - AMERICAN FORUM OF MINISTERS AND MAXIMUM AUTHORITIES OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECTOR.

MINISTERIAL PHASE NARRATORY

OPENING SESSION

The opening session of the MINISTERIAL PHASE was presided by the Minister of Economic Development Javier Nogales who pointed out in his welcome words the necessity to foment financing mechanisms to achieve that the families with smaller incomes could access to a housing. In such direction he indicated that the Republic of Bolivia intends to develop a Housing Plan dedicated to the construction of worthy residence units. Also he urged to the XII Minurvi representatives to develop administration mechanisms and technological methods that permit the reduction in price of the residence solutions in order to increase the housing production and therefore to assist the critical residence situation of the region.

Concluded the inaugural act proceeded the election of the directive board, the same one was constituted in the following way:

- President: Alonso Caballero Vice-minister of Housing of the Republic of Bolivia
- Vice-president: Elio Falles Minister of Housing and Human Establishments of Costa Rica
- Narrator: Lic. Lydia Mabel Martínez de Jiménez - National Directress of Residence Policies of Argentina

After having integrated the directive board the President expounded the Work Program that was approved unanimously.

INTERVENTIONS OF ORGANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- Report of the Habitat Regional Office Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Jorge Gavidia

The Director of the Habitat Regional Office referred primarily to the challenges outlined to the Latin America and the Caribbean countries by the millennium goals. He also made a review of the activities developed by that organism making special emphasis in those that could be implemented in the support to MINURVI framework. Among these he highlighted: the World Campaigns, the Regional Program for the Risk Reduction, the collaboration with the Technical Secretary of MINURVI and the joint collaboration with ECLAC in the Monitoring of the Regional Action Plan tasks.

- Report of the civil servant of the Environment and Human Establishments Direction of the ECLAC, Mrs. Daniela Simioni.

The representative of ECLAC carried out an exhaustive diagnosis of the Region's socioeconomic situation where she highlighted among other aspects the cyclical evolution of the region that has been resulted in a very volatile growth characterized by a slow growth of the productivity and an unemployment increase because the insufficient generation of work positions. She also pointed out that the poverty reduction is not only associated with the PBI growth but rather it depends on the distribution of the incomes. In those countries where is verified the incomes equitable distribution a reduction of the poverty levels is also verified.

Next are outlined the tasks that must be developed preparing the Habitat Meeting + 10 that will take place in Vancouver in the 2006 year and the commitments that in this direction ECLAC will assume, among those are mentioned: support to the Technical Secretary of MINURVI, consolidation of the MINURVI through the technical support of ECLAC, foment encounters among the countries of the region, organization of the regional meeting preparatory for the Habitat + 10 where must be revised and reformulated the Regional Action Plan in order to achieve consensus in a regional position in the Habitat Meeting +10

- Report of the Ibero-American Program CYTED

The representative of CITED made a review of the actions carried out by the Program as regards innovation and the use of new technologies. He described the Program 20 x 1.000 and requested that the same one could be presented to the Summit in order to achieve the adhesion and incorporation of the region's countries to this Program.

- Report of the International Strategy for the Disasters Reduction representative (EIRD - UN)

The EIRD representative made a completed description of the objectives, structure and tasks developed by the International Strategy with the objective that the societies could be better prepared to face the disasters.

Also she indicated that in the 2004 will be carried out the Yokohama Conference + 10 where the achievements will be measured and a plan against disasters will be revised and approved commenting the tasks that the EIRD is developing with the objective to prepare this Conference.

REPORTS PRESENTATION

Report of the Technical Secretary

In the Technical Secretary's report carried out by the representative of the Republic of Cuba was highlighted the fact of having assumed the responsibility of assuming during three consecutive years the command of the Technical Secretary and the advances in the execution of the responsibilities assigned in the integration, organization and invigoration

process of MINURVI. In this direction was recognized the decisive support that the Regional Office of UN Habitat and the ECLAC have provided for the programmed activities development.

Report of the XI MINURVI Executive Committee activities

Among the developed activities the two preparatory meetings for the XII MINURVI were mentioned, the administrations carried out to obtain the patronage of the Interamerican Bank of Development for the regional graduate that didn't prosper and the continuity of the tasks developed with ECLAC and with CYTED. Among these last ones were mentioned the regional graduate on human establishments that it is carried out in Chile, with the ECLAC support and the technological transference course carried out in the Dominican Republic by CYTED.

Report of the Technical Phase Narratory

The reading of the Technical Phase Narratory Report was realized by the representative from the Mexican United States Mr. Miguel D. Hernández, narrator of the Technical phase. Once concluded the reading several representatives requested to carry out some corrections and precisions to the presented text, those that were accepted and introduced to the definitive text that accompanies to this narratory.

MINISTERIAL DEBATE DEVELOPMENT

At the Venezuela representative's request the ministerial debate began postponing the presentation of the Elements for the Report of the Sustainable Development Commission of the UN by ECLAC about "Human Establishments, Water and Draining" after having concluded the Ministerial Debate.

- Report of the Republic of Chile representative Mrs. María Luz Nieto
The representative from Chile began her presentation making a diagnosis of the Chilean residence situation highlighting the favourable evolution of the residence deficit in the last inter-census period where the number of deficit homes descended 19% and the services covering (water and sewer systems) overcame 90% of the homes. In this direction highlighted that this situation is the consequence of the public policies developed in the last 20 years by the successive democratic governments. Next she made reference to the programs aimed to the population with smaller incomes: The program without debt for the poorest, Chile Barrio and Chile Solidario. Finally she pointed out the challenges that the republic of Chile has planned as regards housing provision:
 - To give solution to all the precarious establishments
 - To assist the demand of all the families that want to acquire their own housing
 - To revitalize the central areas of the cities
 - To break the tendency to the social segregation making the cities more livable

- Report of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela representative José Luis Perisse

The representative from Venezuela pointed out that the housing policies of its country are approached in the attention of:

- The social classes that don't have incomes
- That with smaller resources
- The vulnerable social sectors.

In such direction he questioned the financing systems based on the credit indexation since the experience has demonstrated that they don't contribute to the poverty reduction.

Next he pointed out the incorporated principles to the Bolivarian Constitution 1999 among those were mentioned: Progressivity, Protection, Solidarity, State Parsonage, shared responsibility and civic Participation and he carried out a synthesis of the actions that are developing in the country as regards habitat and housing.

Finally he pled because Housing and Habitat should be the social flag of the State Policies.

- Report of the Republic of Cuba representative Victor Ramiro Ruiz

The representative from Cuba began his presentation making a reference to the dramatic situation that presents the Region reflected in the high levels of poverty and indigence.

With regard to the programs developed in his country, commented that of the 300 thousand housings affected among 2001 2002 by the hurricanes sequence to the date the situation is resolved in 86.3% of those housings and he considered that toward the end of the year will only remain without solution only 4.7%. He also indicated that although the private sector, the credit organizations, the NGO's and the international cooperation play an important role in the solution of the residence problems, is indispensable that each State and each Government assume the responsibility that concerns them fully and that is an indelegable responsibility.

In this direction he pointed out the necessity to transfer to the Summit the following general approaches:

- The necessity to strengthen the State role and its responsibility with a progressive solution of the serious social problems that faces the Region, among them the housing and the habitat.
- The necessity to implement policies that allow a fairer redistribution of the incomes
- To recognize the enormous social debt with the Latin American towns so the payment of the foreign debt doesn't impede the resources application to the financing of social programs.

- Report of the Republic of Bolivia representative Jaime De Ugarte

The representative of the Republic of Bolivia began his report pointing out the difficult macroeconomic situation in which Bolivia is and which was showed in the facts of last October as a consequence of a social calendar for relegated and unsatisfied years.

He indicated that the current government administration considers that the State has the obligation of solving the housing problem since the market doesn't assist to the most relegated sectors. In this direction he made reference to some successful programs that

has come developing in the country such as the Housing Improvement Program in chagas endemic areas and the new Emergency Program for El Alto and surrounding rural areas that will be developed with the participation of social organizations and NGO's. Finally he made reference to the few sensibility of the international organisms to contribute resources to this kind of programs dedicated to the poorest sectors and the difficulties found by the resources shortage that the country is suffering at the moment.

- Report of the Peru representative Ambassador Ivan Solari Calvo

The representative of the Republic of Peru referred to some achievements reached by the country in the residence problem among which highlighted the consensual approval of a Housing National Policy for the period 2003-2006, a Support Program for the Residence Sector with financing of the IDB that facilitates the access to the housing by means of a family bond that is given only one time and supplemented with the own saving it allows to improve or to acquire a housing and a Program dedicated to the residence improvement of the precarious establishments. Finally he highlighted the employment reactivation achieved by these programs that will allow to improve the life quality and to reinforce the family constitution of the poorest sectors.

- Report of the Republic of Costa Rica representative Elio Fallas

The representative from Costa Rica pointed out the necessity primarily to present to the Summit a proposal so that the housing should be a key aspect in the calendar of the Ibero-American governments given its contribution to the employment generation, to the improvement of the life quality and its contribution to the governability.

Next he referred to the achievements reached by the housing policy developed since the years 80's by the successive governments of his country that allowed to improve their population's residence situation sensibly reducing the levels of housing deficit.

Since 1987 they have delivered about 200.000 bonds being the annual budget of 70 million dollars. The bonds distribution is focused towards those high-priority cantons with more NBI population percentage.

A strict execution of the quality norms exists for the urbanizations and the social housing programs, with appropriate housings typology for the different regions of the country. In the Metropolitan Region because the land lack is privileged the densification and the urban renovation for what has been defined a National Urban Development Plan. Finally he referred to the immigration problem that hinders the hovels eradication because 70% of their inhabitants are Nicaraguan and in a great number they are undocumented

- Report of the Republic of Panama representative Geraldino Batista

The representative from Panama referred primarily to the socioeconomic situation of his country pointing out that 37% of its population is poor and 19% is indigent. Next he pointed out the legislative modifications carried out among those highlighted the one that fixes preferential interests for hypothecary loans, that of use of State's fallow lands for the housing construction and the figure of properties financial lease with sale and

purchase promise. The programs dedicated to combat the poverty are the Construction Materials Subsidies aimed to families that have own lot and the Program PARVIS - Communities dedicated to the Indigenous Communities (direct subsidy for families with incomes less than B/300 for the materials financing). Also he made reference to other programs among which pointed out the Fund of Saving Residence loans to Saving Cooperatives for the credit grant, Combined Financing Program for the attendance to families with low incomes in the obtaining of the financing of a mortgage for new housing and the Housing with Subsidy and Saving Program.

- Report of the Republic Argentina representative José F. López

The representative of the Republic Argentina began its presentation making reference to the crisis lived by his country in the 2001 that meant a socioeconomic collapse with hard increments in the unemployment rate and in the poverty and indigence indexes. Also the fiscal adjustment policies implemented produced an abrupt fall of the public investment that caused a virtual paralyzation of the construction sector activity in most of the provincial jurisdictions, breaking the followed tendency during the years 90's where registered a growing evolution of the public funds applied to the housings construction.

The biggest efficiency in the public action in housing in the last decade was reflected in the evolution of the residence situation of the homes. According with the results of the Census of 2001, for the first time, in Argentina registered a decrease in absolute numbers of the homes that suffer some unfavourable residence situation

The Argentinean Government impels the development of an integral housing policy guided to achieve that gradually and in growing form, the right consecrated in our National Constitution have validity, that all the Argentinean families have the access to a worthy housing. The general objective of that policy is to improve the access to the housing, generating in massive form diverse ranges of operatives that allow to cover the wide spectrum of the residence demand, assisting with the appropriate answer to the different residence necessities of the Argentinean homes, from a perspective of **habitat and productive reactivation improvement**, that tend to be constituted in a genuine social inclusion policy.

Next he made a description of the new programs in development: Works Reactivation Federal Program FONAVI pretends the reactivation of the housing plans financed with the resources of the National Housing Fund and executed by the Provincial Organisms by means of non repayable financing of the National Government's contribution, Residence Emergency Program that has the purpose to tend to solution the Residence and Labor Emergency, using the beneficiaries of the plans home-chiefs (male or female) organized in Work Cooperative forms for the housing construction in order to generate a policy that simultaneously solves the residence problems and full employment and production, allowing to apply funds that actually are dedicated to subsidies for unemployment in the emergency, to the generation of a productive process that allows the social and labor reinsertion, and the Residence Solidarity Program is a National Government's initiative dedicated to palliate the consequences of the pauperization process that have suffered many of the urban areas of the country. By

means of the projects financing that allow to improve the habitat conditions a productive reactivation will be achieved since the employment generation given the high dynamic characteristics of the construction sector. In the selection of the companies will be privileged those small companies resided in the area in order to potentialize the manpower intensive use.

Concluded the Ministerial Debate takes the word the ECLAC representative so she could present the limits for the report of the Sustainable Development Commission of the UN

- Report of the ECLAC representative about the regional Diagnosis and the limits of the report for the Sustainable Development Summit.

The ECLAC representative made the presentation of the document carrying out primarily a synthetic diagnosis of the Latin America situation in the environmental aspects. She referred then to the main challenges that the Region faces and that must solve highlighting among them the following ones: poverty and urban precariousness, housings financing and urban services, urban segregation, improvement and regularization of precarious establishments, land availability, structure and governability processes, urban violence reduction , integral management of the water resource, land property and market, vial congestion, solid residuals, environmental citizen conscience and prevention and mitigation of the natural disasters

Concluded the interventions proceeded to give reading to the La Paz Declaration and the Special Protocol of the La Paz Declaration.

Concluded the reading several representatives outlined modifications for what was decided to pass to an intermission with the object that were carried out the suitable corrections. Also given the quantity of incorporated agreements to the Declaration, the Assembly decided to commend the President of the XII MINURVI the selection of those more significant agreements so that they could be raised to the Summit consideration

Renewed the session was proceeded to give reading one more time to the La Paz Declaration and the Additional Protocol for their definitive approval. Once approved was proceeded to their signature by part of the representatives of each one of the countries.

The closing act of the XII Minurvi was presided by the President of the Republic of Bolivia Dr Carlos Mesa.

During the development of the act, the Minister of Economic Development read the Special Protocol of the La Paz Declaration for knowledge of the Bolivian President who committed in his closing words his support to achieve that the Summit could recognize the housing importance in the calendars of the Ibero-American governments.