



**Building a sustainable future  
in an urbanizing world:**



**learning from best practices**

- Chattanooga, USA

**Context:**

- Metro area: 400k+ inhabitants/industrial
- Most polluted city in late 1970s
- High level unemployment
- Out-migration to surrounding areas



- Chattanooga, USA

**Actions:**

- Community visioning
- Public-private-community partnerships
- Participatory planning

**Results:**

- Best air quality by late 1980s
- US \$1 billion investment
- Eco-industrial park
- Urban greening
- Solidarity fund between educational districts



- Chengdu, China

**Context:**

- Metro-region: 10 million+
- Industrial/Agricultural Vocation
- Severe water pollution
- 30,000 families in slums
- Vicious cycle of flooding/drought



- Chengdu, China

**Actions:**

- Comprehensive urban rehabilitation
- Participation and awareness building
- Central/local/private partnerships

**Results:**

- Urban greening 10m<sup>2</sup>+ per capita
- River clean up & harnessing
- 30,000 families re-housed
- Urban-rural continuum



- Greater Vancouver Regional District

**Context:**

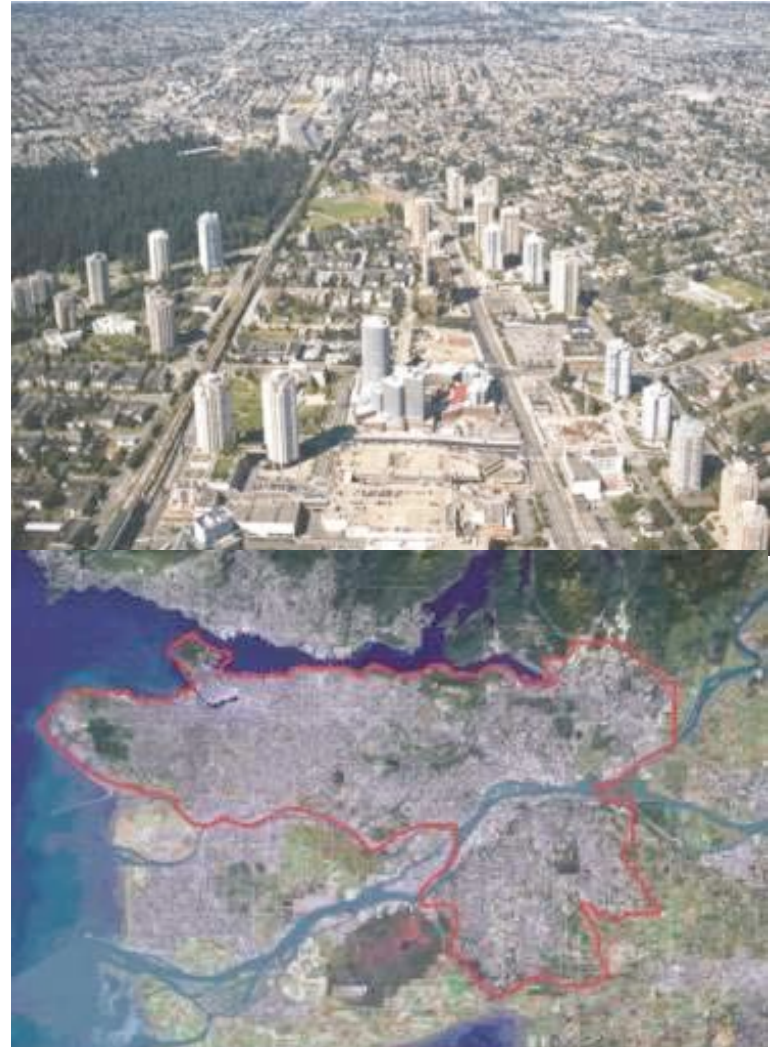
- Population 2,030,000 in 2002
- Pressure on green space
- Traffic congestion & declining air quality
- Lack of vision & coordination of development actions



- Greater Vancouver Regional District

**Action & Results:**

- Shared vision across 21 municipalities
- Establishment of regional transit authority offering transport alternatives
- Enhanced social inclusion & environmental health
- Protected green zone 60,000 hectares
- Reduced emissions from industry and vehicles



# Lessons learned & pointers for the future

## Need to combine:

- Physical improvements & tangible economic benefits
- Awareness building & effective mechanisms for participation
- Partnerships & improved governance

Process as important as outcome

Community-based planning processes tend to be holistic and inclusive

Need to overcome syndrome of competing jurisdictions

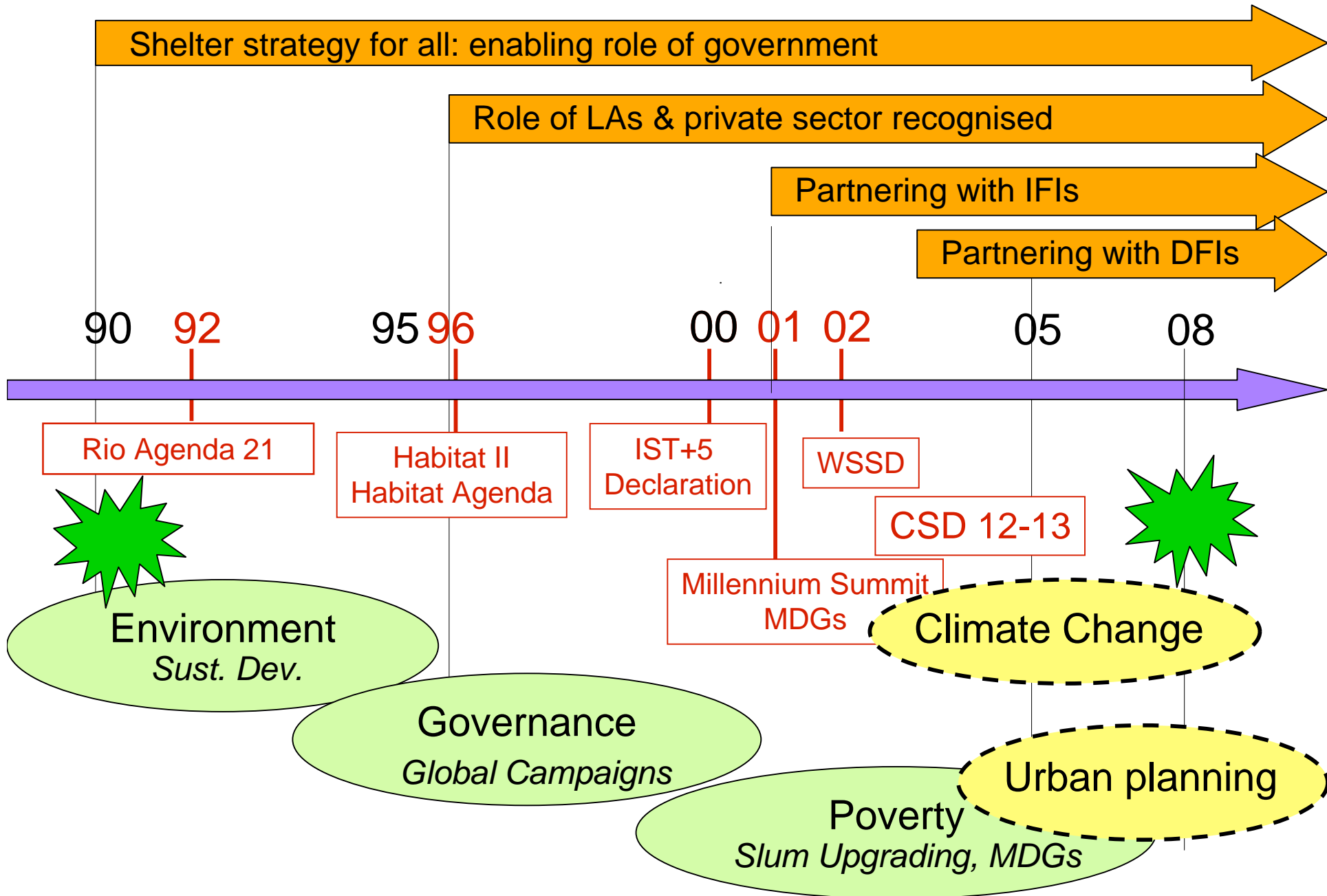


# Why a Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanisation?

Cities account for half  
of the world's  
population, yet:

- They consume 75% of energy
- They generate 80% of waste
- They are directly responsible for up to 60% of GHG emissions
- We are witnessing the urbanisation of poverty & deprivation (1 billion slum dwellers)





“Trends in international responses”

# Urban Impacts of Climate Change

- Extreme weather events damage buildings and urban infrastructure
- Coastal cities and small island states affected by sea level rise and erosion
- Water resources stress: floods, droughts and ice melt
- Most affected are the urban poor (slum dwellers)
- Most vulnerable among the poor are women and girls
- Climate change refugees end up mostly in urban slums

# Adaptation & Mitigation

- **Adaptation** = To manage the un-avoidable  
*Local and long term*
  - **Mitigation** = To avoid the un-manageable  
*Global and short term*
- Both require similar responses: better planning, more resilient infrastructure & services
  - Both must integrate poverty alleviation & social inclusion agenda;
  - Both must address local economic recovery & development.

Thank you!

