

Climate change and the role of cities in the strategies of international institutions :

Towards the end of the urban doom rhetoric?



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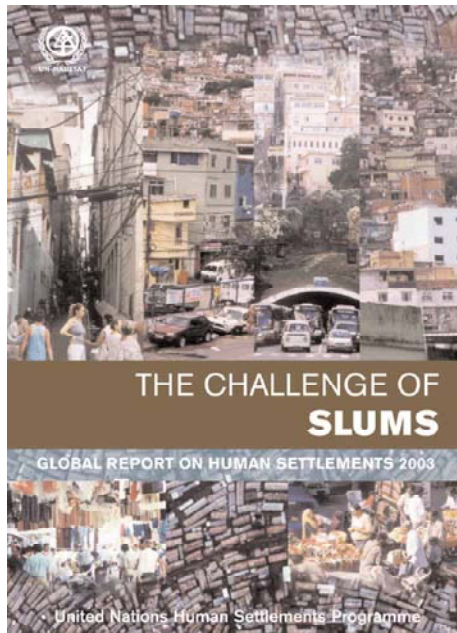
5th Urban Research Symposium - Marseille 28 juin 2009

Anti-urban biases

- Historical anti-urban biases in official development assistance:
 - Fear of urban (over) concentration
 - Urbanisation only as producer of negative effects on society, economy and environment
 - Rhetoric of « urban doom » (Glass, 1989)

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Anti-urban biases



(UN- Habitat, 2003)

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Anti-urban biases

“Slums are a manifestation of the two main challenges facing human settlements development at the beginning of the new millennium: rapid urbanization and the urbanization of poverty”.

(UN- Habitat, 2003)

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Anti-urban biases

- Historical anti-urban biases in official development assistance
- Deep anti-urban trend in western culture
 - Urbaphoby (Salomon Cavin, 2005, Marchand, 2009)

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Anti-urban biases

Reminiscence of
Victorian Era

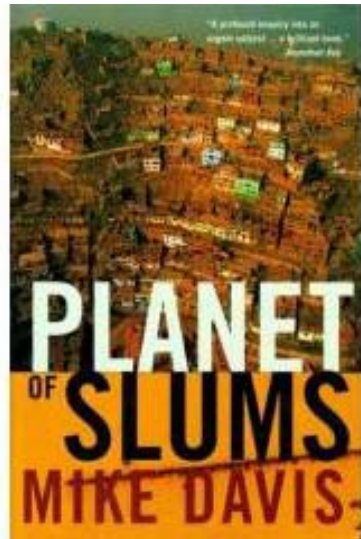
London (Gustave
Doré, 1872)



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Anti-urban biases



« We are witnessing a major moral crisis in our history as cities are consuming the earth »

Mike Davis (2004)

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Anti-urban biases

- Historical anti-urban biases in official development assistance
 - A deep anti-urban trend in western culture
 - Lack of (pro) urban strategies in development assistance:
 - tackle the negative effects of urbanisation
 - slow down urbanisation and rural exodus
 - priority given to agricultural and rural development
- (Yatta, 2006, Prud'homme, 2007)

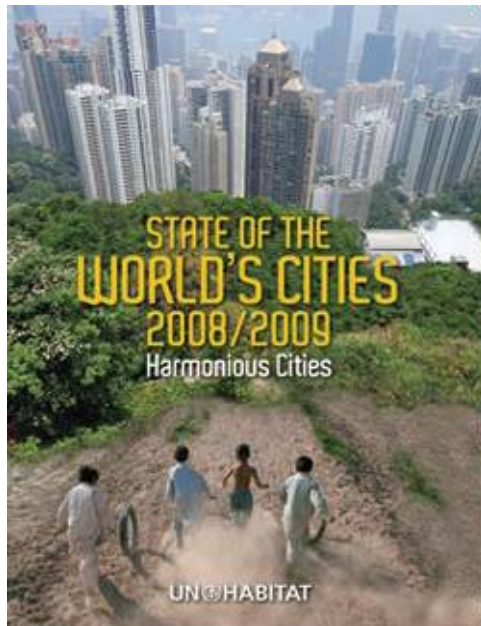
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New urban vision

- Multiplication of (pro) urban strategies
- Notably related to the climate change problematic

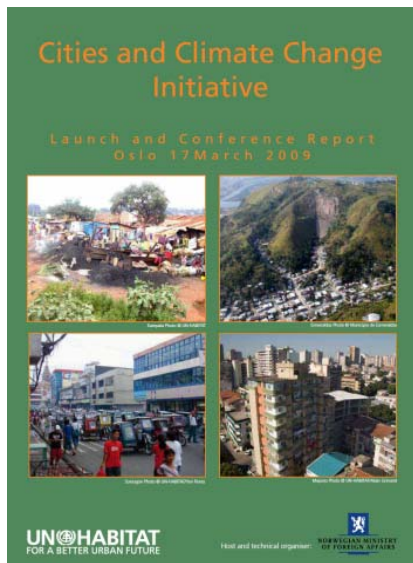
New urban vision



« Cities provide a real opportunity to mitigate and reverse the impact of global climate change »

(UN- Habitat, 2008)

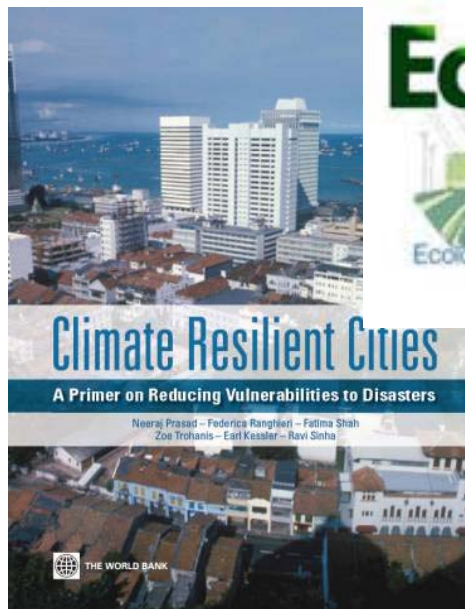
New urban vision



(UN- Habitat, 2009)

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New urban vision



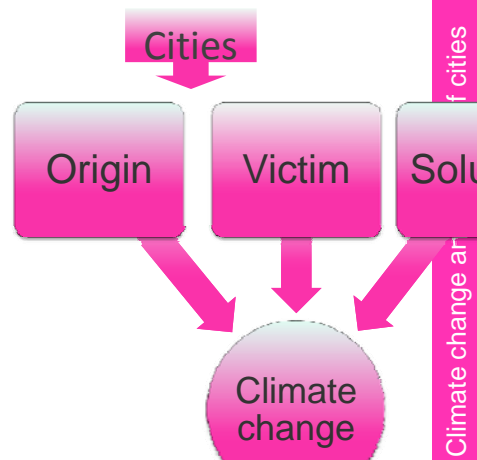
(The World Bank, 2009)

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New urban vision

Cities are at the forefront of the climate change issue :

- As origin
- As victim
- As solution



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Climate change ar

Research project

Main Hypothesis :

- ODA institutions are likely to rebuild their urban vision through the question of climate change issue

Main Question :

- How the usual urban approaches (or lack of approach) are modified by the Climate Change agenda?

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Conclusion :

- Past and potential consequences of anti-urban biases should not be minimized
 - The denunciation of the impact of cities on climate change is the main dimension underlined (Dodman, 2009)
- Going beyond the apocalyptic warning about urbanisation to respond to an urgent agenda.

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Research project

Methodology :

- Literature critical review (*Discourse analysis*)
- Description of the climate change and urban global arena (*web resources*)
- Interviews of key actors (*semi-directive*)

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