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Metropolis Training Center
Middle East Branch
Mashhad



Municipality of Mashhad
**International Scientific
Cooperation Office**

Management of Urban Sprawl and Unofficial Settlements

Opening Remarks

David Wilmoth
Learning Cities International

International Workshop
Metropolis Training Center, Mashhad,
Islamic Republic of Iran
September 27-30, 2010

Plenary remarks



- Recognitions
- Thanks to City of Mashhad and Metropolis Middle East Training Centre
- Mashhad an excellent place for our theme
- Theme is urban growth management, focus on
 - Managing urban sprawl
 - Managing unofficial settlements
- Metropolis is reporting Commission 2 at Barcelona following our workshops; let me read to you the draft lessons learnt:

Lessons from urban growth management (1)



Urban growth is manageable.

- It is not easy, it is not always politically popular, but **it can be achieved**. The report and the case studies with it show that.
- What many cities in developed countries have taken as urban growth management – the supervision of suburban development – **no longer fits the task** of managing the world's exploding urban regions, if it ever did.
- And the toolkit of ways that it can be done has **expanded greatly**.
- Urban growth management is a dynamic part of **public policy, private practice and community action** around the world, as the most severe impacts of rapid unplanned growth move through the global system of cities.

Lessons from urban growth management (2)



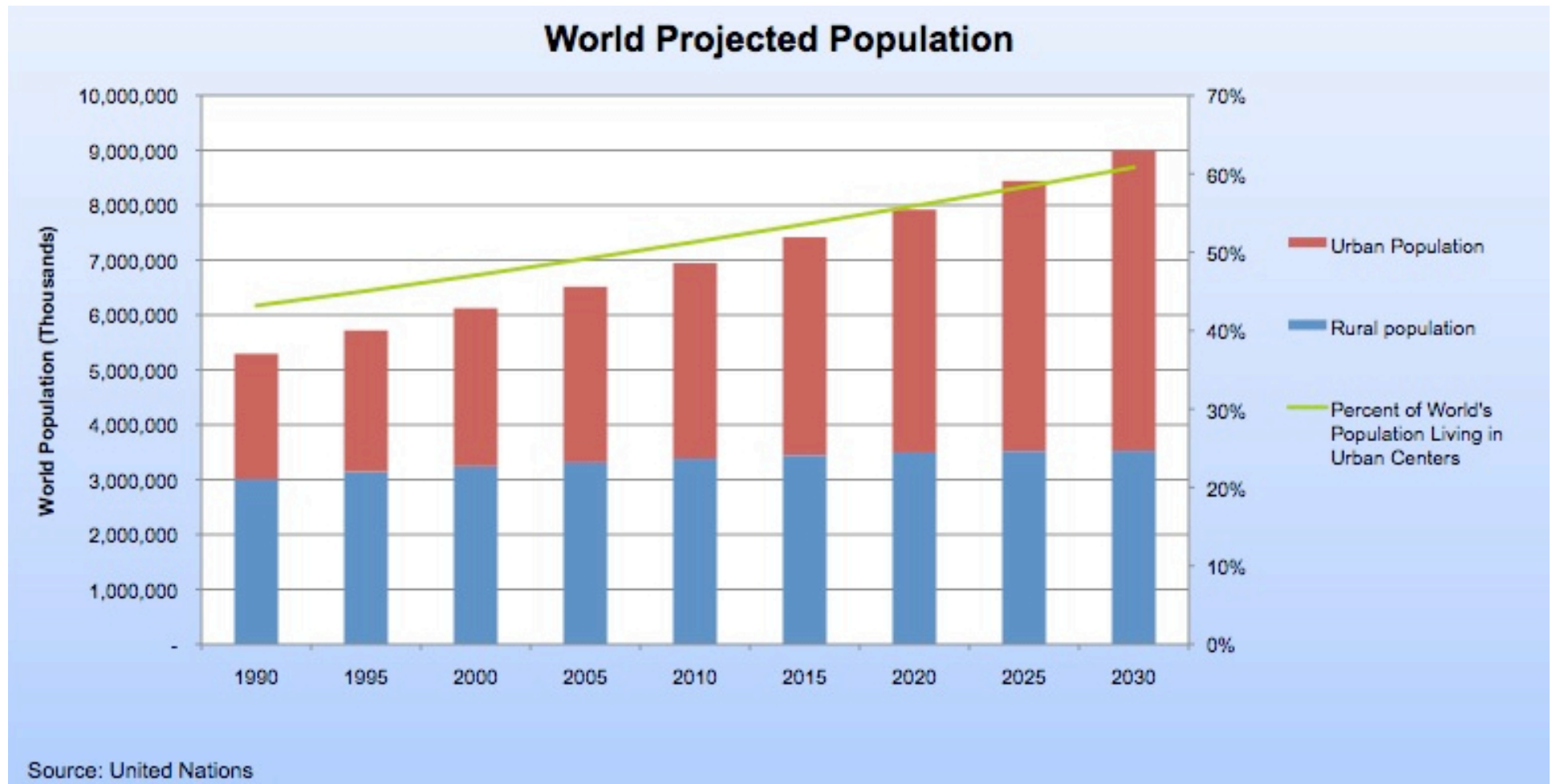
- The role of **leadership** cannot be overestimated.
- For resilience and to ‘future-proof’ our cities single solutions cannot work – we should manage the **city as an ecosystem**
- **Technology** is too often mistaken – its uses by citizens and businesses not taken into account, or expensive prestigious systems installed when simple ones will do.
- Promoting **urban growth can be an unsustainable treadmill.**
- The most ‘liveable’ cities are not the most sustainable.
- The **Millennium Development Goals are within reach** of many developing cities.
- There are still **massive gaps in urban infrastructure and services** and in too many cities these gaps are growing.
- **Social inclusion** and local or **stakeholder empowerment** mark successful urban growth management.
- No **one form of governance** best provides for urban growth management.
- The strongest tools for urban growth management are often **indirect tools**
- Cities that **learn from others** manage growth better than cities that go it alone.

Our two lenses

- We will not cover all of urban growth management, we will focus on
 - **Urban expansion**, a.k.a. sprawl. Sure, urban infill, redevelopment, re-use and contraction are part of the mix, but our focus will be on suburban and peri-urban development, mainly in metropolitan areas
 - **Unofficial development** – especially for those at or beyond the fringe but here, too, there are wide variations that unofficial, informal, illegal and slum settlements take
- Our participants come from a wide range of countries and urban settings, and we will learn much from each other.

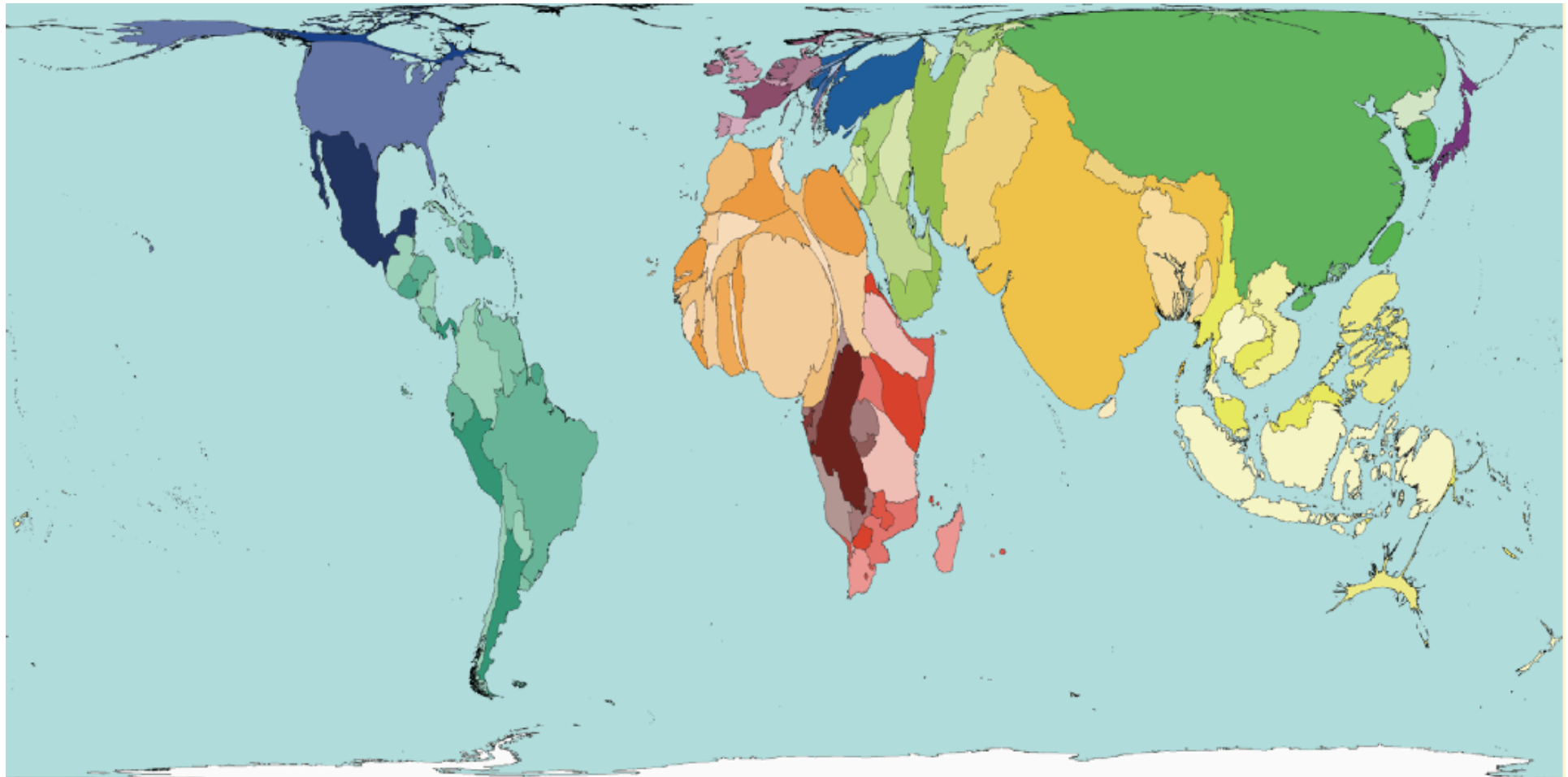
An urbanising world

Almost all world net population growth will now be urban



Mid-range population projections 2002-2015 look like this

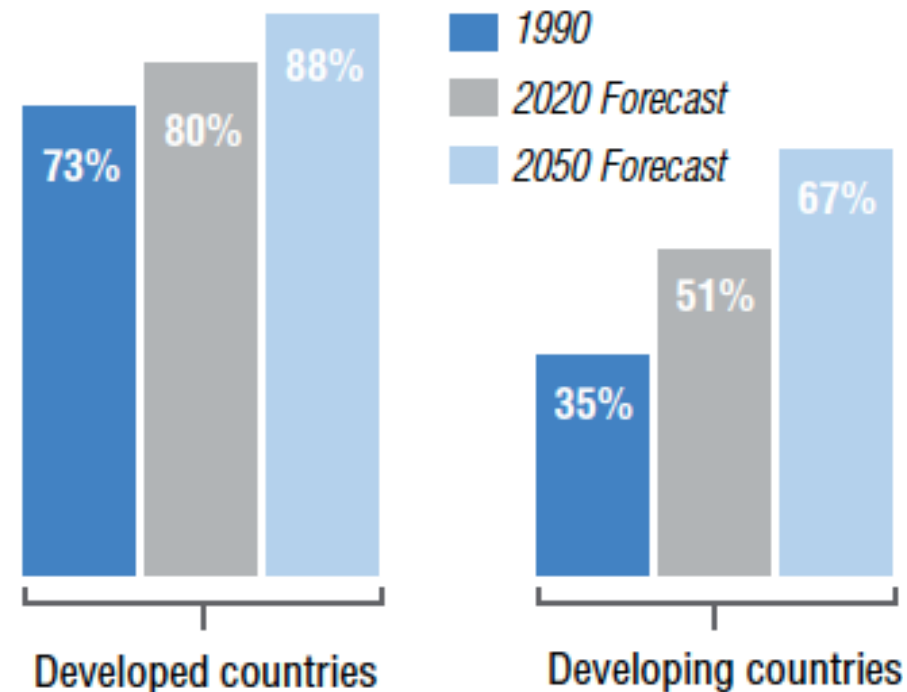
(Worldmapper, data UNDP 2004)



Urbanisation's workload

- Developing countries have to do the heavy lifting in planning and managing urban growth

Percentage of total population living in cities, 1990-2050 (forecast).



Source: IBM Institute for Business Value analysis of United Nations data.

“URBAN SPRAWL IS NOW A GLOBAL PROBLEM”



This is the banner from the UN-HABITAT 2010-11 report

“In many developing countries, urban sprawl comprises two main, **contrasting types of development** in the same city:

- One is characterized by **large peri-urban areas with informal and illegal** patterns of land use. This is combined with a lack of infrastructure, public facilities and basic services, and often is accompanied by little or no public transport and by inadequate access roads.
- The other is a form of ‘**suburban sprawl**’ in which residential zones for high- and middle-income groups and highly-valued commercial and retail complexes are well-connected by individual rather than public transport.

“Urban sprawl adds to the urban divide, pushing social segregation along economic lines that result in spatial difference in wealth and quality of life across various parts of cities and metropolitan areas run down inner cities and more suburbs.

Good news and bad news



- 227m people in the world moved out of slum conditions 2000-2010, i.e. MDG target surpassed x 2.2
- Good news? But from 776.7m in 2000 to some 827.6m in 2010, an increase in 55m.
- And W Asia broke the favorable Asia-wide trend, adding 12m, mainly Iraq

Our challenges



- Urban growth management is one of humanity's main challenges
- Technical solutions need to be massive – leadership, finance, know-how, inclusion
- But our cities from now on will be largely informal
- Let's learn more from this sector
- Let's bring the knowledge from both together
- Let's learn from one another

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Thank you

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