



Declaration of the Regional Practicum for Latin American Mayors

Bogotá, Colombia 6-8 February 2002

To serve as an input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Mayors from the Latin American region along with city officials, and transportation experts met in Bogotá as part of the UN Car Free Days 2002 series to discuss obstacles to development and implementation of creative measures to achieve sustainable development in the transport sector. One of the key purposes of the Practicum was to observe and participate in Bogotá's third annual "Día Sin Carros", a day in which the city closes its streets to private vehicles. The city uses this opportunity to promote the use of its public and alternative transport infrastructure and continue the dialogue among citizens of how to create a more livable and sustainable city.

Mayors and other city representatives discussed a number of major obstacles to the development of effective transport systems. The participants recognize that these obstacles must be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in the transport sector, and recommend that the WSSD **focus considerable attention on finding creative solutions to the following issues:**

- Tendency toward excessive utilization and non-sustainable growth of private vehicle use;
- Disproportionate public spending on the needs of private vehicles;
- The competition of public transport, alternative transport, and individual transport for public space and expenditure;
- Prioritization of private vehicles in the spending and use of public space as opposed to public transport and other alternative modes;
- Tendency to use obsolete or low capacity vehicles for public transport;
- Insufficient expenditure on public transport infrastructure;
- Migration and movement between rural areas and urban areas or from intermediate cities to big cities as well as poorly planned growth of urban areas;
- Transport sector environmental impacts and impacts on public health, especially concerning air quality and noise;
- Problems of accidents and concern about personal security;
- Limited means of addressing unique physical constraints such as mountainous terrain, waterways, etc.;
- Lack of political or legal jurisdiction to address regional transportation issues.

One creative solution demonstrated during the Practicum was the use of a Car Free Day. The City of Bogotá, in an environment of consensus and on a workday, has found this to be an effective means of:

- Improving citizen's perceptions and attitudes toward mobility, urban space, and transport;
- Increasing use of public, collective and mass transport;
- Promoting alternative modes of transport;
- Decreasing ambient air pollution concentrations;
- Decreasing ambient levels of noise;
- Promoting a longer-term view of urban transport requirements;
- Increasing social justice;
- Reducing the number of accidents, improving levels of public health, and promoting healthy modes of transport.

Participants of the Practicum agree that the use of strongly citizen supported, well-enforced, mid-week Car Free Days should be promoted by the international community and local authorities as a valuable tool for making our cities more humane and more sustainable. They also agreed to create a network of cities to:

1. Assist each other in the planning and implementation of their own Car Free Days.
2. Continue finding creative solutions to the problems of urban mobility.