



INTA 42 CONGRESS

Venezuela Brief

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Having assumed urban planning and management as a life's work, the city as a work space and politics as its context, practicing urbanism as a public function of the State, I had discovered to my sorrow, the enormous weight that politics, the power and discourse have on urban performances.

The city is not just an urban phenomenon. It is a complex space constituted by the synergies that occur between institutions, their norms and the citizens, through a set of interactions whose meaning must be interpreted by their managers, through a continuous, uninterrupted process of the State, who makes decisions in the present to anticipate future situations. That in theory is the process of planning.

Venezuelan Urbanism shared competence and responsibilities between National and Local Government. We are one of the most urbanized countries in Latin America, 80% of our population lives in cities, but half of them lives in informality settlements. The other 50% have the basic, almost have services, infrastructures and the equipment required to provide the quality of life necessary to comply NAU goals for 2030 ODS.

Venezuela crosses the biggest crisis I can remember, qualified by international organizations as an humanitarian emergency. With is manifested in the collapse of the economy and institutions, the excessive increase of hunger and poverty, the health collapse and the largest population exodus in Latin American history. Venezuela is in the front line of insecurity issues

In a context of total arbitrary and confrontation between civil rights and political power, Venezuela goes back ignores worldwide trend and loses all the features that's made as a strategic country in the 80'.

Loses democracy, institutions, human capital, credibility and our society become to be one of the most oppressed and helpless people of Latinamerica, without opportunity to overcome and isolated from global decisions.

A society without access to information for discuss, demand or question, without a possibility of real participation or purchasing power, because 30% of our population (9 million people) is placing in extreme poverty according UN indicators (les than 1 \$ / month)

In this scenario....How do we live? How city management works?
It's doesn't.. At all....

Our cities are literally dying... 28% housing deficits, inadequate distribution of water and electricity, insufficient public transportation or garbage disposal...The worst problem lack of governance.

We have a territorial-political division that does not obey the urban dynamic and the functional scheme of our cities is fragmented among multiple authorities that generally hinder the efficient city management.

As a result cities are growing without control and its destiny goes to the drift, lacking of organization and a comprehensive plan for the short or long term.

The political situation since 1998 shows an exacerbated centralism that aims to become a dictatorship. Government plan has as main objective to change geopolitics of power weakening up local governments to its extinction.

Still already a fact public and notorious the illegal elimination of the Metropolitan Caracas Government

Local authorities urgently need to innovate in processes and forms of management. Its structures must be strengthened and we have a group of young mayors and entrepreneurs willing to carry out this work.

Speaking of sustainable cities, development and quality of life, the perspective of our small, medium and large cities hangs a thread

There are five conurbation in process who need Metropolitan management and a development guide line. But also, we has 140 Small Towns who are waiting for organization, direction and the possibility of interaction guide to complementary their own capacities. We need to built a harmonic and sustainable national city system

In Venezuela URBAN PLAN must be recuperated because the country goes back. We are immerse in a political crisis with terrible social and economical consequences. With a daily 4% inflation average, 223% monthly and 200.005% inter-annual and 34.680 accumulate we have a country at the edge we'll collapse

Meanwhile Urban Planners has the huge responsibility of design and delineate plans and projects that allow the authorities to lead the future development of our CITIES.

Perhaps day by day, because long term prospective looks really unpredictable. It's not a urban planner problem its involves a huge amount of political decision. It's in fact a co-responsability issue,

For now we must systematize processes, try harder to get from planning phase to actions execution and maintenance, based on the strengthening of the decentralization and powers of law, and finding resources to achieve local independence.

Off course non of that issues are possible if we don't recover democracy...

Meanwhile we must concentrate efforts in organize our self and our institutions for a better tomorrow.

We must develop an ad-hoc legal platform that adapts the norms to its own city dynamics, defining actors and what, how, when and how much cost the actions the city requires and its citizens demands , as well as its imperative define who executes and how we will pay for that.

In addition the multitudinous exodus of Venezuelans to the neighbors countries that exceeds 10% of our total population, impact and un balance the dynamics of borders cities, urgent demand an humanitarian and urban policy, that's already became a UNHABITAT worry.

It should speed up decision-making and introduce coordination, participation and private investment as fundamental elements, defining the role that each level of government must fulfill.

It is essential to assume the Plan as a project, transform Mayors in a Executive Manager, incorporating innovation and encourage sustainable development and alternative mechanisms for the financing of urban development.

Right-now we are in a huge deep gap who located us in a legal-political limbo, which does not have define north or objective.

Caracas is one of those big cities, a metropolitan area recognized by the Republic Constitution but not by today government.

Caracas is a city that challenges us minute by minute, corner by corner, witch requires a large dose of energy to coexist un a disintegrated and threatened territory.

To assume it, is not a good strategy to oppose inertia we must fight the isolation.

We must focus on what we one an strive to achieve it.

I still believe that "not all roads are a blind street".

Right now 28 municipalities of 335 total, are fighting for their future...

Future that depends in recognize ourselves in the social-political space, find our role and work together as best que could

I just can pray for help, because there is no logic, book or guide who can tell me what to do.

KEY POINTS

GOVERNANCE

THE CITY AS A POLITICAL FACT

CITIES NEEDS A PLAN

VISION THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

CITIES HAVE TO BE SMART, GENTLY, SECURE, GREEN AND WITH HUMAN SCALE

EVERY BODY NEEDS A PLAN TO ACHIEVE COMMITMENTS

CITIES HAVE TO GO GREEN and financial resources

CITIZENS AS THE SENSOR

No more CITIES make for the car

PLAN AS A LIFE PROJECT,

MAYORS TRANSFORMS IN A EXECUTIVE MANAGER