

exhaust fumes are damaging both people and nature. Epidemics, housing shortage and criminality are appearing primarily in cities. There are already 24 cities in the world with more than 8 million inhabitants. Some of these metropolises have up to 25 million people.

Like ecology, urbanization is an international issue. Cities in highly developed countries have different problems than cities in developing countries, yet the overall tendencies are the same. Therefore it seems more than reasonable and necessary to deal with this issue on both an international and a local level. In the year 2000, citizens and politicians from more than 100 cities met at the "Urban 21" convention in Berlin. They discussed the problems and developments of cities for three days. The participants of the meeting directed their final statement to those individuals responsible for the future of cities. It seems, without doubt, that the current century is the century of cities. But what is the obligation of the cities? What is to be done concretely?

Let us first consider Switzerland. Under normal circumstances one would not presume that an urbanization problem is one of the primary concerns of the Swiss. However, people in Switzerland are indeed aware of the responsibility as well. As an example, the first sustainability report of the city of Zurich was announced just recently. "First we have defined seven sustainability indicators for the three