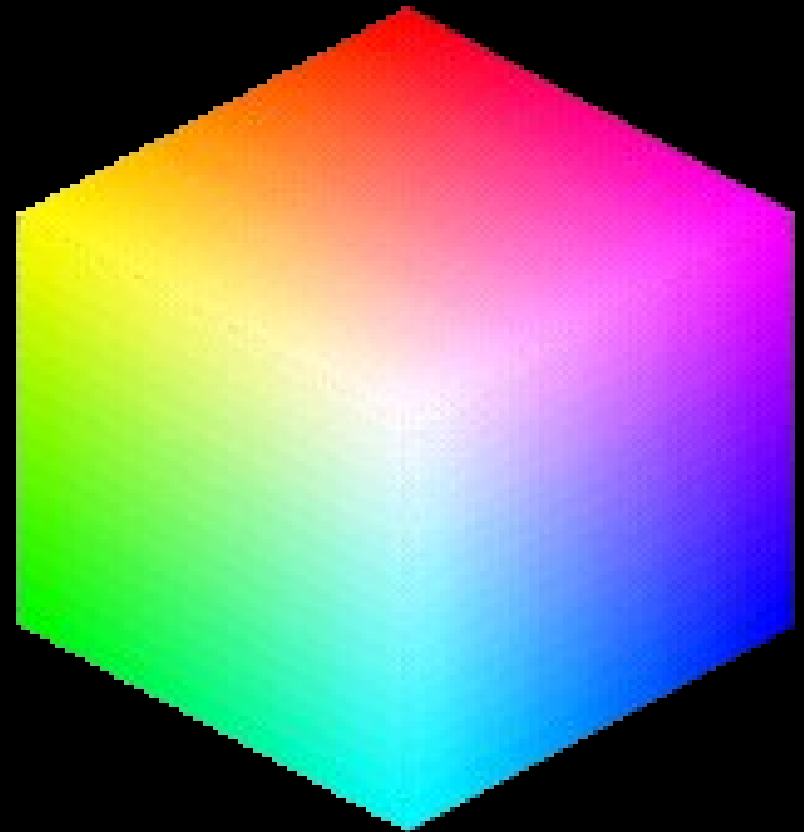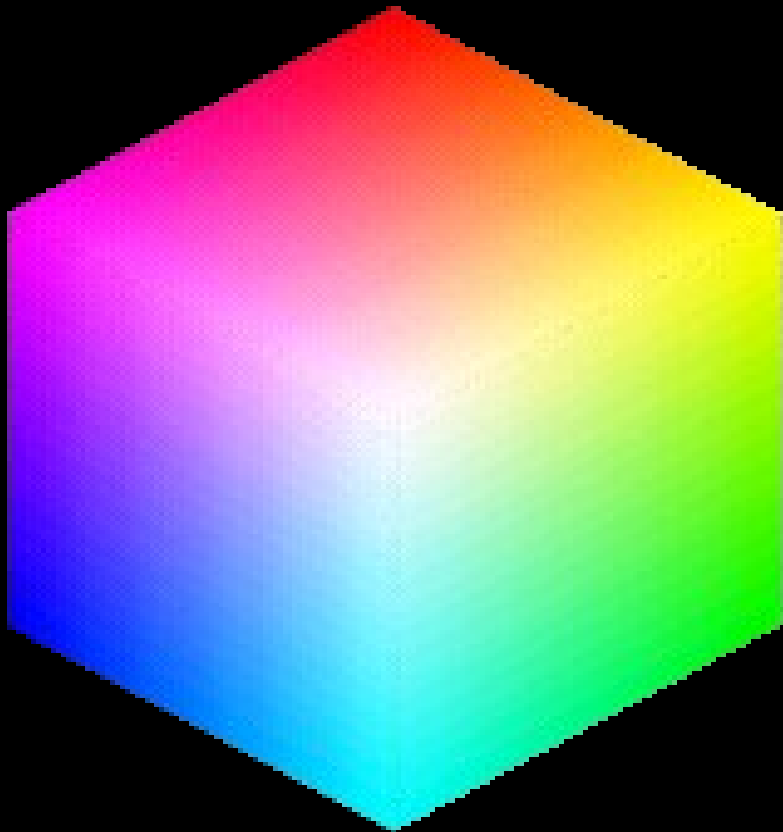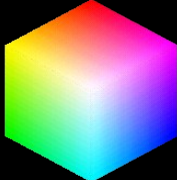# whole earth partnership, informatics & participation
a case study in information ecology & human settlements

istanbul + 2.5

half way - on a journey to

istanbul + 5

a status report

the vision

a partnership-based

information ecology framework

for integrated follow-up to

the habitat agenda

and the

global agreements of the 1990s

information ecology

- information systems as critical ecosystems
  - interrelated, interdependent structures & processes
  - interactive, evolving ecosystems
  - critical relationship with other ecosytems
    - social
    - institutional
    - economic
    - legal
    - cultural
    - natural

information ecology

- holistic framework
  - bridging material and virtual
  - bridging technical and social

  - holistic information science
  - holistic economics
  - holistic social ecology
  - holistic mathematics

the global agreements / global conferences

- earth summit - rio de janeiro   1992.06
- human rights - vienna   1993.06
- population & development - cairo   1994.09
- social development - copenhagen   1995.05
- women - beijing   1995.09
- human settlements - istanbul   1996.06

- milestones in global participation of civil society

a brief history

baltimore information cooperative 1981

friends in unity with nature 1988

earth summit, rio de janeiro 1992

··· ···

habitat ii, istanbul 1996

··· ···

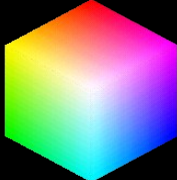## preparations for habitat ii

- documents for habitat ii
  - internet, electronic mail
  - on diskette
- international ngo facilitating group for habitat ii
  - ifg-habitat electronic mailing list
- habitat ii web sites
  - habitat.igc.org/habitat2
  - www.unhabitat.org
- database for ngo accreditation to habitat ii

preparations for habitat ii - and ngo forum '96

- habitat ii online - h2o
  - internet café - prepcom 3
  - habitat online partnership plan of action
  - invitation to a journey - earthday on the equinox 1996
- computers & internet access in istanbul
- database for ngo forum '96 events

follow up to habitat agenda

– unchs (habitat) web site - www.unhabitat.org

- habitat agenda
    – www.unhabitat.org/agenda
- documents for chs/16
    – www.unhabitat.org/chs16
- partners & implementation of the habitat agenda
    – www.unhabitat.org/partners
- road map to istanbul plus 5
    – www.unhabitat.org/roadmap
    – virtual light & colour cubes - www.infohabitat.org/cube

habitat agenda family of electronic mailing lists

- [partners] habitat partners network
- [ngochs] ngo committee on human settlements
- [peace] habitat peace caucus
- [habifem] women homes & communities supercoalition
- [pip] partnership informatics & participation
- [dpu-pip] development planning unit "pip"

– "friends of the family"

  - dev-habitat - forum on habitat in developing countries
  - logov - local government & international cooperation
  - habitat-lat - habitat, latin america (español)

extended family of electronic mailing lists

- [csdgen] ngo / csd steering committee
- [ngocsd] ngo committee on sustainable development
- [socdev] ngo committee on social development
- [mai] multilateral agreement on investment
- [passem] millennium peoples assembly network
- [eh99] who european conference on environment & health
- [year2000] year 2000 crisis - millennium bug
- [mngof] millennium ngo forum
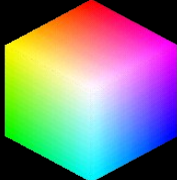
multilateral agreement on investment

- global agreements & public participation: the challenge
  - economic agreements & agreements of the global conferences
  - integrating economic, social & environmental dimensions

"... the growing power of lobby groups and their use of the internet is changing the nature of international economic negotiations"

  - financial times, 1998.04.30

millennium ngo forum

– secretary-general's invitation for a parallel process
to a millennium assembly of the general assembly

- united nations for the 21st century
- integrated follow-up to the global conferences

- local millennium forums
- national millennium forums
- regional millennium forums

electronic mailing lists - the key networking tool

- simplest means of communicating within a network
- participatory - any member can send to all members
- receive same information - at virtually the same time

- allows focus on one process - sending & receiving email
- eliminates need to keep searching web site for news
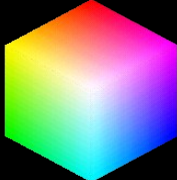- only requires connection to email host - can be local

- need for participation by those withour email

electronic mailing lists - moderated lists

– eliminates duplicate messages

– eliminates/reduces "off-subject" messages

– allows clean-up of messy formatting

– allows interception & conversion of "attached files"

– disadvantage: takes time and effort to moderate

• need: training & support for moderating electronic mailing list

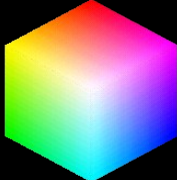## electronic mailing lists - "mailbase" as ideal platform

- developed for british universities - www.mailbase.ac.uk

- email & web access to messages
- searchable relational database framework
- allows maintenance of email-accessible online library
- allows "families of mailing lists" - to minimize duplication
- extensive online help available

contact information for follow up

information habitat: where information lives

ecology2001@gmail.com

http://habitat.igc.org

tel:+1.212.864.3156

post:/usa/ny/new york/10025/107 street/west/203/8a

electronic mailing list: <h2o-L@undp.org>