

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Urbanization in developing countries | 4 |
| The accelerated growth in cities | 4 |
| Continent-based differences | 5 |
| Competition in cities and territorial areas | 6 |
| Megalopolises and networks of cities | 7 |
| The economic and social dimension of cities | 8 |
| The attraction of cities over rural communities | 10 |
| Urban cultures | 11 |
| | |
| The challenges of urbanization | 12 |
| Disparities between territorial areas and cities | 12 |
| The spontaneous development of cities and mounting urban poverty | 14 |
| Issues concerned with the right to shelter | 15 |
| The need for facilities and services and the scarcity of funds | 16 |
| Difficulties in implementing decentralization | 17 |
| The weaknesses of local authority managers | 19 |
| Social cohesion and insecurity | 19 |
| | |
| Urban cooperation from France since 1990 | 20 |
| Governmental aid | 21 |
| Decentralized and non-governmental cooperation | 22 |
| Expertise and technical assistance | 23 |
| Mobilization of the private sector | 24 |
| | |
| Policy options | 26 |
| The issues at stake | 26 |
| A contribution to the sustainable development of cities | 27 |
| The initiatives | 36 |