

## A vision of the future

What does the future hold for the 12 million people living in the 21 municipalities in Rio's metropolitan region?

A consortium is working on a strategic plan to ensure that they have a good quality of life.

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ARCHITECT JAIME LERNER—who as mayor of Curitiba in the 1970s revolutionized the state capital with exclusively pedestrian streets in the city center and a bus rapid transit system—and Quanta Consulting have won an international tender, funded by the World Bank, to draft a strategic plan for metropolitan Rio.

In preparing the Strategic Plan for Integrated Urban Development (PDUI), the consortium is calling on experts from such institutions as the Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute of Graduate Studies and Research in Engineering, the Federal

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University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPE, UFRJ), and the Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN). Also advising is international consultant Willy Muller, director of the Barcelona Urban Sciences Lab, who has experience in urban transformation projects in Lima, Peru, and Moscow, Russia.

Since March, the planners have received more than 800 suggestions through workshops and municipal meetings and consultation with representatives of the UFRJ, University of Rio de Janeiro State (UERJ),

Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio), Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Institute for Labor and Society Studies (Iets), Brazilian Service of Assistance to Micro and Small Enterprises (Sebrae), and the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro. "This is one dimension of the methodology [of the plan] that provides for the participation of society throughout the metropolitan area," explains Vicente Loureiro, executive director of the Rio Metropolitan Chamber. Established in 2014, the chamber is in charge of drafting the governance process for the new metropolis.

Suggestions to date relate to such topics as coordination of transport systems, access to water and sanitation for the entire metropolitan



Photo: Armando Paiva

Workshop at the Guanabara Palace to present suggestions to the new Rio Metropolis development plan.



population by 2040, and improving public management. Comments also speak to the importance of environmental preservation of Guanabara Bay and better use of its economic potential.

By mid-2017, the plan should be ready, accompanied by suggestions for enabling laws and proposals for funding projects. The matrix of responsibilities will be gradually put in place through 2040. Part of the mission of mayors elected this year will therefore be to help build this metropolis of the future.

In July, Jaime Lerner and his team participated in the first meeting of the Advisory Board of the Strategic Plan, with representatives from various sectors of society. At an event at Guanabara Palace they presented their preliminary diagnosis of the situation and defined the development strategy.

The new metropolitan region, which now includes Rio Bonito and Cachoeiras de Macacu, has many problems. Average monthly income is a meager US\$300 and only 52% of the population can access a sewage system. Moreover, the UNDP estimates that only 39% of adults in the region have completed high school.

Loureiro summed up the situation in this way:

“We need to reverse the vices caused by the disorderly growth of the metropolitan area. Today, we have excessive concentration of job and service opportunities that could be better distributed. We also need to reduce the time and costs of trips between home and work and between home and school. Currently, 30% of trips on public transport in the metropolitan region of Rio are related to education. Another point is that ... today 85% of health services are concentrated in the capital. People need more options for work, school, and health care that are closer to home. In these discussions, it is important that society have a say—contribute with its vision for the future of the metropolis.”

Management of a new metropolis relies on municipalities sharing responsibilities and an integrated approach to solving problems of common interest, ranging from urban mobility to rules for land use and occupation, sanitation, digital communication, and resilience for dealing with bad weather. 