The 2023 PLGS Publications Catalogue is a compilation of PLGS normative tools and knowledge products to support governments at all levels and other stakeholders. The publications are organized by major thematic areas within PLGS: Urban Policy, Urban Legislation and Governance, Metropolitan Management, and Urban-Rural Linkages. For ease of navigation, each theme has its unique color code.

The catalogue also contains PLGS annual reports for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Inside this catalogue, you can access 170+ publications released since 2005 to date.

152 are in English, 6 are in French, 24 Spanish, 4 Arabic, 2 Chinese and 1 Portuguese.

Each thematic category begins with the oldest (2005) to the most recent publication.

Each publication has a summary (blurb), pages numbers, QR code and the year of publication. You can download your publications of interest by scanning the QR code.
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ABOUT PLGS
The (Urban) Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) is one of the five sections of the Urban Practices Branch of UN-Habitat. It plays a critical role in implementing the Agency’s Strategic Plan, flagship programmes, the relevant 2030 development agenda and the New Urban Agenda as it serves as the UN-Habitat focal point and global solutions center for Urban Policy, Legislation and Governance. The Section in collaboration with other parts of the agency both at Headquarters and in the field, works to support governments and partners in knowledge and tools development, capacity building, policy dialogue as well as advisory services focused on:

- Coordinating the Agency’s substantive, normative and operational work on Policy, Legislation and Governance;
- Developing, documenting and disseminating policy, legislation and governance norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks, operating procedures and inspiring practices at all levels i.e. global, regional, national and sub-national;
- Designing tailored-made policy, legislation and governance solutions for cities, regions and metropolises, enhance the urban-rural continuum, with a view to reduce spatial inequality and poverty and also promote shared prosperity;
- Generating and maintaining knowledge and data (including Indexes and database) on Urban Policy, Legislation and Governance;
- Leading the testing/piloting of norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks, through initiatives, programmes and projects on policy, legislation and governance;
- Providing technical assistance, quality assurance/control, policy advice and services on norms, standards, tools, methodologies and regulatory frameworks to internal and external partners including on design, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of operational programmes/projects with respect to policy, legislation and governance;
- Coordinating and facilitating urban forums;
- Coordinating capacity development of staff (including at Headquarters, Branches, Multi countries and country offices), UN-Habitat partners and Member States on norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks pertaining to Urban Policy, Legislation and Governance;
- Creating and maintaining platforms, networks and community of practices for peer-to-peer learning.

The United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future.

For more than 30 years, UN-Habitat has been leading research, policies and projects on urban settlements throughout the world. The best practices of urban planning are now serving as examples for the next decades to come – knowing that in 2050, 7 out of 10 people in the world are expected to live in urban areas.

In order to support national governments, regional and city authorities to work towards economically productive, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable human settlements, UN-Habitat provides a set of tested approaches, guidelines and tools – improving the lives of millions of people.

UN-Habitat, 2017
17 pp, 210 x 148 mm
Available in: English
PLGS 2020 Annual Report

This is the first Annual Report of UN-Habitat’s Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. It highlights the section’s implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 for 2020 and outlines the contributions and results realized across various key programmes and projects at the local, national, regional and global levels between November 2019 and the end of 2020.

The period reviewed not only encompassed a major organizational restructuring by UN-Habitat in January 2020, but it also featured one of the most serious global health crises in living memory. COVID-19 raised challenges few people had ever encountered before.

Nevertheless, it was a productive and dynamic period for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section and this report bears witness to the strength, courage, energy, resourcefulness and resilience of the people in the section’s team as well as communities they serve.
PLGS 2021 Annual Report

This is the second Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) Annual report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, reporting progress and achievements for the year 2021. This report demonstrates the Section’s catalytic role in implementing initiatives to contribute to UN-Habitat’s mandate as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

It shows that the Section has been advancing many important areas of work, using effective and innovative approaches, and working progressively with strategic partners to deliver technical and operational support to national and subnational partner authorities in 2021.

Amid another challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the reporting period was result-oriented, with various milestones achieved. The report demonstrates the continued adaptive capabilities and resilience of the Section’s personnel as well as the beneficiary national and subnational governments and their cities and communities.
PLGS 2022 Annual Report

This is the third edition of UN-Habitat’s Policy, Legislation and Governance Section Annual Report. The report demonstrates the Section’s position within UN-Habitat’s strategic context, and also links this area of work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda. The report provides insights into our initiatives and collaborative efforts with all our partners, and presents progress made and results achieved in 2022. It presents these achievements along four focus areas: Country Activities (projects); Normative tools and knowledge products; Capacity development and; Advocacy.

The PLGS annual reporting has streamlined and made the section’s work more accessible, providing a coordinated approach to responding to requests for inputs both internally and externally. The 2020 and 2021 reports have demonstrated a clear connection of the section’s projects and programmes to the overall Organization mandate of promoting sustainable urban development. The 2022 report advances this by doing three things: highlights the progress made and results achieved; reviews the trends; and points out connecting milestones since 2020 when the reporting process began.
NATIONAL URBAN POLICY
NUP
Note de Politique Urbaine Nationale du Cameroun

Avec une population urbaine estimée à 54% en 2014, le Cameroun fera face à un défi majeur lié à la croissance accélérée et insuffisamment maîtrisée de sa population et des espaces urbains. Etant donné que plus de 43% de sa population de moins de 14 ans, les défis de formation, de loisir et de création d’opportunité d’emploi constitué un enjeu pour le développement durable. Malgré l’abondance les ressources naturelles, le Cameroun affiche par un faible PIB (environ USD1,320 par habitant) en 2013 et une inégalité prononcée dans la distribution des revenus.

Une urbanisation bien orientée et coordonnée pourrait être l’outil fondamental pour placer le Cameroun sur le chemin du développement durable pour au moins les prochaines 30 années. La prévision actuelle du Cameroun est que la population urbaine passera de 11 million d’habitants actuellement à environ 21 million d’habitants, atteignant 65% de la population totale prévue de 50 millions en 2050.

UN-Habitat, 2014
HS Number: HS/069/16F
36 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: French
National Urban Policy: A Guiding Framework

This Guiding Framework is designed to outline key elements and instruments of the policy process through all the five NUP phases: feasibility, diagnosis, formulation, implementation and monitoring, and evaluation. Each phase is the subject of one part of the Framework. For each phase, the Framework will recommend perspectives and approaches that can be productive in the development of NUP.

In addition, the Framework will consider the inclusion of the three NUP pillars: participation, capacity development, acupuncture projects and iterative policy design. While it is understood that all policy processes are unique and context-specific, this document will provide a guiding framework, based on research and practical experiences, in order to provide guidance on proceeding through the NUP process.

UN-Habitat, 2015

**HS Number:** HS/090/15E

68 pp., 210 x 297 mm

Available in: English
The Evolution of National Urban Policies: A Global Overview

More than half of the world’s population currently live in cities, and a projected 70 per cent will be living in urban areas by 2050. Urban settlements are growing and will continue to grow whether this is planned or they simply spread.

Much of the way in which cities progress, stagnate or become dysfunctional depends on the extent to which their evolvement is planned, coordinated and well-managed. These factors, in turn, depend on the skills, money and political will being available and used in the best possible way to improve the lives of millions of people. The alternative is poor transport networks, insufficient water supplies, public health crises and slum settlements, among other things.
National Urban Policy: Framework for a Rapid Diagnostic

Globally, more people live in urban areas than in rural areas, with 54 per cent of the world’s population residing in urban areas in 2014. Continuing population growth and urbanization are projected to add 2.5 billion people to the world’s urban population by 2050, with nearly 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa.

As the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development challenges will be increasingly concentrated in cities, particularly in the lower and middle income countries where the pace of urbanization is fastest.

UN-Habitat, 2015
ISBN: 978-92-1-132691-8
HS Number: HS/092/15E
60 pp. Available in: English
Supporting National and City-Wide Slum Upgrading and Prevention Through National Urban Policy

This quick guide provides urban decision makers with the key messages and actions as to why a National Urban Policy is an important process and outcome to support improvements to the lives of slum dwellers. In particular, the document outlines how a National Urban Policy supports the development of national and city-wide slum upgrading strategies.

A National Urban Policy can help promote a positive mind-set towards slum dwellers and thus set an inclusive and ‘pro-poor’ tone for subsequent legislation, regulation and planning frameworks.

UN-Habitat, 2015
12 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
National Urban Forum to Support Participatory and Inclusive National Urban Policy

The formulation of a national urban policy should be the first step to ensure that urban growth in the next 20 years is creating prosperity and opportunities for all.

Because urbanization is a multi-stakeholder process, UN-Habitat encourages each country to hold regular National Urban Forums (NUFs), for all actors involved to discuss and advance the urban policy debate.

National Urban Forums have already been established with excellent results in a number of countries creating an enabling environment to promote dialogue and consensus among stakeholders, including national government, local authorities, grass root organizations, private sector and academia among others.

Based on the positive outcomes of past events, UN-Habitat strongly advocates for the consolidation of these multi-stakeholder gatherings into permanent platforms that can substantively contribute and mobilize the necessary support towards improved urban policies and programming.
Policy Note: National Urbanization Policy, Rwanda

Rwanda’s urbanization history is quite recent. Since the colonial and post-independence periods, the tendency to promote ruralisation and the confinement of residents into rural areas was the main governmental goal.

This situation has led to a low urban population growth, uncontrolled spatial expansion with little provision of safe, open, public places, and the uncoordinated planning and provision of basic services in urban settlements.

Between 1960 and 2012, the urbanization rate increased from 2 per cent to 16.5 per cent (multiplied by 8.3), while the Gross Domestic Product multiplied by 4.2, moving from USD 1.68 billion to USD 7 billion.
Addressing Climate change in National Urban Policy

National Urban Policy is a tool for government and other stakeholders that can assist with achieving more sustainable urban development.

It also facilitates an enabling environment that allows stakeholders to take advantage of urban opportunity. How to address climate change in cities and human settlements represents one of the most pressing challenges facing urban policy-makers today.

This Guide recommends how to mainstream such considerations into National Urban Policy, thus helping to empower national governments, local governments, and other stakeholders to effectively address climate change.
UN-Habitat & UNFPA, 2016
4 pp (Progress and Support for Defining Indicator 11.a.1)
25 pp (Development of Metadata and Methodologies for Indicator 11.a.1)
Available in: English
A National Urban Policy For Liberia: Discussion Paper

Developing the Liberia National Urban Policy is expected to coordinate the work of different sectors, establish incentives for more sustainable practices, and spur a balanced system of cities and towns through strengthening urban-rural linkages and equitable resource allocation. This will not only help reduce urban and territorial disparities within and among regions, but also promote institutional collaboration and policy coherence towards achievement of the Liberia National ‘Vision 2030.’

To initiate development of a National Urban Policy for Liberia, this Discussion Paper, a key output of the feasibility phase, explains the context in which the policy will operate. The paper is the result of a wide range of research and consultations on the demographic, socioeconomic, and physical environment aspects of the country. It also provides preliminary policy recommendations for further analysis in the subsequent NUP development processes. The Paper aims to build consensus with all urban actors on what has been discussed and agreed and to stimulate active support for further diagnostic, policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

UN-Habitat, 2017
HS Number: HS/058/17E
65 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English

This report aims to survey, evaluate and inform the development of National Urban Policies in the African Region, the fastest-urbanizing region in the world. The African region is extremely relevant to analyze the development and potential of National Urban Policies as the challenges and opportunities posed by urbanization in the region are particularly acute.

While the rate of urbanization threatens to exacerbate pre-existing issues of vulnerability to climate change, urban poverty and the spread of informal settlements; the relatively recent onset of the urban transition in the region also means that it has the opportunity and latitude to fully embrace a modern urban paradigm shift towards sustainable urban development.

The report is part of a series of five regional reports assessing the state of national urban policies that complement the Global State of National Urban Policies Report, conducted in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD.

This report reviews, informs and evaluates national urban policies and strategies developed by national governments in the Asia and Pacific region. The findings uncover the rich experience of recent and older national urban programs in the region. For each country studied, the report highlights its institutional structures, legal frameworks and foundations, and financial and technical capacity, oriented to promoting long-term policy development monitoring of urban problems and responses.

The report provided a good evidence to inform global policy making and process and a wealth that will assist UN-Habitat, policy makers, academia and other national and international stakeholders involved with urban policy and management.

This report is part of a series of five regional reports assessing the state of national urban policies that complement the Global State of National Urban Policies Report, conducted in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD.
National Urban Policy Regional Report: Latin America & The Caribbean

In just half a century, Latin America and the Caribbean became the most urbanized region in the world, with more than 80% of its population living in urban areas. As this urban transition outpaced initial policy responses, the region therefore illustrates acutely some of the challenges brought about by uncontrolled and rapid urbanization – such as high socio-economic and territorial inequalities and environmental degradation – but also is a dynamic and creative space of experimentation in facing them.

Through a review of NUPs in 20 countries, and an indepth analysis of five countries, this report analyses the variety of mechanisms at different phases of the urban policy cycle, and attempts to highlight best practices, obstacles encountered, and possible solutions to address the challenges and leverage the opportunities of urbanization in the region.

The report is part of a series of five regional reports assessing the state of national urban policies that complement the Global State of National Urban Policies Report, conducted in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD.

UN-Habitat, 2018
ISBN Number: (Volume) 978-92-1-132804-2
100 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
National Urban Policy Regional Report: Arab States

Cities of the Arab region are some of the oldest continuously inhabited human settlements in the world; and today, the region remains a particularly interesting case for the analysis of the development of National Urban Policies.

These circumstances are for instance: a tradition of political centralization, large youth populations demanding equal social, political and economic opportunities, an extreme vulnerability to climate change through food and water insecurity, and the destabilizing effects of political turmoil and conflicts. The report therefore reviews, in the Arab region, the state of national urban policies defined in the Arab defined by UN-Habitat as "a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term".

This study is particularly timely, first of all because it follows Habitat III and Agenda 2030, and accompanies the Second International Conference on National Policy in Paris in May 2016.

The focus of this report is to assess the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of National Urban Policy in Europe and North America, one of the most urbanized regions in the world, with a long and informative tradition of urban and territorial planning.

This report is a good reference for policy-makers, practitioners and academia and contribute to the elaboration of policies that enable and facilitate sustainable urban development.

The report is part of a series of five regional reports assessing the state of national urban policies that complement the Global State of National Urban Policies Report, conducted in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD. These studies are timely, as they follow up on Habitat III and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development the role of National Urban Policies, and accompany the Second International Conference on National Policy in Paris in May 2016.

UN-Habitat, 2018
ISBN Number: (Volume) 978-92-1-132804-2
48 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
The Pacific Region includes countries with urbanization rates below 20 percent (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands) as well as countries where more people live in cities and towns than in rural villages or outer islands (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau).

There are large cities (Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea) and growing urban metropolitan areas (Greater Suva, Fiji); whilst some of the smallest capitals in area and population in the world, both in terms of population and area, can be found in the region (for example Funafuti in Tuvalu). Urban growth rates are as varied; with shrinking urban areas in some countries, and very rapid urban growth in others are documented in this publication.

Yet, since 2004, Pacific Island countries have been organizing the Pacific Urban Forum to collectively discuss challenges and opportunities of urbanization despite these differences in urbanization dynamics and patterns. As a result of these dialogues, several countries have developed National Urban Policies (or National Urbanization Policies), have established national offices to manage urbanization and minimise development impacts, and have included urbanization in their national development frameworks.

UN-Habitat, 2020

**HS Number:** HS/008/20E

108 pp., 176 x 250 mm

Available in: English
Global State Report of National Urban Policy

Global State of National Urban Policy is a first attempt to assess the status of national urban policy development in 150 countries. In the report you will understand why, how and in what forms NUPs have been developed, implemented and monitored globally.

The report sets a solid foundation for a common methodology to monitor the progress of NUPs at the global level. Further, it outlines how many countries have an explicit NUP, the focus of the policy in each country, the existence or not of a dedicated urban agency or department, and the capacity available for effective policy making. The report is also a significant contribution to the monitoring and implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This work is a joint effort between UN-Habitat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and supported by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. It is considered to be an important outcome of the National Urban Policy Programme, a global initiative launched by UN-Habitat, OECD and Cities Alliance at the Habitat III Conference in October 2016.

UN-Habitat, 2018
HS Number: HS/040/18E
120 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
National Urban Policy: Participant Learning Ressource Guide

After completing the pilot NUP Policy process training participants should be able to:

• Understand the NUP policy process
• Assess & reflect on one’s own & fellow learner’s NUP policy process
• Create a clear transfer of learning plan for implementation of NUP learning materials
• Give feedback on the piloted NUP learning materials

The UN-Habitat National Urban Policy Database provides a global overview of the state of urban policy at the national level. The database gathers country-level data (when available) on the existence of relevant NUPs, dates of formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (as appropriate) main themes of these policies, the leading ministries and main actors, and, when possible, links to the policy documents.

The Database was developed by UN-Habitat from 2014. National Urban Policies were collected, analyzed for the required information and input into the database. The information on National Urban Policies were then complimented by a range of statistical data, all of which can be useful in order contextualize the policy and can be used also during the development phase of National Urban Policy.

The graphical representation of the Database presents and highlights information found in the Database for each country and is arranged into five global regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Latin America and North America and Europe. The database is a living document and will be continuously reviewed and updated in order to remain relevant and up to date.

UN-Habitat, 2016 & 2018
212 pp
Available in: English
National Urban Policy Feasibility Guide

This feasibility guide is based on research and good practices drawn from countries that have already undertaken the feasibility phase of NUP. This guide comprises of corrective measures and proactive actions that foster economic, social, and environmental sensitive development.

This guide will be extremely useful to policy makers, urban development departments and ministries and civil servants in the NUP process. This guide seeks to assist policy makers build the rationale for a NUP, understand the local political economy and ensure broad consensus for a NUP.

UN-Habitat, 2018

**HS Number**: HS/075/18E

52 pp., 148 x 210 mm
How to Formulate a National Urban Policy: a Practical Guide

Managing the unprecedented scale of urbanization in developing countries is now becoming imperative, not least because the next 10 years will see nearly a billion more people around the world moving to urban areas.

Governments have to prepare for this and the demands that such growth will have on urban infrastructure, resources and finances by developing a national urban policy that adequately responds to the challenges of urbanization. Formulating such a policy is the focus of this document. It is one in a series of documents produced by UN-Habitat that, collectively, assist all stakeholders to develop a national urban policy.

Covering issues such as the responsibilities of various stakeholders, what are the possible policy options, where should funds come from, and who will lead implementation, this guide is an indispensable reference for policy makers, urban development departments and government ministries.

UN-Habitat, 2019

**HS Number:** HS/016/19E

48 pp., 148 x 210 mm

English

Arabic
Increasing Social Inclusion Through National Urban Policy-EGM
Bolivia 2019

Addressing inclusion is a high priority of the Government of Bolivia and is a central pillar of the UN-Habitat programme in Bolivia. Therefore, the EGM will contribute to the ongoing work on social inclusion and human rights in Bolivian cities.

The UN-Habitat Programme in Bolivia aims to enhance the capacity of the government through all instruments of the National Urban Policy, Challenge overview to monitor and use quality information in the situation analysis for decision-making, adequate planning and implementation of legislation, effective policies and programmes, ensuring rights and equality among all inhabitants, taking into account gender issues and inclusion of youth and other identified vulnerable groups.

UN-Habitat, 2019

**HS Number:** HS/050/19E

40 pp

Available in: English
20+ Reasons why NUP matters

A National Urban Policy (NUP) is a central tool available to governments and policy makers to facilitate the management and direction of urbanization. A NUP works to turn the challenges of urbanization into opportunities by facilitating discussion and emphasizing the importance of planning and coordination.

This planning will facilitate the conditions that are required to turn urbanization into a productive force. This can ultimately increase international competitiveness at the local, regional, and national levels as well as promote the socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable growth of human settlements.
Developing a National Urban Policy for Liberia: Monrovia communiqué

After two destructive civil conflicts, Liberia’s proactive efforts to revive its economy and development are reflected by the improvements and reconstruction taking place in its cities. However, the disproportionate rate of urbanisation and urban primacy has generated significant challenges which could impede national development.

If Liberia is to achieve inclusive economic growth and sustainable urban development, it urgently needs an enabling framework to provide coordination among different sectors and ministries, address urban challenges, and maximise the opportunities offered by urbanisation, while mitigating potential adverse externalities.

Developing the Liberia National Urban Policy is expected to coordinate the work of different sectors, establish incentives for more sustainable practices, and spur a balanced system of cities and towns through strengthening urban-rural linkages and equitable resources allocation.

UN-Habitat, Nov 2019
2 pp., 148 x 210 mm
Available in: English

This report documents the key outcomes of discussions held during the second National Urban Forum (NUF) for Liberia in Monrovia on 26th November 2019. It summarises inputs from various speakers and participants gathered through high-level panel discussions, stakeholder roundtables, plenary meetings, question and answer sessions and written comments.

It presents how the Forum engaged government officials, local government officials from all parts of Liberia, women’s groups, youth groups, slum dwellers, street vendors and petty traders, regional government representatives and actors on the environment and climate change. This Forum report also presents the preliminary policy recommendations formulated for further analysis in subsequent stages of the development of the NUP in Liberia.
Review: National Spatial Strategy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The study seeks to provide evidence-based inputs for the review of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The methodology is based on three criteria that assesses the content (relevance), process (integration) and results (effectiveness) of the NSS.

The review is informed by lessons learnt from international experiences. Five case studies on national spatial frameworks were analyzed, namely, Republic of Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Morocco and China. The key challenge identified is the insufficient uptake of the NSS due to lack of a coordinated approach as well as lack of awareness.

To increase the uptake of NSS by relevant ministries, utilities and the regions, the study advocates for more dialogue and integration among urban stakeholders across sectors and spatial scales. The development of a fully-fledged National Urban Policy emerges as the way forward to address the root causes of integration challenges faced in NSS uptake and implementation.
Lessons: National Spatial Strategy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The study seeks to provide evidence-based inputs for the review of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The methodology is based on three criteria that assesses the content (relevance), process (integration) and results (effectiveness) of the NSS.

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To increase the uptake of NSS by relevant ministries, utilities and the regions, the study advocates for more dialogue and integration among urban stakeholders across sectors and spatial scales. The development of a fully-fledged National Urban Policy emerges as the way forward to address the root causes of integration challenges faced in NSS uptake and implementation.

UN-Habitat, Future Saudi Cities & Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), 2016

HS Number: HS/095/15

66 pp., 210 x 297 mm

Available in: English
Review & Lessons: National Spatial Strategy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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The development of a fully-fledged National Urban Policy emerges as the way forward to address the root causes of integration challenges faced in NSS uptake and implementation.

UN-Habitat, Future Saudi Cities & Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), 2016

**HS Number**: HS/014/16E
140 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Korea exchange visit booklet: National Urban Policy programme: Smart Cities Korea visit

An effective response to the increasing demand for support to develop National Urban Policies requires a concerted effort to develop the necessary tools and knowledge on NUP, enhance capacity including in the areas of smart and green urban development, provide targeted technical and advisory services to member states, and reinforce and establish partnerships while improving advocacy for NUP.

Building on previous project experiences and responding to the growing demand and needs from countries and partners, UN-Habitat, through the National Urban Policy Programme, will continue its support to the three pilot countries, equipping them with relevant tools for the development and implementation of integrated and inclusive National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategies.
A quick Thematic Guide for Mainstreaming Safe, Inclusive and Accessible Public Spaces into National Urban Policies

The guide is divided into two sections. Section one gives an overview of public space as generators of prosperous cities, the national urban policy process and the need for integrating the two. It also highlights streets as vital ingredient for cities and how their designs and management facilitate sustainable urbanization. Insights on NUPs development process; pillars and principles in support of implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA) among other international frameworks highlighted.

Section two discusses how NUP can support local government policy on public space design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation strategies through strong leadership and stakeholder participation. Clear recommendations on how to integrate public space in each of the NUP’s development phases: feasibility, diagnosis, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are given. Further, analysis on how NUP can support national and local capacity development for public space has also been discussed.

UN-Habitat, 2020

HS Number: HS/004/20E
42 pp.
Available in: English
Monitoring and Evaluating National Urban Policy: A GUIDE

National Urban Policies (NUP) are critical for framing sustainable urban development. Adequately monitored and evaluated NUP help achieve their expected results. The Monitoring and Evaluating National Urban Policy: A Guide is intended to be used as a tool to help countries and their different spheres of government know when, and if, policies are working or not and if they are well-articulated with global policy and development agendas. This Guide further highlights how national, local and regional governments, along with other stakeholders, through M&E, should all be involved in the development and implementation of urban policies.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a powerful public management tool that has been used to improve the way governments and organizations achieve results. As many countries embark on sustainable urbanization and the achievement of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the M&E tools outlined here should be increasingly used to make improvements in policy making, management, strengthening dialogue and collaboration between all levels of government and other actors. Well-executed urban policy and M&E, with specific targets and indicators, have the power to increase accountability, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and performance in implementing the NUA.
Developing National Urban Policies: Ways Forward to Green and Smart Cities

This book discusses and analyzes past and ongoing national urban policy development efforts from around the globe, particularly those that can lead the way toward smart and green cities. In view of the adoption of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the goal to have cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, urban policies that can help achieve this goal are urgently needed.

The UN-Habitat (HABITAT III) puts national urban policies at the heart of implementing and rethinking the urban agenda, and identifies them as being integral to the equitable and sustainable development of nations. Against this background, this important book, which gathers contributions from academics, planners and urban specialists, reviews existing urban policies from developing and developed nations, discusses various countries’ smart and green urban policies, and outlines the way forward.

As such, it is essential reading for all social scientists, planners, designers, architects, and policymakers working on urban development around the world.

Springer, 2020

445 pp.
Available in: English
Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda

The book explores and discusses some of the changes, challenges and opportunities confronting local governance in the context of the new urban paradigm associated with the HABITAT III New Urban Agenda, a 20-year strategy for sustainable urbanization, adopted in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.

The chapters included in the book address public policy issues from different theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches, written by authors from different academic disciplines within the broad area of social sciences (Geography, Political Science, Public Administration, Spatial Planning, Law, Regional Science, among other fields), and offer an inter-disciplinary vision of these issues. The chapters are written by members of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography of Governance.
Sub-National Urban Policy: A Guide

The development of sub-national urban policies offers sub-national governments the opportunity to target their urban agenda according to the problems and needs of each territory, be that at city or regional level. The practice of sub-national governance is forging a new model of urban development that coherently integrates the national and sub-national purpose with more localized challenges.

This makes more efficient multilevel governance and decentralizes skills and resources to achieve equity, well-being and shared prosperity in an urbanizing world. This guide provides a conceptual and methodological framework for those involved in sub-national government. It outlines the concept of such a framework, its objectives and the policies responses at sub-national levels.

It also features a comprehensive look at the five phases of sub-national urban policy development and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the actors tasked with implementing the sub-national urban policy.
Diagnosis Note for Liberia: Implement the New Urban Agenda through National Urban Policy

United Nations projections are that by 2050 Liberia’s population will have almost tripled to 6.7 million, with 68.2 per cent of its people living in urban areas. Like many other countries, Liberia is currently developing a national urban policy to manage this urbanization sustainably, and to leverage the opportunities it brings to accelerate achievement of the country’s development agenda and poverty reduction strategy.

The development of such a policy has five phases; the feasibility phase, diagnostic phase, formulation phase, implementation phase and the monitoring and evaluation phase. Liberia is currently conducting its diagnostic phase, which when completed, it will be followed by the formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases.

This Diagnosis Note analyses the issues raised in the feasibility phase: it identifies urban trends in Liberia, priority opportunities and challenges. It also proposes key areas for consideration during policy formulation. The report is intended to be useful to policy makers and stakeholders involved in Liberia’s NUP development. It also has useful information for other local and national governments involved in a similar process. With urbanization now one of the most pressing development issue, Liberia’s NUP progress so far will be important information for all sectors concerned with urbanization and the future.

UN-Habitat & Cities Alliance, 2020

HS Number: HS/054/20E

85 pp

Available in: English
Global State of National Urban Policy 2021-Synthesis Brochure

National Urban Policy (NUP) is a key instrument to achieve sustainable urban development in a shared responsibility across countries, regions and cities. The scale and urgency of the current urban challenges has given prominence to NUPs. The COVID-19 crisis has amplified the potential of NUPs in shaping more resilient, green and inclusive cities as part of countries recovery packages. This report reviews NUPs of 162 countries across the globe. Building on the first edition launched in 2018, the report serves as a critical source of information and analysis for policymakers and urban professionals, as it establishes the foundation for understanding how and in what forms NUPs have been developed, implemented and monitored globally.

The overarching objective of the report is to assist national governments in advancing their NUP processes, especially in creating a stronger link between NUPs and urban-related global agendas, such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, and in mainstreaming climate action into NUPs. The report is a co-creation of the OECD, UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance, as a key outcome of the National Urban Policy Programme, a global partnership launched in 2016 at the Habitat III Conference.

OECD, UN-HABITAT & United Nations Office for Project Services, 2021
12 pp
Available in: English
Global State of National Urban Policy 2021: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Climate Action

National Urban Policy (NUP) is a key instrument to achieve sustainable urban development in a shared responsibility across countries, regions and cities. The scale and urgency of the current urban challenges has given prominence to NUPs. The COVID-19 crisis has amplified the potential of NUPs in shaping more resilient, green and inclusive cities as part of countries recovery packages.

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OECD, UN-HABITAT & United Nations Office for Project Services, 2021

HS Number: 9789264779501 (PDF)
162 pp.
Available in: English
Guide for Mainstreaming Housing in Lebanon’s National Urban Policy

UN-Habitat’s NUP programme in Lebanon identified housing as one of two key sectors for policy formulation in 2018. The regulatory, institutional and programmatic gaps, as shown in this guide, have resulted in a dysfunctional housing sector that does not respond to the housing needs of the different population groups residing in Lebanon. The consecutive crises, compounded by the Beirut Port explosion, have exacerbated the housing situation for many households.

The response frameworks to the ongoing crises, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, 2021) and most recently the Lebanon 3RF (World Bank, European Union and United Nations, 2020a), have been increasingly shedding light on the importance of longer-term evidence-based policy reform in the housing sector to enable a well-functioning housing market that responds to the different needs of the country’s residents and to better guide humanitarian and relief efforts.

UN-Habitat & United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2021
90 pp
Available in: English
Guide for Mainstreaming Transport and Mobility in Lebanon’s National Urban Policy

As a result of this process, this guide, aimed primarily at policymakers and decision-makers in transport and urban planning spheres, provides a set of policy recommendations for the Lebanese transport sector, structured under the commonly adopted EASI policy formulation framework for sustainable transport and mobility. “Enable” policies are meant to prepare the appropriate governance environment necessary for supporting the implementation of the “avoid,” “shift” and “improve” policies. “Avoid” policies aim to reduce the need for motorized travel through concurrent landuse and transport planning and TDM. “Shift” policies aim to increase the modal shares of public transport and alternative transport means, such as walking and cycling. “Improve” policies aim to improve the efficiency of transport modes while minimizing their environmental footprint.

For more information, see UN-Habitat Lebanon (2021c).
Implementing the New Urban Agenda and SDGs in Sierra Leone

In collaboration with the UN-Habitat and support of development partners, the Government of Sierra Leone is in the process of developing a National Urban Policy (NUP) to support its national sustainable urban transformation agenda and translation into a middle-income country by 2039.

UN-Habitat, 2021
41 pp
Available in: English
Lebanon’s National Urban Policy Synthesis Report - Intersection of Housing and Transport

The making of inclusive and sustainable communities is deeply rooted in the interconnectedness of the housing and transport sectors, along with other sectors. Reversing the human development challenges that Lebanon faces necessitates a joint or integrated planning of the housing and transport sectors, which are realms of critical importance in this highly urbanized country, to set the path for sustainable urbanization. Integrating both sectors in the country’s NUP, as a guiding framework for urban development and sustainable planning, presents several challenges. Urban policy is not recognized as a standalone category in the making of public policy in Lebanon (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2018).

In addition, there is a lack of housing and transport policies. The development of cross-sectoral strategies and integrated policies necessitates regulatory and institutional reforms that move away from the traditionally limited tools (such as land-use planning) and the institutional fragmentation among the different stakeholders responsible for urban planning in Lebanon. It also requires capacitating governance actors with the tools and means for multisectoral, integrated policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, as well as institutionalizing the suitable platforms for exchange, coordination and collaboration.
Niger State Urban Support Programme (NSUSP)

Niger State, is one of the 36 States in the Federal Government of Nigeria and the largest in terms of landmass. The state covers 76,363 km² and has a population of 4.5 million people. It borders the Republic of Benin to the west, Kebbi and Zamfara states to the north, Kaduna and Federal City Territory (FCT) to the east, and Kogi and Kwara to the south. Niger state is popularly known as the “Power State”.

Niger State, UN-Habitat & Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Republic of Korea, 2021
4 pp
Available in: English

The challenges and opportunities presented by urbanization are motivations to both promote and strengthen urban policy. Effective planning of urban development, coordinated through national urban policy, provides a basis for ameliorating the effects of economic disadvantage, climate change and sustainability, and can promote a more equitable and inclusive society.

The economic benefits of agglomeration, where productivity increases through the close interaction of people, business and institutions and infrastructure, can overcome the disadvantages of large cities, such as congestion and pollution, through sound urban policy. Along with the rapid rate of urbanization over much of the world in recent decades, these insights provide the basis for UN-Habitat's National Urban Policy Programme.
Niger State Government has considered it necessary to remedy the shortcomings in the human settlements by preparing and implementing a well-thought-out urban policy. A policy that would enhance the potentials of urban and rural areas through effective settlement planning, provision of basic services and coordinated investments in people and places, and effective management of urban growth.

Niger State is endowed with numerous natural resources, notably its vast landmass (over 76,000 km²), active young population, arable land for mechanized farming, pleasant climate and water-bodies. It’s tangible economic assets also include a domestic airport, Inland Port and over 386 km rail line. Despite all these potentials, the State is facing many developmental issues and challenges.

The National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP) remains a pivotal tool towards promotion and achievement of transformative, inclusive, green, productive and resilient urban development. Since 2016, NUP has done this through shared responsibility and deliberate consultation between UN-Habitat and respective countries globally. This joint initiative aims at contributing to the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) to achieve sustainable and prosperous human settlements for all as NUP supports countries with tools and knowledge to undertake the NUP process. The aim of this initiative is to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities which by extension enable attainment of the other 16 SDGs.

The Korea NUPP 2017-2022 final report is the final edition of the Korea NUP Programme implementation report series since its launch in 2017 and it builds on the three earlier editions thus making it a valuable, informative tool of reference for policy makers and urban professionals among other stakeholders. The report articulates commitment of the UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the government of the Republic of Korea to support the people of I.R Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State in Nigeria to realize respective sustainable urban development agenda through NUP and Smart City Strategies.
National Urban Policy Programme 2020 Annual Report

The National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP) remains a pivotal tool towards the promotion and achievement of transformative, inclusive, green, productive, and resilient urban development. Over the last six years, NUP has done this through shared responsibility and deliberate consultation between UN-Habitat and respective countries globally. This joint initiative aims at contributing to the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) to achieve sustainable and prosperous human settlements for all as NUP supports countries with the tools and knowledge to undertake the NUP process. The aim of this initiative is to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities which by extension enable the attainment of the other 16 SDGs.

The 2020 Korea NUP Programme report articulates the commitment of UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the government of the Republic of Korea to support the people of I.R. Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State in Nigeria to realize respective sustainable urban development agenda. As the third edition, the report builds on the second edition (2018-2019) hence a focal reference point of information for policymakers and urban professionals among other key stakeholders as it points out key milestones made in 2020 in the three pilot countries towards implementation of NUP and smart cities.

The National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP) is an instrumental tool towards promoting and achieving transformative, inclusive, green, productive, and resilient urban development. The NUP is achieved through deliberate and shared responsibility between UN-Habitat and respective countries across the globe. In view of the externalities and challenges facing urban cities, NUP comes in handy to address the challenges with urgency and relevance in line with the New Urban Agenda (NUA) as it supports countries undertaking NUP process with tools and knowledge. This initiative is geared towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, which subsequently hastens the achievement of other SDGs.

This report reviews NUP Programme for three countries; I.R. Iran, Myanmar and Niger State in Nigeria. Building on the first edition of the NUPP launched in 2017, the second edition report is a critical reference point for policy makers and urban professionals as it shows progress of the implementation of NUPP and smart cities in the pilot phase for the three countries. The Republic of Korea committed to support the development of NUP financially and technically in the I.R. Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State in Nigeria.

UN-Habitat & Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Republic of Korea, 2022

HS Number: HS/029/23E
44 pp
Available in: English
I.R Iran National Urban Policy & Smart City Strategy Issue paper

NUP is a coherent set of decisions through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors towards a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term (UN-Habitat, 2014).

The pilot phase of the National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP): "Developing NUP and Smart City Strategies in Iran" started in 2017 in collaboration between UN-Habitat and Republic of Korea. In the first step, the "Diagnosis Report" was prepared by the selected consultant and launched in December 2018. In the next step of NUPP, as part of the joint programme of the UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and other partners and stakeholders, “the National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy Document” was prepared and delivered in March 2022.

The current rate of urbanization will see 5.17 billion people living in urban areas by 2030. Urbanization has many features that can be leveraged to improve the livelihoods of all citizens – rural, peri-urban and urban. A National Urban Policy (NUP) is an important tool for governments that seek to manage and direct rapid urbanization, and to tap into urbanization’s positive effects while accommodating its inevitable stresses.

Urban and regional planning in Iran aims at promoting more productive, inclusive, sustainable and resilient urban development in the long term. In this regard, National Urban Policy programme (NUPP) in I. R. Iran can help establishing a framework for the overall process of urbanisation of the country. NUPP also promotes consolidating and sharing knowledge on urban policy at the global level. It is a tool for implementation and monitoring of global urban agendas, such as the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework.
Niger State Smart City Strategy

Niger State is predominantly a rural state that is urbanising at a fast rate. Urbanisation is bringing about so many people into the towns and cities. Knowing fully that urbanisation has many positive effects on the population and development, the State Government has learnt lessons from other more urbanised states. The State would ensure adequate planning of all urban settlements, in advance and at the appropriate scale, to guide new growth and also to remedy the shortcomings of current unplanned development.

This document on Smart Cities is a subset of the Niger State Urban Policy. It provides a framework to help towns and cities in Niger state to identify their community needs, potentials and strengths. It will also provide a conducive business environment, improve the residents’ quality of life and provide a clean and sustainable environment. It will also serve as a road map for preparing and implementing this component of the Urban Policy.
National Urban Policy for Palestine

The NUP constitutes a framework and reference for the implementation of public interventions in urban areas in Palestine by the ministries and service-providing institutions of the State of Palestine, in addition to being an awareness tool focusing on the promotion of sustainable urban development.

In Palestine, urbanization exceeds the global average given the particularity of its complex geopolitical situation, standing at 77 per cent (71 per cent in the West Bank and 87 per cent in Gaza Strip) with an additional 8 per cent of the population living in refugee camps, which are characterized by high levels of informality and considered of urban nature, thus making the de facto urban population in Palestine about 85 per cent, with the remaining 15 per cent living in rural settings. With a 2.8 per cent urban population growth rate in 2021, Palestine is classified among the top 25 per cent of urbanizing countries.
National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy Document, Final Version

NUPP in I.R. Iran seeks to contribute to a larger response to urbanization and its emerging challenges, while also consolidating and sharing knowledge on urban policy at the global level. It is also a tool for implementation and monitoring of global urban agendas, such as the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement (agreed upon by I. R. Iran in Paris, on 12 December 2015) and Sendai Framework (agreed upon by I. R. Iran in UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, on 18 March 2015).

The NUPP in I.R. Iran has gone through different steps since its beginning. In the first step, the "Diagnosis Report" was prepared by the selected consultant and launched in December 2018. In the next step of NUPP, by receiving the approval of the Project Document and preparation of the Inception Report, preparation of the National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy document is pursued as part of the joint programme of the UN-Habitat and the Urban Planning and Architecture Directorate of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) and other partners and stakeholders.

This Evaluation Report presents an assessment of the Korea-funded project titled "National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies" carried out between 2017 and 2022. This pilot phase of the NUPP was implemented in three countries: Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Niger State, Nigeria. The main target audience for the evaluation report includes the donor (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea), the three beneficiary countries, UN-Habitat and other partners. The report also serves as a key reference point of information for other governments, policymakers and urban professionals among other urban development stakeholders.

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the implementation process, comparing the expected and actual goals, and noting the gaps for the three countries individually and for the overall programme. It also expounds on challenges encountered, lessons learned, and suggests mitigation strategies to improve future NUP or related projects. This evaluation was carried out by the team of researchers from the Centre for Urban Research at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) from Australia, with the support of UN-Habitat.
LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE
Key Competencies for Improving Local Governance - Volume 1: Quick Guide

Without strong local institutions and motivated staff, decentralization and human settlements reform will not deliver the desired development outcomes. Yet, many local authorities and civil society organisations lack the human resources required to meet urgent needs. Training and capacity building is therefore a wise investment into the future sustainability of our cities.

The Training and Capacity Building Branch (TCBB) of UN-HABITAT supports national training institutions to build their capacity to implement innovative programmes, focusing on local governance and sustainable human settlements development. Typical activities include training needs assessment, development of manuals, training of trainers, and impact evaluation. TCBB products have been successfully adapted and translated into over 20 languages.
Key Competencies for Improving Local Governance - Volume 2: Users Guide

First published in 1994, the initial edition of this Local Elected Leadership (LEL) series has been translated into twenty-five languages and used in many regions of the world. Hundreds of trainers worldwide have been trained to facilitate elected leadership workshops and several hundred thousand local elected and appointed officials have participated in leadership programmes using the materials. In addition, the LEL series has been used by hundreds of non-governmental and community-based organizations to strengthen their management and leadership skills and competencies.

UN-Habitat, February 2005
HS Number HS/745/05E
ISBN Number: 92-1-131730-4
ISBN Series Number: 92-1-131728-2
28 pp., 210 x 297 mm, Available in: English
Key Competencies for Improving Local Governance - Volume 3: Concepts and Strategies

The Local Elected Leadership (LEL) series presents two roles and ten competencies essential for every elected official to effectively perform their job when serving local communities. The series contains many training exercises and tools that can be used as practical on-the-job guide long after the leadership training workshop has ended.

UN-Habitat, May 2005

HS Number: HS/746/05E

ISBN Number: 92-1-131731-2

ISBN Series Number: 92-1-131728-2

442 pp., 210 x 297 mm, Available in: English
Huambo Land Readjustment: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 1

Land readjustment is the concept of assembling land with the general objective of facilitating the development or redevelopment of land.

It has been used, for example, to redraw boundaries of rural land to make farms more efficient, to pool developed properties in brownfield redevelopment schemes, to assemble land for new developments in “greenfield” sites, and to achieve densification in already developed urban areas.

UN-Habitat, 2013
HS Number: HS/057/13E
ISBN number (series): 978-92-1-133365-7
ISBN number (volume): 978-92-1-132588-1
66 pp., Available in: English
Supply of Urban Land for Development – Land Re-adjustment Experience in Gujarat, India: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 2

UN Habitat has chosen to focus on a particular set of legal tools used to facilitate large-scale urban expansion, known as land readjustment / land pooling. This case study highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the Gujarat, Indian model. In particular, the case study calls for better community engagement by improving how current town planning schemes enable land readjustment and how the associated infrastructure is developed.

UN-Habitat, GLTN, Urban Legal Network, 2013

**HS Number:** HS/057/13E

**ISBN number** (series): 978-92-1-133365-7

**ISBN number** (volume): 978-92-1-132600-0

188 pp. Available in: English
Land Readjustment Experiences in Turkey: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 3

This report analyzes the potential and challenges of land readjustment in Turkey, looking at the specific difficulties related to the implementation of projects and providing recommendations to improve implementation and outcomes.

The methodology is based on a desktop study, in-depth interviews with selected experts and case studies on different uses of land readjustment. The desk study includes the findings of previous studies related to land readjustment; in particular, two surveys related to the use of land readjustment by Turk in 2003 and 2008. Turk's questionnaire in 2003 surveyed 468 municipalities and 300 technical experts (surveying engineers and urban planners). The 2008 study surveyed 60 large municipalities.

UN-Habitat, GLTN, Urban Legal Network, 2014
HS/001/15E
ISBN Number (Series): 978-92-1-133365-7
ISBN Number (Volume): 978-92-1-132637-6
136 pp. Available in: English

This report examines municipal law-making surrounding land use planning in the City of Cape Town. It investigates the extent to which the City of Cape Town has powers to make by-laws on land use planning and how much of that power is circumscribed by other state organs and levels. It also examines the institutional and practical context in which municipal law-making takes place in order to assess the actual relevance of the city’s power to make law.
Reforming Urban Laws in Africa: A Practical Guide

This guide aims to strengthen the process by which the laws and regulations that govern urban areas are drafted. It looks at the characteristics of urban legislation in Sub-Saharan Africa and the challenges faced in changing these laws to propose a practical, real-world approach to drafting urban legislation.

UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, Urban LanMark, African Centre for Cities, 2017


60 pp., 176 x 250 mm

Available in: English
Effective urban legislation is an indispensable pillar of sustainable urban development. The global urban population will grow by +3 billion in the coming 50 years and 98% of the urban growth will be in developing countries.

This unprecedented growth can result in anarchy and increased inequality if not underpinned by effective and coherent policy and legal, institutional and governance frameworks that will ensure a solid context for planning, dialogue between actors and rights-based approaches to development.
Urban Law Tools No1: Planning Law Assessment Framework

The Planning Law Assessment Framework uses two sets of indicators to assess urban planning laws. Firstly, the Planning Law Assessment Framework uses indicators of a law’s functional effectiveness. The second set of indicators is technical in nature, related to the core areas of planning.

UN-Habitat, 2018
88 pp., 210 x 297 mm

HS Number: HS/049/18E
Urban Law in Colombia: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 5

The Colombian legal-urban framework is a robust and complex structure of tools that seek to meet land's "social and ecological function", defined by Colombia’s 1991 Constitution. It has become a renowned example in Latin America, as it introduces many different principles and tools that other countries in the region had not implemented or utilized.

The strengthening of urban development and territorial planning as key elements in the overall development of Colombia has led to the creation of strong and renovated institutions, which seek to manage, coordinate, and control the new principles and tools for territorial development.
Strengthening Environmental Reviews in Urban Development: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 6

Environmental reviews, often in the form of environmental impact or strategic environmental assessments, play a fundamental role in the process of urban development. They are institutionalized decision-making arrangements in domestic legislation to address the environmental impacts and risks associated with a project.

Strengthened environmental and social reviews in urban development processes and their integration into broader decision-making frameworks will support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and several of the Sustainable Development Goals by approving projects which are ecologically sensitive, socially acceptable, and economically cost-effective. Six case studies in this book, from Uganda, South Africa, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and the USA, present empirical evidence on the relationship between environmental and development decision-making in the urban context.

The cases identify key implementation issues and options to address them efficiently at country and city levels. Building upon this, the work also outlines capacity building needs and coordination approaches that are appropriate to resource poor contexts.

UN-Habitat, 2018

**HS Number:** HS/076/18E

**ISBN Number (Series):** 978-92-1-133365-7

**ISBN Number (Volume):** 978-92-1-132816-5

164 pp., Available in: English
Global Experiences in Land Readjustment: Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 7

This book will help countries, especially those in the Global South, to identify and explore choices, and their likely impacts, and, as a result, improve the quality and durability of project outcomes. It may also be useful in implementing urbanisation policy, as it provides examples of the resources and institutional capacities required to deliver different types of project.

UN-Habitat, 2018
184 pp.

HS Number: HS/050/18E
ISBN Number: (Volume) 978-92-1-132806-6
Available in: English
Effectiveness of Planning Law in Sub-Saharan Africa - Urban Legal Case Studies, Volume 8

UN-Habitat has conducted an objective, evidence-based assessment on the application of physical planning laws in 18 cities of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region. The selection of cities is based on the UN Global Sample of 200 cities as a statistically and regionally representative dataset.

This publication portrays the findings from the study with empirical data on growth boundaries, population density, compliance with spatial planning and zoning, land management and staffing capacity. City managers in Sub-Saharan Africa can use this information to rethink the sustainability of their urbanization model and to help them create systems that can result in equity, shared prosperity and environmental sustainability.

These are key principles embodied under the New Urban Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly Goal 11.
Rent regulation is a system of laws controlling rents and tenant evictions aimed at ensuring that rentals are affordable. It reduces both the incidence and fear of homelessness by setting substantive and procedural guidelines to control increases in rent and tenant evictions, thereby preventing landlords from profiting from rental shortages and enabling tenants to remain in existing rentals.

This document examines the legal framework regulating the urban landlord and tenant relationship in Botswana, Kenya, Lagos State- Nigeria, and South Africa. It is not an essay on the ideology of rent regulation, but rather an examination of legislation those states enacted for regulating tenancies to identify what rules may be included in a comprehensive rent regulating regime that promotes security of tenure and affordable rental housing for the urban poor.

UN-Habitat, 2020
39 pp.

HS Number: HS/057/19E
Available in: English
Effectiveness Of Planning Law in Land-Rich Developed Countries: Urban Legal Case Studies | Volume 10

UN-Habitat has conducted an objective, evidence-based assessment on the application of physical planning laws in 18 cities of the Land-Rich Developed Countries Region.

The selection of cities is based on the UN Global Sample of 200 cities as a statistically and regionally representative dataset. The study considers whether the law is being applied as written and informs the discussion on the effectiveness of legislative design.

This publication portrays the findings from the study with empirical data on growth boundaries, population density, compliance with spatial planning and zoning, land management and staffing capacity.

City managers in Land-Rich Developed Countries can use this information to rethink the sustainability of their urbanization model and to help them create systems that can result in equity, shared prosperity and environmental sustainability. These are key principles embodied under the New Urban Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly Goal 11.
Human rights, rule of law and the New Urban Agenda: Urban Legal Case Studies | Volume 11

This publication seeks to assess the impact of legal frameworks within the urban context using international Human Rights standards and the New Urban Agenda as the starting point. It examines six key development areas that UN-Habitat focuses on which are also where the potency of the law on Human Rights is greatest.

These areas are Land, Urban Planning, Urban Economy, Housing, Basic Services and Urban Governance. The intention is to identify the points within urban legal frameworks where the enjoyment of Human Rights is undermined either through the substance of the law or through the overall manner in which the legal regime is structured. Proposals for reform are also suggested in line with the Agenda’s commitment to “leave no one behind.”

UN-Habitat, 2020
90 pp.

HS Number: HS/012/20E
Available in: English
Law and the New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted in 2016 at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, represents a globally shared understanding of the vital link between urbanization and a sustainable future. At the heart of this new vision stand a myriad of legal challenges – and opportunities – that must be confronted for the world to make good on the NUA’s promise.

In response, this book, which complements and expands on the editors’ previous volumes on urban law in this series, offers a constructive and critical evaluation of the legal dimensions of the NUA. As the volume’s authors make clear, from natural disasters and resulting urban migration in Honshu and Tacloban, to innovative collaborative governance in Barcelona and Turin, to accessibility of public space for informal workers in New Delhi and Accra, and power scales among Brazil’s metropolitan regions, there is a deep urgency for thoughtful research to understand how law can be harnessed to advance the NUA’s global mission of sustainable urbanism.

It thus creates a provocative and academic dialogue about the legal effects of the NUA, which will be of interest to academics and researchers with an interest in urban studies.

Routledge, May 6, 2020
ISBN 9780367188733
226 pp. Available in: English
Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR)

The Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR) and its two-step assessment tools present an analytical and practical vision of governance. They propose the understanding of governance as a complex process in which institutional solutions, decision-making and collective action must work together. Furthermore, the GAF-MTR defines governance factors that, when properly managed and improved, serve to enable and advance territorial management from supra-municipal scales.

The GAF-MTR draws from inspiring practices on the establishment of institutional and decision-making arrangements for territorial management at supra-municipal scales. Case studies include Valle de Aburrá in Colombia; San Salvador; Montreal in Canada; London; Barcelona in Spain; Bratislava; Johannesburg in South Africa; and Singapore. These examples show how to provide integrative territorial governance frameworks involving fit-for-purpose institutional solutions, representative decision-making processes and collective actions.

The GAF-MTR includes: i) The Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Governance Assessment Tool; and ii) The Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Governance Scorecard, as a two-step qualitative tool containing a series of criteria and guiding questions for assessing institutional, political and instrumental dimensions of territorial governance in metropolises and regions.
Guidance for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol.1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs

Volume 1 of the VLR Series, the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews, provides overview and analysis of all the documents that local governments have issued to review and assess their implementation performance, looking for common traits, comparable variables and the thread binding the VLRs together. The outcome is a study on the key features of VLRs, the institutional environment and capabilities through which they were designed, and a set of recommendations to invite many more local governments to undertake this effort and contribute local data, information, experiences and practices for others to learn and build upon.

UCLG and UN-Habitat have long been partners in supporting local governments willing to engage with this process. Together, they have designed tools, methods and institutional opportunities through which local and regional governments have approached the global agendas and the localization of these common goals. Now, they have devised a VLR Series to provide guidance, definitions and technical support to any local and regional governments aiming to be part of this community.

UCLG, UN-Habitat, 2020
ISBN 9780367188733
50 pp. Available in: English
Cities and Pandemics towards a more just green and healthy future

From the early days of the pandemic, cities have been on the frontline of COVID-19. The spread of the virus globally through travel, trade and mobility meant that a large number of the first detected infections appeared in urban areas, prompting many to question their future. Yet in the months that followed, as the challenges of the pandemic have evolved, so too has our understanding of the disease and its complex relationship with cities. Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future presents an overview of the situation to date and outlines a range of bold measures that could deliver a lasting and sustainable recovery from the current crisis. While COVID-19 continues to produce painful lessons on the shortcomings and failures of many cities to protect their own citizens, it also points the way forward for a better, more sustainable urban future.

Some of the most effective responses to the pandemic have been designed and led by cities, building on their ability to concentrate knowledge, resources and infrastructure. From enhanced service provision to the repurposing of local economies to meet the changing needs of residents, urban areas have demonstrated a remarkable capacity for adaptation in the face of this crisis. Moving from a mindset of emergency to recovery, cities have the opportunity to continue to focus on strengthening public health, economic resilience and service access for all. The longstanding divisions and inequalities highlighted by the pandemic mean that a return to normality is no longer enough: what is needed now is transformative change. With inclusive policies, community engagement and a meaningful transition to a more sustainable approach, cities could emerge from the catastrophe of COVID-19 stronger and more resilient than before.

UN-Habitat, 2021

HS Number HS/058/20E

ISBN Number 978-92-1-132877-6

194 pp.

Available in: English
Land Issues for Urban Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa faces many development challenges, such as its size and diversity, rapid urban population growth, history of colonial exploitation, fragile states and conflicts over land and natural resources. This collection, contributed from different academic disciplines and professions, seeks to support the UN Habitat New Urban Agenda passed at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. It will attract readers from urban specialisms in law, geography and other social sciences, and from professionals and policy-makers concerned with land use planning, surveying and governance.

Among the topics addressed by the book are challenges to governance institutions: how international development is delivered, building land management capacity, funding for urban infrastructure, land-based finance, ineffective planning regulation, and the role of alternatives to courts in resolving boundary and other land disputes. Issues of rights and land titling are explored from perspectives of human rights law (the right to development, and women’s rights of access to land), and land tenure regularization. Particular challenges of housing, planning and informality are addressed through contributions on international real estate investment, community participation in urban settlement upgrading, housing delivery as a partly failing project to remedy apartheid’s legacy, and complex interactions between political power, money and land. Infrastructure challenges are approached in studies of food security and food systems, urban resilience against natural and man-made disasters, and informal public transport.

Springer, 2020
ISBN 978-3-030-52504-0
360 pp. Available in: English
A Guide: Leveraging Multi-Level Governance Approaches to Promote Health Equity

UN-Habitat works in over 90 countries to promote transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action.

This guide provides support to Member countries and local authorities to improve the vertical and horizontal linkages between government institutions and among non-state actors, and to promote health equity in governance at all levels (national, regional and local) for sustainable urban development.

UN-Habitat, 2021

HS Number HS/032/21E

65 pp.

Available in: English
Multi-Level Governance for Effective Urban Climate Action in the Global South

As recognized by the Paris Agreement, cities play an important role to mitigate and adapt to climate change as cities can mobilize strong and ambitious climate action. To ensure effective climate action, multi-level governance is essential as it calls for all state and non-State actors to act on climate change. Thus, multilevel governance holds immense power to assist urban areas in the Global South to enhance their resilience and grow in climate-friendly ways. It is in appreciation of the important role of multi-level governance that this guide has been developed to offer an understanding on how to improve horizontal and vertical coordination among different levels of government as well as leveraging the contributions of non-State actors such as the private sector, civil societies, community organizations, and academia, among others, in the Global South.
Leverage the Potential of Youth, Innovation and Technologies for a Better Urban Future

This report aims to show the relevance of innovative approaches to overcome challenges facing by cities by leveraging the potential of young people and technologies through urban governance labs in order to build more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities.

By starting with a brief overview of the notion of urban governance, this report will present the idea behind the urban governance laboratories, their relevance, and how they can contribute to building better cities for everyone. A focus will also be made on the first experience of this lab which is the Cameroon urban governance lab studio.
Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool

The Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool is a diagnostic self-assessment legal tool to identify, in a structured, objective, and systematic way, the strengths and weaknesses of the regulatory framework made up of all legislation and regulations enacted at different levels and in force in a country. It is designed to be used either alone or, ideally, in the context of a broader law reform method that begins with issue identification and legal mapping and moves all the way through to recommendations for reform.

It is a useful tool to guide the process to agree on actions that are needed to address the identified gaps. The assessment tool uses an indicative approach, relying on a limited number of indicators in each of its five thematic areas: land, planning, basic services, housing, and financing. While it produces what appear to be quantitative outputs, these are built on a primarily qualitative analysis that is designed as a framework to catalyse discussion in a national or local context and not as a means of ranking.
Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities: The Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit

Urban areas account for two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, making them major contributors to climate change. Cities are already suffering from extreme weather events, flooding, subsidence, storms, heat waves, water scarcity, droughts, and sea-level rise, among other climate change effects. Additionally, the laws, institutions, and policies governing urban planning in cities have unintended effects on their capacity to adapt to the changing climate and promote urban forms that increase GHG emissions.

To address this gap, UN-Habitat is pleased to have collaborated with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the UNFCCC Secretariat in developing the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement – to which this publication on Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities is a guide on. It is hoped that this publication, together with the online version of the Toolkit, will be instrumental in fulfilling the potential of urban areas to lead the way and be truly transformative spaces for climate action.
Urban Law in Colombia - Urban Legal Case Study 5

The Colombian legal-urban framework is a robust and complex structure of tools that seek to meet land’s “social and ecological function”, defined by Colombia’s 1991 Constitution. It has become a renowned example in Latin America, as it introduces many different principles and tools that other countries in the region had not implemented or utilized.

The strengthening of urban development and territorial planning as key elements in the overall development of Colombia has led to the creation of strong and renovated institutions, which seek to manage, coordinate, and control the new principles and tools for territorial development.

UN-Habitat, 2022
HS Number: HS/057/18E
ISBN Number(Series): 978-92-1-133365-7
ISBN Number:(Volume) 978-92-1-132809-7
188 pp.
Available in: English
Assessment of Zimbabwe Legislation through the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit SUMMARY REPORT

UN-Habitat, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS), and the University of Michigan (United States of America), through the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, were able to assess the capacity of climate laws and policies in Zimbabwe to adapt to climate change. The assessment was done through the UN-Habitat Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement.

This was based on the five key performance indicators namely: i) governance framework for urban and climate planning; ii) urban and territorial planning; iii) urban planning and design for adaptation; iv) urban planning and design for mitigation; and v) economic and non-economic instruments for climate friendly urban planning. It is hoped that this assessment and the impending climate law reform will be instrumental in fulfilling the potential of urban areas in Zimbabwe to lead the way and be truly transformative spaces for climate action. In addition to this full report, UN-Habitat has produced a shorter version of the full report (summary report) that contains key points and recommendations from the sections mentioned above.

UN-Habitat, 2022
HS Number HS/040/22E
34 pp.
Available in: English
Assessment of Zimbabwe Legislation through the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit FULL REPORT

UN-Habitat, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS), and the University of Michigan (United States of America), through the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, were able to assess the capacity of climate laws and policies in Zimbabwe to adapt to climate change. The assessment was done through the UN-Habitat Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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UN-Habitat, 2022

HS Number HS/039/22E

114 pp.

Available in: English
Assessment of Malawi Legislation through the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit SUMMARY REPORT

UN-Habitat, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS), and the University of Michigan (United States of America), through the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, were able to assess the capacity of climate laws and policies in Malawi to adapt to climate change.

The assessment was done through the UN-Habitat Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement. This was based on the five key performance indicators namely: i) governance framework for urban and climate planning; ii) urban and territorial planning; iii) urban planning and design for adaptation; iv) urban planning and design for mitigation; and v) economic and non-economic instruments for climate friendly urban planning.

UN-Habitat, 2022

HS Number HS/043/22E

32 pp.

Available in: English
Assessment of Malawi Legislation through the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit - FULL REPORT

UN-Habitat, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS), and the University of Michigan (United States of America), through the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, were able to assess the capacity of climate laws and policies in Malawi to adapt to climate change.

The assessment was done through the UN-Habitat Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement. This was based on the five key performance indicators namely: i) governance framework for urban and climate planning; ii) urban and territorial planning; iii) urban planning and design for adaptation; iv) urban planning and design for mitigation; and v) economic and non-economic instruments for climate friendly urban planning.
Assessment of Namibia Legislation through the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit FULL REPORT

UN-Habitat, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS), and the University of Michigan (United States of America), through the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, were able to assess the capacity of climate laws and policies in Namibia to adapt to climate change.

The assessment was done through the UN-Habitat Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement. This was based on the five key performance indicators namely: i) governance framework for urban and climate planning; ii) urban and territorial planning; iii) urban planning and design for adaptation; iv) urban planning and design for mitigation; and v) economic and non-economic instruments for climate friendly urban planning.
Assessment of Namibia Legislation through the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit SUMMARY REPORT

UN-Habitat, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS), and the University of Michigan (United States of America), through the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, were able to assess the capacity of climate laws and policies in Namibia to adapt to climate change.

The assessment was done through the UN-Habitat Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit – an innovative online tool designed to help countries establish legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement. This was based on the five key performance indicators namely: i) governance framework for urban and climate planning; ii) urban and territorial planning; iii) urban planning and design for adaptation; iv) urban planning and design for mitigation; and v) economic and non-economic instruments for climate friendly urban planning.

UN-Habitat, 2022
HS Number HS/045/22E
30 pp.
Available in: English
Comparative Analysis of Non-Profit Housing Legal Frameworks in Five Countries: Austria, Brazil, England, Netherlands, and South Africa: Urban Legal Case Studies, VOLUME 12

More than 1.8 billion people worldwide lack adequate housing and the number of people living in informal settlements has passed a billion. Housing is a fundamental human right and UN-Habitat recognizes its catalyst role in the sustainable development agenda. ‘Housing at the centre’, a global approach set out by UN-Habitat in 2015, puts people and human rights at the foreground of sustainable urban development policies to leave no one and no place behind. A more coherent and comprehensive framework of affordable housing is necessary to ensure broad access to this necessity of life, one which facilitates cooperation across socio-economic backgrounds and creates shared interests in a safe community, a strong economy, and a vibrant social scene to harness the framework’s transformative potential.

The affordable housing solutions generated by the non-profit housing sector provide a novel framework for reforming affordable housing policy and legal frameworks. UN-Habitat has conducted a comparative analysis of the non-profit housing sector in five countries (Austria, Brazil, England, Netherlands, and South Africa), which serve as best practice legal frameworks for a robust and sustainable social housing sector. Through this assessment, UN-Habitat seeks to promote the participation of the non-profit sector in the provision of social housing to meet the demand for urban housing needs and to bridge the housing affordability gap.

UN-Habitat, 2023

HS Number HS/024/23E
164 pp.
Available in: English
Guidelines For the Scrutiny of the Quality of Urban Legislation: A Manual for Parliamentarians

Urban legislation is an important development tool for urban growth as it provides a framework in which to mediate and balance competing public and private interests, especially in relation to land use and development; creates a stable and predictable framework for public and private sector action; guarantees the inclusion of the interests of vulnerable groups; and provides a catalyst for local and national discourse.

Parliaments are the main branch of government with the constitutional mandate to legislate and adopt legislation. This is a significant privilege, but it is also an important responsibility for parliaments that need to make sure, firstly that they produce legislation of the best possible quality; secondly, that the law is producing the desired results; and thirdly that required action is taken to correct “errors” and improve its effectiveness. What might read like a good urban law before adoption might produce unwanted effects and impacts or might need to be amended to fully respond to needs in reality. Legislative scrutiny is a systematic process that needs to take place throughout the life cycle of legislation.

UN-Habitat, 2023
HS Number HS/001/23E
65 pp.
Available in: English
Comparative Analysis of Housing Acts in Five Countries: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Africa:
Urban Legal Case Studies, VOLUME 13

UN-Habitat provides technical assistance and advisory services to member states in legal reform processes to bring about social and economic transformation and enhance effective service delivery for sustainable urban development. Benchmarking case studies and comparative analysis are key aspects of the UN-Habitat methodology for legal and governance reform. UN-Habitat and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of London, UK developed this comparative analysis of housing laws to assist the Government of Lesotho to address the increased demand for urban housing, improve residents’ quality of life, enhance services accessibility, and improve mobility and security of tenure, while recognizing the environmental impact of climate change.

This comparative analysis report provides an insight into available housing legislative models that are already in use in Bolivia (the Plurinational State of), Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa. These are countries with similar socioeconomic backgrounds, land availability and environmental constraints and challenges. With a comparative analysis of housing legislation, recommendations have been proposed on the best model available that could be entirely adopted or modified by the Lesotho Government to suit its country’s needs and local context.

UN-Habitat, 2023
HS Number HS/017/23E
94 pp.
Available in: English
Benchmarking Case Studies on Public Participation in Spatial Planning Processes in Four Countries: Australia, Chile, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Urban Governance Case Studies, VOLUME 2

UN-Habitat provides technical assistance and advisory services to member states in legal reform processes to bring about social and economic transformation and enhance effective service delivery for sustainable urban development. Benchmarking case studies and comparative analysis are key aspects of the UN-Habitat methodology for legal and governance reform. This report showcases benchmarking case studies on public participation in four countries prepared for the project “Strengthening the Urban Planning Legal and Institutional Frameworks in the Sultanate of Oman”. It includes a comparative analysis of best practices for meaningful public participation in spatial planning to make urban development more inclusive, equitable, sustainable, active and meaningful.

UN-Habitat, 2023
HS Number HS/023/23E
180 pp.
Available in: English
Enabling Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning Processes

The Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda emphasize the need for inclusive and collaborative governance in spatial planning processes. Thus, rather than advocating for a technocratic and normative model of spatial planning based on standards and regulations, the Goals and the New Urban Agenda refer to spatial planning as a multi-stakeholder decision-making process during which participation is a key governance feature to reach sustainable development.

This toolkit on Enabling Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning Processes has demonstrated that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to public participation. The toolkit features a step-by-step process perspective on how to engage the public and civil society and has a series of mechanisms that can be adapted and aggregated in the form of policy mixes that can better suit the local context, the stage of the process and the available resources. More importantly, rather than using participation as a “symbolic gesture”, with little transformative impact on urban governance structures and systems, it is recommended to foster the empowerment and autonomy of social movements and local stakeholders and entrust citizens and residents with real decision-making powers.
Regional Development Dialogue - Urban-Rural Linkages in Support of the New Urban Agenda

Urban and Rural spaces are inextricably linked economically, socially, and environmentally and cannot be adequately dealt with in isolation from one another. The need for consistent urban policies for urban to rural areas which involve local, regional, and national actors is important to understand and effectively address the complexities of people’s livelihoods and the strategies they employ, which include mobility, migration, and the diversification of income sources and occupations.

Urban-rural linkages promote sustainable development and the role of trade in this process while, conversely, a lack of optimal rural-urban linkages leads to inefficiencies, poverty, and inequality which all inhibit growth. Strong linkages enhance sustainable development because they channel resources to where they have the largest net economic and social benefits.

This issue of Regional Development Dialogue (RDD) is a collaborative effort of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD).

UN-Habitat & UNCRD, 2014
Vol.35, ISSN 0250-6505
31 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Implementing the New Urban Agenda by Strengthening the Urban-Rural Linkages

This publication on Urban-Rural Linkages reaffirms that the discourse on urbanization must depart from the traditional and outdated dichotomy of urban and rural; in order for urban and rural areas to be sustainable they must develop in tandem, inequalities must be reduced and the development gap bridged.

Urban and rural spaces are inextricably linked economically, socially and environmentally and cannot be adequately dealt with in isolation from one another. Recognizing this urban-rural continuum also highlights how partnerships, collaboration and unity in action can yield dividends for all people, regardless of age, gender or whether they live in urban or rural areas.

UN-Habitat, March 2017
HS Number: HS/035/17E
90 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa Regional Awareness Workshop Integrating Urban-Rural Linkages in Policies and Strategies


It was hosted by UN-Habitat in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and in collaboration the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The workshop brought together representatives from the four UNDA project countries, as well as national or subnational government officials from other countries in the region.

UN-Habitat and its UN and development partner are developing tools to strengthen urban-rural linkages to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality, and increase the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of integrated urban-rural territories. These tools will be made available to national, regional and local governments, development partners and civil society.

As countries, regions and cities test and apply the Guiding Principles and Framework for Action, it will be useful to compare methods, experiences and results. For this purpose, a call for further case studies including a template will be made available as part of the dissemination of the URL-GP.

It is hoped that this initial compendium of case studies will grow in the future with many more cases and all are invited to provide experiences and case studies to learn from the application of the URL-GP in sustainable development work.

UN-Habitat, March 2019
39 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles - Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development

The goal of these Guiding Principles is to inform pragmatic strategies and propose a Framework for Action to build an enabling environment for more inclusive and functional urban-rural linkages. The principles are flexible and can be applied by all levels of stakeholders at all scales.

While the principles are designed for universal application, there are distinct roles and actions appropriate for national or local governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations.

In addition, they can be applied in varying national contexts; for example, where there is a concern about the rate of urbanization and rural transformation, or the degree of diversity in the population. The Guiding Principles are to help address the complexity of aligning different levels of governance (national, territorial and local) while recognizing unique local contexts and multiple possibilities for implementation.

Urban-rural linkages that advance integrated territorial development are not only about a collection of separate subnational regions, but are also about systems of cities at national and even across national to regional levels.

UN-Habitat, 2019

HS Number: HS/028/19E
62 pp., 210 x 297 mm
The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages: Songyang Consensus

The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkage took place in Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China, between 11 to 13 November 2019. The forum was attended by over 200 participants from 17 countries and 18 international organizations with 32 guest speakers in various sessions. The event was co-hosted and co-organized by UN-Habitat, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Lishui Municipal People’s Government and Songyang County People’s government.

It is a product of the Songyang Innovative Rural Development Programme and the collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Songyang People’s government. The purposes of the Forum were to thoroughly analyse and capture the unconventional and inspiring practices implemented in Songyang County across the urban-rural continuum, and to better understand how such innovative interventions have contributed to revitalizing rural areas through empowering local people through financial and technical support building upon Songyang agricultural, cultural and architectural traditions.

UN-Habitat, Songyang County People’s government, 2019
4 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter: First Edition

Urban and rural spaces are inextricably linked economically, socially and environmentally and cannot be adequately dealt with in isolation from one another. The spatial and functional interconnections of territories entail conceiving urban-periurban and rural as continuous space, in which processes, opportunities, and challenges are not constrained by urban, rural or administrative boundaries.

Urban-rural interactions and linkages across space include not only flows of people, goods, capital and information but also between sectors and activities such as agriculture, services and manufacturing. This urban-rural interaction is increasingly a focus of attention for national, regional and local governments, planners and development agencies.

UN-Habitat and its UN and development partner are developing tools to strengthen urban-rural linkages to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality, and increase the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of integrated urban-rural territories. These tools will be made available to national, regional and local governments, development partners and civil society.

UN-Habitat, Nov 2019
15 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Urban-Rural Linkages: Training Manual for applying the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles

This Training manual contains six modules composed of interactive lectures and individual/group activities.

1. Introduction
2. Understanding the URL-GP
3. Who should apply the URL-GP
4. How to apply the URL-GP
5. Where to apply the URL-GP
6. What’s next? How you can take the URL-GP forward!

In addition to the five core modules, the Training manual includes a Pre- and a Post-Training Manual-Quiz, in order to provide a rapid evaluation of the learning outcomes of the training. The Appendix includes all templates required to fill out the assessments and the exercises.

UN-Habitat, 2019
120 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Strengthening urban-rural linkages to reduce spatial inequality and poverty by leveraging sustainable food systems actions: First UN-Habitat Assembly | Side Event Report

A side event as part of the first UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA) was held on 30 May, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN-Habitat with supporting partners. The side event was held to underscore the importance of integrating urban and rural planning and development, helping urban-rural relations become more equal, more inclusive and balanced. The objectives for the side event were to:

- Focus on improvement of urban-rural linkages (URL) as a key entry point for reducing spatial inequalities and alleviating both rural and urban poverty
- Present initiatives and concrete efforts to strengthen URL in relation to global normative agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA)
- Showcase selected national and subnational experiences addressing inequality and poverty through integrated actions on sustainable food systems nutrition and other public services
- Highlight tools and solutions for supporting governments at all levels on sustainable food systems aiming at addressing food insecurity and malnutrition while protecting biodiversity and responding to challenges posed by climate change.

UN-Habitat, 2019
23 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
The UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles - Assessment of the Adoptability to Topical Land Management Challenges in Germany, Kenya and Tanzania

Urban and rural areas depend on each other—especially in urbanizing regions with competing interests in scarce environmental resources, such as soil and land. The development of cities, urban surroundings and rural areas is functionally and closely intertwined: food, building materials, energy, water and waste are typical material flows next to the pervading networks of housing markets, culture or tourism.

The networks and material flows are all linked to contending land-use demands. Urban and rural stakeholders can cooperate or do compete in the exploitation of soil functions and services. However, often decision-makers are not aware of or do not fully encompass the meaning and impacts of urban-rural linkages for un-/sustainable land management. This unawareness is not least due to the complex nature of the interdependencies and urban-rural linkages.
The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages: A Report

This report accompanies the Songyang Consensus with summaries of presentations and outcomes of the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages.

The Forum provided an opportunity for global challenges and national or local strategies for integrated urban and rural development to be informed by discussions and experiences of rural revitalization from many perspectives, to share reflections on urban and rural sustainable development, and within a broader scope, to call for a strengthening of sustainable innovation and development in rural areas of all countries.

The conference recognized a common aspiration and pursuit of “shared cities and regions for all” and “equal rights and opportunities for all residents in cities and all other settlements in the continuum of human settlements”. These and other sentiments were captured in a “2019 Songyang Consensus” drafted by the co-organizers, providing a very brief summary.
COVID-19 through the Lens of Urban Rural Linkages-Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP)

Over the two years preceding the global outbreak of CoronaVirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), UN-Habitat and more than 130 stakeholders from over 40 international organizations contributed to an initiative called Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding principles and framework for action (URL-GP). There was broad consensus that resilient and inclusive urban-rural linkages are key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs to respond to the call to “Leave No One Behind “and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) call to “Leave No Place Behind.”

The URL-GP can provide a framework to clearly address flows of people, goods, information and services when planning interventions to slow infection rates while addressing social protection and health services.

This integrated approach is what the guiding principles and framework for action of the URL-GP were designed for, to assist governments and their private sector and civil society partners with assessment, planning and policy development tools. In the context of the COVID-19 crises, the URL-GP therefore can be a useful tool for governments and other stakeholders.

UN-Habitat, June 2020
4 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Welcome to the second Issue of the Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter. This Issue is primarily dedicated to updating you on the First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL 1) and the 10th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10).

In this issue, we also inaugurate our new discussion section Short Articles on Urban-Rural Linkages. It is our hope that with this section, the URL Newsletter will serve as a platform for on-going discussions and events relating to issues of policy and governance and the implications for urban-rural linkages.

Multiple stakeholders come together to create the Newsletter and it provides a space for fruitful debates and discussions on the implementation of ‘Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action’. We look forward to receiving your proposals and contributions for our upcoming issues. This issue also covers our regular updates on urban-rural linkages events, publications and recent activities of partners.
From SMART Cities to SMART Villages: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Smart approaches

To implement the New Urban Agenda, 22 issue papers covering six major areas related to housing and sustainable urban development were presented in Habitat III. They summarize the research areas of UN-Habitat, highlight general findings and identify the research needs. Among them, Issue Paper 10, Urban-rural Linkages, and Issue Paper 21, Smart City, are most closely associated with smart villages.

The creation of smart villages could address several challenges. It could open up not only employment avenues but also raise living standards in villages where infrastructure is palpably absent. This is a crucial aspect that could stem conventional migration from villages to cities, which is putting pressure on urban infrastructure and leaving a huge social impact. Some planners, developers and government organizations are starting to work on ideas to make towns and villages smarter and more connected.

UN-Habitat, 2020
100 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Mainstreaming URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES in NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES: A Guide

This Guide on mainstreaming urban-rural linkages in national urban policies brings these parallel efforts together. The first part provides the rationale and process for bringing URLs into NUP formulation or revision. The second part addresses how to mainstream URLs in policy and the third part provides recommendations based on 15 national and subnational experiences in different regions.

Tools are provided in appendices to assess the level of incorporation of URLs in NUPs in each of the four phases of policy formation, assess the degree of stakeholder participation, and possible recommendations based sections from the URL-GP Framework for Action.
Second compendium of inspiring practices on urban-rural linkages: Implementation of guiding principles and framework for action to advance integrated territorial development

The Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages is an ongoing initiative at UN-Habitat for which new experiences - policies, strategies, tools, interventions, geographic or thematic projects - are continuously collected. The compendium aims to inform both general and expert audiences about current practices and efforts around the globe to strengthen urban-rural linkages and advance integrated territorial development.

It also seeks to demonstrate the application of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP) at both national and subnational levels. Experiences presented inform readers about the roles of different stakeholders in strengthening urban-rural linkages, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, development cooperation agencies, civil society organizations, academia, research institutions and the private sector.

The practices undertaken by different stakeholders and their interaction with other relevant actors will hopefully inspire and promote increased collaboration and cooperation between them in other countries and situations.

UN-Habitat, March 2021
168 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter: Third Edition

Since the last issue of the Newsletter issued earlier last year, life has changed for us all. This issue presents the activities that, since then, UN-Habitat and partners have conducted to highlight the role of territories and urban-rural linkages in responding to challenges generated by the pandemic.

This edition includes insights from nine global webinars organized between May and December 2020. It also contains short articles on urban-rural linkages, such as an experimental framework for new approaches in urban-rural planning and governance from Thuringia, Germany, and a short piece on the key role of small and intermediary cities as part of the development of a national strategy in Morocco.

Find out more in this edition about market cities, the importance of urban-rural linkages for biodiversity and climate change, the first international conference of the Urban-Rural Assembly, and the role of global regions implementing the New Urban Agenda post-COVID 19.

UN-Habitat, March 2021
16 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Synthesis Report: Urban-Rural Linkages at WUF10

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 10) was held from 8-13 February 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The theme of this session of the World Urban Forum was ‘Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation’. Culture brings together knowledge, art, belief, capabilities, habits, morals and behaviours, is widely recognized as playing a key role in the growth and development of cities.

During WUF 10, the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) of UN-Habitat and partners organized different official events: side events, networking events and book launches.

It also organized a number of informal events at booths with partners on different thematic areas, such as Urban-Rural Linkages. UN-Habitat coorganized one networking event with Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Centre of Xi’an University, China, one side event with Songyang County Peoples' Government, China, one book launch and several additional discussions that took place at the exhibitions.

UN-Habitat, May 2021
45 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA): Africa Agriculture Status Report; Chapter 6 on The Role of African Cities in Strengthening Agri-food Systems

Africa’s cities currently provide the largest and most rapidly growing agricultural markets in Africa. Out of total urban food sales of roughly US$200 to US$250 billion per year, over 80% comes from domestic African suppliers. In the coming decades, demographic projections forecast rates of African urbanization as the highest in the world.

Today — and even more so tomorrow — Africa’s rapidly growing cities and food markets offer the largest and fastest growing market opportunity available to the continent’s 60 million farms. One-half of these farms involve young people, contrary to widely held perceptions.

AGRA and partners core commitment to smallholder agriculture must now focus on urban food markets, to position domestic suppliers as competitive, responsive and safe; to provide the right signals and inputs to those markets; and continue growing opportunities for young people in the agriculture sector.

AGRA, 2021
262 pp., 210 x 297 mm
ISSN 2313-5387
Available in: English
International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2019: The UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles: Assessment of the Adoptability to Topical Land Management Challenges in Germany, Kenya and Tanzania (Chap 10)

This book presents an important discussion on the implementation of sustainable soil management in Africa from a range of governance perspectives. It addresses aspects such as the general challenges in Africa with regard to soil management; the structural deficiencies in legal, organizational and institutional terms; and specific policies at the national level, including land cover policies and persistent organic pollutants.

This fourth volume of the International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy is divided into four parts, the first of which deals with several aspects of the theme “sustainable soil management in Africa.” In turn, the second part covers recent international developments, the third part presents regional and national reports (i.a. Mexico, USA and Germany), and the fourth discusses cross-cutting issues (i.a. on rural-urban interfaces). Given the range of key topics covered, the book offers an indispensable tool for all academics, legislators and policymakers working in this field. The “International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy” is a book series that discusses central questions in law and politics with regard to the protection and sustainable management of soil and land at the international, national and regional level.

Springer Nature Switzerland, 2021
432 pp., 210 x 297 mm
ISBN 978-3-030-52317-6 (eBook)
Available in: English
Territorial Approaches for Sustainable Development: Stocktaking on Territorial Approaches – Experiences and Lessons

Perspectives and approaches that put territories at the centre of development have returned to become important in international debate and policy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among the reasons for the renewed emphasis is the need to improve the effectiveness of sectoral approaches, to localise sustainable development, to better manage myriad and complex challenges now facing communities around the world and to take action for inclusive and equitable development. But how do we understand territorial approaches and what do they accomplish?

This stocktaking seeks to substantiate the value of territorial approaches by documenting good practices, describing their benefits, identifying lessons and offering recommendations for future implementation of territorial approaches. This report is written primarily for policy makers, programme managers and practitioners who are looking for examples of successful territorial approaches and the means by which success was achieved. It is important to note that the case studies preceded the global coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic. There is much to learn about the territoriality of the impacts and responses to the pandemic, however, and the lessons and recommendations of this report will be directly applicable to COVID-19.
Virtual Regional workshop on Implementing the UNDA Urban-Rural Linkages Project in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic

UN-Habitat successfully held the virtual workshop “Implementing the UNDA Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) Project in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic”. More than 50 participants attended the workshop, including national and local government officials, NGO and private sector representatives, youth representatives, academics and researchers from Niger State of Nigeria and Zanzibar.

This virtual workshop is a continuation of the implementation of the UN Development Account funded project “Leaving No Place Behind - Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa”. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. To share the outcomes from the previous workshops and discussion of the overall progress of the project in each country,
2. To present and discuss the impacts of covid-19 in each country that are relevant for this project, and
3. To propose a way forward for the project activities while addressing relevant issues arising from COVID-19 impacts.

UN-Habitat, 2021
28 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Defining and Validating Urban-Rural Linkages Priorities in Zanzibar: Reflection Workshop

This workshop was divided into three sessions: Introducing Urban rural linkages; Understanding Urban-rural linkages: Guiding Principles and framework for Action (URL-GP); and defining functional territories and identifying capacity gaps. This report presents the structure of the workshop and the key issues discussed.

Discussions on functional territories focused on Zanzibar city (an urban area) and Wete in Pemba (a rural area) due to various flows of goods and services between the two. The reasons for the movement between the two territories were classified into four categories, namely: people; goods; waste; and information (see Annex 2). The challenges and recommendations were addressed for every category as indicated in Annex 3. Furthermore, the participants addressed opportunities for supporting the spatial flow for every category, as indicated in Annex 4. Three key challenges were identified for the functional territories: limited agro-processing activities, insufficient transportation systems and lack of infrastructure and services provision.

These three key challenges were linked to the URL-GP Framework for Action (see Annex 5) Session three identified the capacity gaps related to one of the key challenges which are presented in Annex 6. The capacity gaps listed are cross-cutting for other key challenges which were identified during the second session. In conclusion, the workshop successfully identified and validated key URL priorities for Zanzibar.
Localizing Urban-Rural Linkages Tools and Methodologies in Selected African Countries (EGM)

This Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is a continuation of the implementation of the UN Development Account (UNDA) funded project “Leaving No Place Behind – Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa”.

The EGM brought together associated implementing partners, national/sub-national representatives (of each project country) and international experts. It served to define the Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) tools and capacity building programs (e.g. training programs and a platform to access information on the topic) that need to be further developed or adapted to best meet capacity development needs in Africa and other regions.

The improved learning materials will hopefully support countries’ efforts to integrate Urban-Rural Linkages in existing or newly formulated policies, integrate them into regional and territorial development strategies/plans, and consider cross-cutting issues such as human rights, rural-urban migration, youth and gender.
Niger State Urban-Rural Linkages Virtual Data Collection (Kobocollect) Training - workshop report

The main objective of the training was to strengthen the technical capacity of the development actors on a collection of reliable data for better-informed policymaking using digital tools. The workshop further aimed the following:

- Increasing awareness of the participants about the normative work of UN-Habitat on urban-rural linkages (URL).
- Sharing the outcomes of preliminary assessments (URL challenges and opportunities, capacity gaps assessment, participation assessment) as part of the Niger State URL project.
- Increasing awareness of the participants about URL (virtual) data collection tools.
- Increase partnerships between relevant ministries working on URL related work.

UN-Habitat, 2021
22 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Urban-Rural Linkages Handbook

Sustainable Development Goal 11 is “the urban goal” and aims to “make cities and human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Target 11.a requests to “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.” With target 11.a, Member States acknowledged the importance of the linkages between urban and rural areas and lay the foundation for an integrated territorial approach. Urban-Rural linkages have again come into focus, not only for achieving SDG 11, but also SDGs 2, 9 and 12 among others.
URLs-COVID and Lessons for Resilience and Recovery from Crisis

This report presents the results of rapid mobilizing in 2020 on the part of the Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) team in the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) of the Urban Practices Branch of UN-Habitat to capture the experiences and lessons being learned from the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of urban-rural linkages. The vehicle for capturing these experiences in real time was live webinars featuring key speakers and interactive discussion from 109 countries there were nearly 6,000 registrants. Experiences were presented from all regions and all scales of settlements, from villages and neighbourhoods to large cities and metropolitan regions. The pre-pandemic context of work on urban-rural linkages informed the design of the webinars, which were organized to understand how urban-rural relations were impacted or were important to the response and recovery effort of cities, regions and territories.
The Role of Intermediary Cities in Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa

In the wake of rapid urbanization in Africa, the importance of intermediary cities in strengthening urban-rural linkages is growing exponentially. In recognition of this trend, UN-Habitat and the United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLGA) organized a webinar on the role of intermediary cities in strengthening urban-rural linkages in Africa, amidst rapid urbanization on the continent. The event was held virtually and served as preparation for the upcoming 9th session of the Africities Summit to be held in Kisumu, Kenya in May 2022.

UN-Habitat, 2021
50 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Resilient Food Systems

Proclaimed at the highest international levels, the global food system is experiencing the worst crisis in history. Unlike the food price crisis of 2007-8, in 2022 there is convergence of multiple crises. Hunger and malnutrition have soared in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Global conflicts (in particular, the Russian war in Ukraine) have triggered shocks to energy, food export-import, and fertilizer markets, spiking global inflation and economic instability. All these layered crises are overshadowed by the unfolding effects of climate change and severe biodiversity loss with powerful impacts on food production systems in all regions. The food supply chain vulnerability which became pronounced in the first and continuing COVID-19 surges remain precarious in the multi-layered context of crisis, particularly for longer distance and magnitude are overwhelming governance capacities at all levels.

UN-Habitat, 2022
15 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Managing Urban-Rural Linkages for Biodiversity

Launch of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework requires an integrated territorial (both urban and rural) approach for the sustainable management of biodiversity. Linkages between urban processes and rural transformation across municipalities, countries and world regions are essential for biodiversity conservation.
URL 5th Newsletter

This edition of the URL newsletter marks the fifth year anniversary of the January 2018 draft of what evolved through a year and a half of multi-agency, multi-actor contributions, resulting in the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP). This set of principles and actions have been utilized, adapted and incorporated in thematic guides, interactive tools, and national/subnational policy processes.
URL 4th NEWSLETTER

We would like to welcome our readers to the fourth edition of the Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter (URL). Since the launch of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding principles and a Framework for Action to Advance Territorial Development (URL-GP) in 2019, three editions have been released: issue 1, issue 2, issue 3.

The fourth edition covers the Second International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL2) held on 19th and 20th Oct 2021 in Songyang County, Southeast China. Included are reports on other events and achievements such as new collaborations under the section “URL Spotlight 2021”.

UN-Habitat, 2022
13 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Urban–Rural Linkages For Sustainable Territorial Development: Addressing Urban Transition In The NENA Region

This paper was initially the input from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Policy, Governance and Legislation Section to The State of Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture, prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) office for the Near East and North Africa (NENA).

This background paper was meant to contribute to the chapter on “Territorial governance and the urban–rural interface” prepared by FAO. However, its preparation confirmed the importance for both UN-Habitat and FAO of urban–rural linkages for territorial development – which go beyond land and water dimensions, stricto sensu – and evidenced the challenges related with embarking on an emerging issue, such as limited evidence and lack of institutional ownership. It is therefore suggested that the paper could provide a basis for future inter-agency collaboration.

The paper aims to draw attention to the need for some degree of re-localization of development strategies for sustainable development and bridging the current urban–rural divide.

FAO & UN-Habitat, 2023
ISBN Series Number: 978-92-5-136677-6
60 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Intermediary Cities and Climate Change: An Opportunity for Sustainable Development

The consequences of climate change in developing countries are worsening fast: many ecosystems will shortly reach points of irreversible damage, and socio-economic costs will continue to rise. To alleviate the future impacts on populations and economies, policy makers are looking for the spaces where they can make the greatest difference. This report argues that intermediary cities in developing countries are such spaces. Indeed, in the context of fast population growth and urbanisation, these small and medium-sized cities silently play an essential role in the rapid transformation of human settlements, not least by supporting the massive flows of population, goods and services between rural and metropolitan areas.

Most of those intermediary cities are still growing: now is therefore the time to influence their dynamics, and thereby the entire design of urbanisation in those regions, in ways that limit the exposure of urban dwellers to climate shocks and avoid carbon lock-in. To that end, based on fresh evidence and policy analysis on the challenges faced by these agglomerations in the context of climate change, the report makes the case for new development approaches to avoid the unsustainable paths followed by too many cities in the recent past.
Urban Patterns for a Green Economy: Optimizing Infrastructure

Part of a series of four entitled Urban Patterns for a Green Economy, this guide proposes that cities can act as agents for change that allow their large populations to live less wastefully.

It considers how infrastructure systems can be viewed as an opportunity to shift cities onto a more sustainable path by paying close attention to the resources that pass through them, and the manner in which they support the activities of the city. Each city context differs, based on stage of development, pace of growth and available resources.

UN-Habitat, 2012
ISBN Number: 978-92-1-132461-7
93 pp, 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
Urban Patterns for a Green Economy: Leveraging Density

Part of a series of four entitled Urban Patterns for a Green Economy, this guide explores the compact city and its benefits within the developed and developing world’s contexts. The guide illustrates how the compact city concept and planned (versus unplanned) urban extension can support sustainable urban patterns that benefit the functioning of developed as well as developing world cities.

Properly managed, compaction can positively enhance the life of the city dweller and support related strategies aimed at promoting a green economy and sustainable urban settlements.

UN-Habitat, 2012
ISBN Number: 978-92-1-132463-1
111 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
Urban Patterns for a Green Economy: Clustering for Competitiveness

Part of a series of four entitled Urban Patterns for a Green Economy, this guide argues that strategic investment in physical infrastructure with the diversification of economies allows cities to play a specialized role in polycentric urban development.

Furthermore, it suggests that green economic development can be achieved through the development of green clusters and green jobs. Finally, this guide argues that a number of green economy outcomes may be reached through efficiencies and shared infrastructure, rather than duplication.
Urban Patterns for a Green Economy: Working With Nature

Part of a series of four entitled Urban Patterns for a Green Economy, this guide (Working with Nature) focuses on the effect of unplanned, rapid growth of cities on the functioning of a city-region’s natural systems. It outlines how guided development can maximize the ability of ecosystems to support sustainable human and natural processes.

It offers a perspective on how to work with nature and the ecological processes in regions, and looks at the need to work across scales; to understand regional systems; and develop principles and measures that can be applied at the regional, city and local scales.

UN-Habitat, 2012
ISBN Number: 978-92-1-132462-4
88 pp, 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
Unpacking Metropolitan Governance for Sustainable Development

This joint publication “Unpacking Metropolitan Governance for Sustainable Development” is the product of a close cooperation between GIZ and UN-Habitat. Against the background of rapid urbanization, new forms of power relations between the different levels of government emerge and stronger coordination and cooperation is required.

GIZ and UN-Habitat are both convinced that effective metropolitan governance is crucial for transformative development, considering social, political, economic and environmental impacts. While the subsidiarity principle is still valid and valuable, some decisions are most effectively implemented at a metropolitan level that follows the functional area. Climate change, natural disasters or economic development do not stop at administrative boundaries, hence joint action needs to be taken.

Infrastructure needs can be better solved through joint forces and coordination between administrations and different stakeholders. This study shall give insights into ways metropolitan regions are governed and how it relates with the good urban governance principles.

In addition, GIZ and UN-Habitat have developed a Metropolitan Capacity Assessment Methodology as a modular toolbox to assess existing capacity in a metropolitan setting, future needs, and identify options for change.

GIZ & UN-Habitat, 2015
78 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
Unpacking Metropolitan Governance for Sustainable Development: Analysis of Case Studies: Summary Reports of Case Studies

This case study analysis forms part of the publication series “Unpacking metropolitan governance” that documents experiences and gives hands-on approaches for stakeholders in the field of sustainable development of metropolitan regions.

The analysis and the summary reports of the case studies of Metropolitan Bandung (Indonesia), Guadalajara Metropolitan Area (Mexico) and e-Thekwini (Durban, South Africa) are following the joint publication of the discussion paper “Unpacking Metropolitan Governance for Sustainable Development”, UN-Habitat, GIZ and FMDV encourage a critical and intensive discussion among policy makers and practitioners about the findings and recommendations offered by the discussion paper, case study reports, and analyses.

The publication series shall serve as a reference point for the ongoing international discussion on transforming urbanization, implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the local and metropolitan level and thereby contribute to the Habitat III debate.

In addition, GIZ and UN-Habitat have developed a Metropolitan Capacity Assessment Methodology as a modular toolbox to assess existing capacity in a metropolitan setting, future needs, and identify options for change.

GIZ & UN-Habitat, 2016

ISBN Number: 978-92-1-132462-4
64 pp, 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
Las dinámicas de integración regional y metropolitana son una realidad que ha permeado a Colombia desde los años 50, en su mayoría como resultado de procesos de conurbación que tienen origen en las migraciones por diferentes motivos que se han dado desde las áreas rurales a las medianas y grandes ciudades del país. No obstante este camino de varias décadas recorridas, son pocos los arreglos supramunicipales que han dado fruto y se han consolidado de manera exitosa.

Actualmente Colombia cuenta con 6 áreas metropolitanas conformadas jurídicamente administrativamente, que reúnen en su conjunto aproximadamente el 20% de la población nacional, y con una cantidad parecida de esquemas asociativos que se han fortalecido desde la entrada en vigencia de la Ley Orgánica de Ordenamiento Territorial (LOOT) sancionada en 2011.

GIZ & UN-Habitat, 2015
112 pp., 176 x 250 mm
HS Number: HS/036/15S
ISBN: 978-92-1-132658-1
Available in: Spanish
Sistematización de Experiencias Exitosas en Materia de Integración Metropolitana en Colombia: El caso del Valle de Aburrá

Tendencias de largo plazo sobre conurbación y desarrollo urbano muestran que en vez de dispersarse aleatoriamente sobre el territorio, la población y la actividad económica en el mundo están cambiando y concentrándose en grandes centros. Estos centros se encuentran muchas veces constituidos, además de las ciudades, por los municipios cercanos a las mismas, conformando de esta manera lo que conocemos actualmente como las áreas metropolitanas.

UN-Habitat, 2015

**HS Number:** HS/009/15S

448 pp, 176 x 250 mm

Available in: English
County Engagement Framework for Kenya: Existing Planning Model Gaps and Opportunities for Engagement

This document discusses the existing legislation relating to Urban and Regional Planning in Kenya with a view to highlighting the opportunities and gaps that can be harnessed in respect to international, regional, national and county planning legal and regulatory framework, and planning processes.

It aims at providing a nexus for engagement with the County governments of Kenya, to advance sustainable urban and rural settlements and promote the utilization of urban-rural linkages for eventual sustainable county development.

The review of the current planning legal and policy framework examines various local and international policies, laws and regulations that affect planning at the national and county level. The outputs include an outline of viable entry points for collaboration with county governments in Kenya to develop integrated and sustainable county and urban development plans.

UN-Habitat, 2015

HS Number: HS/029/16E

36 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Regional Development Authorities Engagement Framework for Kenya Towards a New Regional Planning Model in Kenya

This publication addresses fundamental issues in regional development giving emphasis on operational challenges of the RDAs and how they can effectively harness opportunities created by the new constitution to align their functions and mandates towards regional development.

It further gives an analysis on the importance of RDAs engaging with UN-Habitat with a wide experience in regional and metropolitan planning issues towards addressing planning, social, economic, environmental and institutional challenges hindering their competitiveness. Strategies, mechanisms and tools of linking and working with national and sub-national governments as well as other relevant development sectors are referred.

UN-Habitat, 2016
40 pp, 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Sustainable Urban Development and Management Course: Training Report

To enhance the current capacity of the counties and the urban sector to effectively and efficiently deliver sustainable development, UN-Habitat and Africa Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) organized the Sustainable Urban Development and Management Course targeting mid-career Urban and County Planners from throughout the Republic of Kenya.

The comprehensive training program covered both conceptual and practical issues related to the management of urbanization and development in counties in Kenya. An organizing committee comprising AICAD and UN Habitat provided overall guidance for the implementation of the Sustainable Urban Development and Management Training Course. The course was implemented on a cost-sharing basis.
The Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Foresting International Cooperation for Sustainable Development. Issues and Recommendations

This paper aims at defining transit and transport corridors, outline factors influencing development of the corridors, highlight the role done by UN-Habitat in promoting the development of transport and transit corridors, and ultimately explore the role played by transit and transport corridors in promoting international cooperation for sustainable development. This review will be based on cases undertaken at national and regional scales from different areas around the world.

Normatively in development practice, transport and transit corridors are meant to boost economic growth at the local, regional and international scale, promote connectivity between cities, peoples and resources, facilitate intra and inter regional trade and provide access to landlocked countries to international gateways such as ports.

UN-Habitat, 2015
**HS Number:** HS/071/16E
36 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English

UN-Habitat and the Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH) have agreed on working together for promoting sustainable urban development in developing countries, with a focus on sharing expertise and developing an international policy guide on New Town and affordable housing development.

Korea Land & Housing Corporation is a state-owned enterprise in Korea. It was established to spearhead the improvement of the quality of life and development of the national economy through the realization of stable housing and the efficient utilization of the national land. Its expertise lies in supplying decent and affordable housing units to the vulnerable to improve their residential environment as well as developing housing land, new towns, and innovative cities.

UN-Habitat, Korea Land & Housing Corporation, & Office for Civic Solutions, 2016
144pp, 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English
County Spatial Planning Course: Training Report 1 & 2

Land is inelastic yet has many competing uses which in some cases are in conflict. To achieve organized, integrated, sustainable and balanced development and reap maximum benefits from land, it must be properly managed. County spatial plans provide not only a spatial structure that defines how land could be utilized to ensure optimal and sustainable use, but also provides a guide for development planning for the counties. However, weak technical capacities and lack of appropriate technical skills continue to slow down the spatial plans development process.

The report is timely for county governments in Kenya, given their requirement by the County Governments Act 2012 to set out basic guidelines for land use management system in the county and the need to further articulate and propagate physical planning policies as spelt out in the Kenya National Spatial Plans (2015-2045) which details the national spatial vision to guide the long term spatial development of the country for the next 30 years.

UN-Habitat, 2017

**HS Number:** HS/077/16E

52 pp., 210 x 297 mm

Available in: English
Steering the Metropolis: Metropolitan Governance for Sustainable Urban Development

A distinctive feature of urbanization in the last 50 years is the expansion of urban populations and built development well beyond what was earlier conceived as the city limit, resulting in metropolitan areas. This is challenging the relevance of traditional municipal boundaries, and by extension, traditional governing structures and institutions. “Steering the Metropolis: Metropolitan Governance for Sustainable Urban Development,” encompasses the reflections of thought and practice leaders on the underlying premises for governing metropolitan space, sectoral adaptations of those premises, and dynamic applications in a wide variety of contexts.

Those reflections are structured into three sections. Section 1 discusses the conceptual underpinnings of metropolitan governance, analyzing why political, technical, and administrative arrangements at this level of government are needed. Section 2 deepens the discussion by addressing specific sectoral themes of mobility, land use planning, environmental management, and economic production, as well as crosscutting topics of metropolitan governance finance, and monitoring and evaluation. Section 3 tests the concepts and their sectoral adaptations against the practice, with cases from Africa, America, Asia, and Europe.
Aproximaciones a la prosperidad urbana: El caso del Área metropolitana de Bucaramanga

En 1981 el Área Metropolitana de Bucaramanga (AMB) fue creada por mutuo acuerdo entre Bucaramanga, Floridablanca y Girón. Se acordó la creación de una entidad administrativa que gestionara las relaciones funcionales que en materia social, ambiental, económica, demográfica y cultural, existían entre dichos municipios.

En 1984, el municipio de Piedecuesta se adhirió a esta iniciativa, consolidando así un territorio funcional en el que aproximadamente viven 1.2 millones de personas según datos de 2018 de su Observatorio Metropolitano.

AMB & UN-Habitat, 2018

HS Number: HS/082/18S
64 pp, 176 x 250 mm
Available in: Spanish
DIME TU PLAN: Plan Integral de Desarrollo para el periodo 2016-2026

En el 2016 el Área Metropolitana de Bucaramanga se consolidará como un territorio próspero que ha logrado su desarrollo territorial desde un enfoque multidimensional, superando los límites del desarrollo puramente económico al garantizar altos niveles de equidad, inclusión social y calidad de vida para sus habitantes.

GIZ & UN-Habitat, 2018
200 pp., 176 x 250 mm
Available in: Spanish
The Bicycle as a Means of Transportation - Strategy for Bucaramanga and its Metropolitan Area (in Spanish)

The Strategy as a mean of transportation for Bucaramanga and its Metropolitan Area was born in 2015, and proposes a new paradigm of sustainable mobility, which seeks to requalify urban living under the guidelines of urban prosperity, improving the quality of life for all and “not leaving anyone behind”, as proclaimed in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

GIZ & UN-Habitat, 2018

HS Number: HS/072/18S
ISBN Number: 978-92-1-132814-1
448 pp, 176 x 250 mm
Available in: English

UN-Habitat and GIZ have developed the Metropolitan Capacity Assessment Methodology (MetroCAM) as a joint contribution to implement urban sustainable development agendas and bring them to the metropolitan scale. It complements the Unpacking Metropolitan Governance series.

With this modular toolbox, urban stakeholders are able to assess existing capacity in a metropolitan setting, future needs, and potential trigger points and finally identify options for change. By tackling a particular metropolitan challenge, the MetroCAM provides instruments and incentives for municipalities to cooperate beyond administrative boundaries. The MetroCAM is also a process to foster dialogue and build consensus.

The first part of the methodology illustrates the required initial steps for a successful assessment, covering aspects like the composition of the assessment team, finding consensus on the most pressing metropolitan challenge and sequencing activities based on resource and time constraints. The heart of the methodology comprises of 12 tools – a bouquet of options which can be selected regarding the specific needs and challenges. The methodology is primarily directed to local and regional governments’ representatives willing to drive the change and engages urban practitioners, metropolitan actors, researchers and development organisations.

GIZ & UN-Habitat, 2018
80 pp., 176 x 250 mm
MetroHUB: Supporting metropolitan development

The MetroHUB is an integrated approach for supporting metropolitan areas and systems of cities towards sustainable development. It has evolved over several years, based on prior work and in dialogue with experts from different teams within UN-Habitat, but also in consultation with many global partners.

This publication provides relevant background information such as UN-Habitat’s mandate on the subject and selected global frameworks. It showcases projects, plans and strategies from different parts of the world. More importantly the publication introduces the MetroHUB “initiative” with its central concept of combining planning, governance, finance and socio-environmental components with capacity development and tangible “acupuncture” projects.

Conceptualized with five pillars (“Learn, Share, Disseminate, Develop, and Apply”), the MetroHUB offers a wide range of activities and this paper outlines some of them. This publication is highly relevant for urban experts working on metropolitan development with the expectation of achieving real change through an integrated approach: the MetroHUB.
Synergy between Airports and Urban Development for Sustainable Development: Concept Note

This concept note is a joint initiative of ICAO and UN-Habitat to:

- Identify global good practices and principles in urban and regional planning and management around air transport infrastructure that can be applied to help sustainably develop air transport infrastructure and services to achieve airport city (ies) development axis (corridors).

- Assess and document the trends in and impacts of airports and air traffic on land use around the airport and along the airport-city corridor in selected airports to track land use changes and compliance to urban planning regulations, its related socio-economic and ecological impacts to sustainable urban development.

- Develop conceptual, methodological and operational spatial and visualization frameworks that will highlight the role of airport systems (infrastructure and services) to urban development beyond the city, along the airport-city axis and the airport-rural area trajectory; and study the synergistic relations to sustainable development.

UN-Habitat & ICAO, 2019

HS Number: HS/087/18E

ISBN Number: (Volume) 978-92-1-132822-6

62 pp., 210 x 297 mm

Available in: English
Policy Makers Training on County Spatial Planning for Kenya

The capacity building exercise on county spatial planning for policy makers from counties in Kenya was conducted from 28th to 30th March at the Panari Hotel in Nairobi county, where 30 participants from 23 counties attended. The Organizers of the course included UN-Habitat, National Land Commission (NLC), the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning (MoLPP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Council of Governors (CoG), County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The exercise was designed to strengthen capacities of policy makers on spatial planning; enable them to acquire knowledge and professional competence which would help them to participate more actively in spatial planning and eventually, economic and social development of their counties; and to increase their ability to solve practical challenges related to county spatial planning.

UN-Habitat, 2019

**HS Number: HS/056/19E**

56pp, 176 x 250 mm

Available in: English
Global State of Metropolis 2020-Experts Group Meeting Report- Medellin, Colombia, Oct 17-18, 2019

The first Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on the Global State of Metropolis served as an international dialogue amongst a diverse group of metropolitan institutions, metropolitan authorities, academia and international networks from Latin America, North America, Europe and Africa. The meeting proposed and defined conceptual approaches, methodologies, contents, case studies and inspiring experiences for the upcoming Global State of Metropolis Report.

EGM Key Expectations

• Exchange on existing conceptual approaches for the analysis of metropolitan development, as well as methodologies for multiscale territorial management.
• Define criteria to establish a global sample of metropolises for the case studies that will be included in the Global Report and the essential categories for structuring those case studies.
• Showcase and identify a sample of inspiring experiences on metropolitan management to be included in the Global Report.
• Define the roadmap for preparing the Global Report.

UN-Habitat, 2020
25pp, 176 x 250 mm
Declaration of Metropolitan Areas “Global State of Metropolis”

In the City of Medellin, Colombia, on the seventeenth and eighteenth days of October, 2019, the representatives of the following Metropolitan Areas being present at the EXPERTS GROUP MEETING “Global State of Metropolis 2020”: the Metropolitan Community of Montreal (Canada), the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (Spain), the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara (Mexico), the Metropolitan Area of Ensenada (Mexico), the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (El Salvador), the Metropolitan District of Quito (Ecuador), the Metropolitan Area of Kanata (Bolivia), the Metropolitan Area of Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), the Metropolitan Area of Grand Bamako (Mali), the Metropolitan Area of Cairo (Egypt), the Metropolitan Area of Centro Occidente (Colombia), the Metropolitan Area of Valledupar (Colombia), the Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburrá (Colombia), with the accompaniment of Specialists of the Academy and being present high-level officials of UN-Habitat, METROPOLIS and officials of the National Governments of Colombia and Bolivia made a declaration of Metropolitan areas “Global State of Metropolis”.

UN-Habitat, 2020
3 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English, French, Spanish

Abu Dhabi’s Experts Group Meeting on the Global State of Metropolis followed the international dialogue settled in Medellin in October 2019 between development actors to propose and define conceptual approaches, methodologies, contents, case studies and inspiring experiences for structuring a global report on metropolitan management and development.

EGM Key Expectations

- Present and validate the structure and outline of the Global State of Metropolis Report, as well as to receive last proposals and inputs for the outline’s final draft.
- Present and validate the sample of metropolises for the case studies that will be included within the Global State of Metropolis Report. Also, propose new metropolises to be included in the sample and a series of criteria to classify them.
- Showcase and identify inspiring experiences on metropolitan management to be included in the Global State of Metropolis Report.
- Present the alliance between UN-Habitat and Metropolis as well as a jointly workplan for the preparation of the Global State of Metropolis Report.

UN-Habitat February 8th, 2020
15 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: English
Global State of Metropolis 2020: Population Data Booklet

In 2020 there are 1934 metropolises with more than 300,000 inhabitants representing approximately 60% of the world’s urban population. At least 2.59 billion people live in metropolises in 2020 which is equivalent to one third of the global population. 34 metropolises have surpassed 10 million inhabitants; while 51 have a population of 5 to 10 million; 494 of 1 to 5 million; and 1355 of 300,000 to 1 million.

This Data Booklet uses the urban agglomerations’ datasets from the 2018 revision of WUP to analyse both global and regional metropolitan trends among the United Nations Regional Groups. This Booklet is in support to the preparation of the forthcoming UN-Habitat Global State of Metropolis Report.

Find out what metropolitan global experts project to happen by 2035!
Herramientas de MetroHUB: Instituciones Metropolitanos Bases para la estructuración y gestión de la autoridad metropolitana

UN-Habitat, through its MetroHUB initiative, presents this Guide on Metropolitan Institutions to provide information on how they can structure and implement supra-municipal scale institutions. This Guide targets the metropolitan level institutions, authorities or agencies and highlights how metropolitan institutions are important for effective territorial management and competitiveness. The Guide also presents the metropolitan typology, characteristics, objectives, functions, structure, management tools and recommendations. It also promotes an understanding for its users, of how metropolitan institutions think, plan and deploy strategies for territorial competitiveness and the improvement of the quality of life of the metropolis inhabitants.

This Guide shows how metropolitan institutions can facilitate territorial management, make use of resources more efficiently through territorial coordination and complementarity, identify the vision of integrated development, and implement policies that respond to the inter-sectorial issues and articulate the multi-level governance framework and successfully execute projects. The Guide outlines the role of metropolitan areas in addressing inter-municipality challenges. It contains answers to questions such as who has the overall mandate to make strategic decisions and execute planning solutions to these territorial challenges? Where do institutional competencies start and end?

UN-Habitat, 2020
103 pp., 210 x 297 mm

Available in: Spanish

HS Number: HS/020/20S
Herramientas de MetroHUB: Metodologías Gestión y Planificación Metropolitana

UN-Habitat, through its MetroHUB initiative, presents this Guide on “Metropolitan Management and Planning Methodologies”. This Guide will help strengthen the capacities and competences of the governments, authorities and local actors that are tackling the metropolitan phenomenon.

MetroHUB Methodologies give metropolitan actors a set of tools to increase greater understanding of the metropolitan territorial dynamics. It is expected that the proposed methods would lead metropolitan authorities to propose ideas to better plan, govern, finance and manage metropolitan areas, generating skills that lead them to formulate territorial development strategies in accordance with the realities of the metropolises and regions. The tools are developed based on the principle of the integration of territorial management, taking advantage of the advantages of urbanization.

MetroHUB methodologies address topics such as:

- Planning of Intra-metropolitan Borders
- Governance of Metropolitan Interdependencies
- Participatory Metropolitan Planning
- Metropolitan Vision and Management
- Metropolitan Innovation
- Dialogue of Metropolitan Peers
- Innovation in Metropolitan Projects
- Metropolitan impact of territorial projects

Furthermore, this document contains training methodologies and experience exchange to deepen the knowledge of metropolitan phenomena and metropolitan territorial management.

UN-Habitat, 2020
114 pp., 210 x 297 mm

Spanish

Arabic
Herramientas de MetroHUB: Observatorios Metropolitanos Guía para la Estructuración e Implementación

UN-Habitat, through its MetroHUB initiative, presents this Guide on "Metropolitan Observatories", with the purpose of offering ideas on how to manage and generate metropolitan knowledge. Metropolitan observatories contribute to co-building sustainable metropolitan development, by producing quality information and analysis documents and monitoring metropolitan dynamics to assess progress in sustainable territorial development.

The tool provides technical guidance to strengthen capacities in planning and metropolitan development management as well as to improve the urbanization process at a global level within the framework of its vision for «a better quality of life for all in a world in the process of urbanization».

This Guide contains information on conceptualization and characterization of a metropolitan observatory, the basic elements of its structure, the qualities of the information it produces, the focus, themes and sources of its indicators, and a route for its design and implementation.

A metropolitan territory that implements this knowledge management instrument will have competitive differentiation in territorial governance, flexible and real-time planning, technological innovation, generation of future scenarios and multi-scale harmonization of strategies and plans.

UN-Habitat, 2020
79 pp., 210 x 297 mm

English
Spanish
Gestión Metropolitana Integrada - El caso del Área Metropolitana de San Salvador

El Área Metropolitana de San Salvador (AMSS) tiene 14 municipios con aproximadamente 1,8 millones de habitantes viviendo en un territorio de 610 Km2 (Figura 1). El AMSS es la única metrópoli de El Salvador y de Centroamérica que cuenta con arreglos institucionales, un marco legal propio e instrumentos de planificación para abordar la gestión territorial a escala metropolitana. El Consejo de Alcaldes del Área Metropolitana de San Salvador (COAMSS) es el principal órgano de gobierno, mientras que la Oficina de Planificación (OPAMSS) se constituye como la autoridad técnica metropolitana.
1st Global State of Metropolis - Preliminary Findings and Key Messages Booklet - EN, ES

As the world continues to urbanize it is also becoming metropolitan. Whether horizontal spreading, dispersed urbanization or periurbanization, the physical extent of urban areas is growing much faster than their population, thereby consuming more land for urban development. Those phenomena have made many cities grown beyond the boundaries of their central municipality or “city proper” configuring bigger and denser metropolises. This is a trend still present in all world regions and affecting all kind and size of cities, from megacities, to intermediate cities and even small towns.

However, most of the world’s metropolises are not managed in a differentiated way, meaning they do not have neither a metropolitan plan nor institution, configuring a global metropolitan management gap. In addition, existing metropolitan management systems are currently unbalanced. While several metropolises have advanced their governance arrangements and planning instruments, the financing mechanisms both for implementing projects with metropolitan impact and maintaining metropolitan institutions working properly, are highly relegated. For their part, metropolitan policies and legal frameworks are emerging in many parts of the world.
Policy Brief-Seminario Políticas Urbanas 2022

El seminario “Las políticas urbanas y metropolitanas en el ámbito global”, organizado en conjunto entre el Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), el Área Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB) y ONU-Hábitat, buscó familiarizar a los participantes con una visión general de los principales retos de la gobernanza de las áreas urbanas. A cargo de investigadores del IBEI y especialistas de ONU-Hábitat, el curso combinó la perspectiva académica con la práctica, identificando procesos y tendencias internacionales relevantes para las autoridades locales y metropolitanas. Las sesiones ofrecieron métodos para pensar los desafíos que enfrentan las ciudades desde una perspectiva global, considerando las dinámicas que están definiendo la realidad política y social del siglo XXI.

UN-Habitat, 2020
114 pp., 210 x 297 mm
Available in: Spanish
A look back on World Metropolitan Day 2022

The 2022 World Metropolitan Day in this important Urban October comes at a time when we are facing many challenges. Global challenges, from the climate crisis and health to achieving an equitable society, must be successfully addressed in urban areas. Since these challenges do not recognize administrative boundaries, the metropolitan scale is becoming increasingly prominent to respond to the needs of people and communities all over the world. The theme of this year’s World Metropolitan Day ‘Crossing Boundaries’, reminds us to be brave to tackle the complexity of territorial dynamics taking place on an inter-jurisdictional space and the urban-rural continuum.
Voluntary Metropolitan Review VMR- SDG11.7 Valle de Aburrá Metropolitan Area (Colombia) OPAMSS -COAMSS - UN- Habitat.

Metropolitan Areas with the support of UN-Habitat join the global movement of Voluntary Reviews of progress in achieving the SDGs (VMR), starting with the inaugural series at VMR - SDG 11.7 on universal access to green areas and safe public spaces, inclusive and accessible.

The metropolitan areas of San Salvador (El Salvador), Guadalajara (Mexico) and Valle de Aburrá (Colombia) monitored the Metropolitan Management instruments such as policies, plans, regulations, governance and financing mechanisms, and metropolitan projects that have made it possible to guarantee effective and efficient accessibility to green public space for metropolitan citizens in the midst of the urbanization process experienced by metropolises.

In these Voluntary Metropolitan Reviews, you will find good practices in Metropolitan Management to accelerate the process of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals at the metropolitan scale and are instruments for peer learning, capacity development and the international commitment of Metropolises in the achievement of Sustainable Urban Development.
Voluntary Metropolitan Review VMR- SDG11.7 Guadalaja Metropolitan Area (Mexico) OPAMSS -COAMSS - UN- Habitat.

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UN-Habitat, 2023
20 pp.
Available in: Spanish
Voluntary Metropolitan Review VMR- SDG11.7 San Salvador Metropolitan Area (San Salvador) OPAMSS -COAMSS - UN-Habitat.

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UN-Habitat, 2023
29 pp.
Available in: Spanish
Horizon 2030, Metropolitan Solutions To Global Challenges

UN-Habitat has supported the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona along with a diverse group of international experts to conceptualise metropolitan solutions, as well as to identify the first series of metropolitan solutions already boosting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and serving the territorialisation of Sustainable Development Goals at metropolitan level.
Voluntary Metropolitan Review VMR- SDG11.2 San Salvador Metropolitan Area (San Salvador) AMVA-UN-Habitat.

Metropolitan Areas with the support of UN-Habitat join the global movement of Voluntary Reviews of progress in achieving the SDGs (VMR), starting with the inaugural series at VMR - SDG 11.2 on access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.

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UN-Habitat, 2023
39 pp.
Available in: Spanish
Voluntary Metropolitan Review VMR- SDG11.2 Guadalajara Metropolitan Area (Mexico) AMVA-UN-Habitat.

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Voluntary Metropolitan Review VMR- SDG11.2 Valle de Aburrá Metropolitan Area (Colombia) AMVA-UN-Habitat.

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UN-Habitat, 2020
51 pp.
Available in: Spanish