

POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



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Newsletter 3
February 2023



A. ABOUT

Welcome to this 4th annual newsletter of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) Community of Practice (CoP). The PLGS CoP provides a platform for cross-learning, information-sharing, and collaboration to harness the collective breadth of knowledge, tools, and experience for transformative interventions on urban policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.

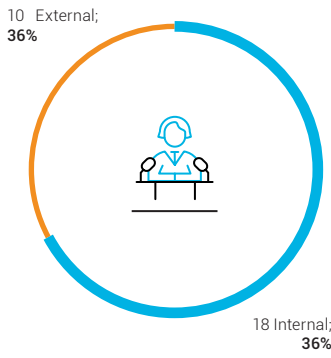
This issue provides a snapshot of the four PLG Community of Practice Sessions held in 2023. Besides summarizing key happenings of each session, it provides a brief analysis in terms of speakers, types of organizations, participants and themes covered. This issue also presents some key knowledge materials released recently, as well as upcoming events worth attending.



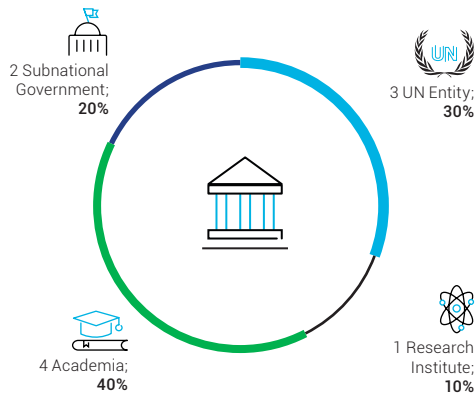
B. PARTICIPATION AT THE PLGS COPS 2023

A key achievement in 2023 has been enhanced collaboration both internally and externally. Additionally, the average attendance increased compared to 2022. In all the CoPs held in 2023, PLGS systematically involved other UN-Habitat's sections and units as well as regional and country offices to share their perspectives. In addition, these CoPs had the esteemed participation of external partners from governments and organizations who shared their experiences of what the partnership with UN-Habitat through PLGS has accomplished.

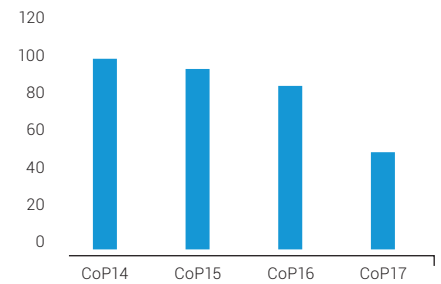
Internal and External Speakers



Types of Organizations



Overall attendance



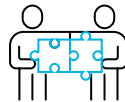
Themes covered



Governance and public participation



Child-responsive urban policies and laws



Integrated development planning



Metropolitan and regional management



Urban-rural connectivity

C. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 COPS

Since the CoP initiative began in 2020, PLGS has successfully held with internal and external partners a total of 17 sessions. In 2023, PLGS held the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th, interactive, engaging, and insightful community of practice sessions.

Here is a summary of the sessions:



14th CoP Governance and Legislation: Accelerating Participatory Processes for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities

The session focused on showcasing regulatory and governance best practices of the transformative force of public participation in urban processes in achieving inclusive and effective urban development, providing lessons learned on key

prerequisites for successful participatory planning regulation and legislation, and stimulating discussion on how to formally empower urban communities, particularly marginalized groups, to have meaningful decision-making power.

14th PLGS
Community of practice
07 Feb 2022

Accelerating Participatory Processes for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities

In collaboration with: **Planning, Finance and Economy Section; Urban Basic Services Section; Human Rights and Social Inclusion Section** (internal)

100+
participants

Image: Village residents committee going through the new maps 2016 © Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat

15th CoP, Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws, and Standards

This 15th CoP was held to discuss the Guidance on Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws, and Standards, developed by UN-Habitat and UNICEF. The discussions centered on showcasing the linkages between urbanization, children's rights and how the two concepts are integrated into policies and legislations to achieve effective governance

15th PLGS
Community of practice
21 June 2023

Child Responsive Urban Policies, Laws and Standards

In collaboration with: **Office of the Executive Director** (internal)
United Nations Children's Fund (external)

90+
participants

Image: Community Mapping Kolkata, India © UNICEF

16th CoP, Harnessing the power of connected communities through urban-rural linkages

This session was organized to update participants of recent progress and achievements in the urban-rural linkages thematic area. It was also an opportunity for external panelists to share various experiences from their contexts and in relation to the collaboration with UN-Habitat on urban-rural linkages.

16th PLGS
Community of practice
07 Feb 2022

Harnessing the power of connected communities through urban-rural linkages

In collaboration with: **UN-Habitat Spain** (internal)
International Institute for Environment and Development; UNCCD, University of Quebec; Niger State, Nigeria; University of Nairobi; New School University. (external)

80+
participants

Image: Aerial view of Oudewater in the Netherlands © Unsplash



17th CoP, Metropolitan Management, and Integrated Development Planning

This 17th CoP session was held to discuss innovative approaches on metropolitan and regional management, as well as showcase inspiring practice solutions implemented by UN-Habitat and partners in various countries such as Cameroon, Mexico, El Salvador and Colombia.

The session also involved internal perspectives on the metropolitan topic, as well as experiences by partners from government and academia, sharing experiences from collaborating with UN-Habitat in various initiatives.

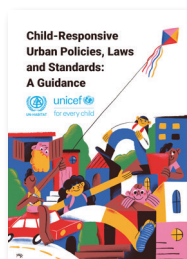


D. OTHER COP SESSIONS PARTICIPATED BY PLGS

In keeping up with the ongoing collaboration efforts, the PLGS CoP was also involved with other Communities of Practices in 2023, such as the Climate Change Community of Practice on 2nd March 2023, where the PLGS normative tools and knowledge products on climate change were presented.

E. RECENT KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Here are some of the recent guides and knowledge products, including those presented in the COP sessions of 2023:

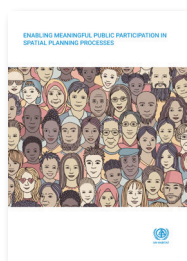


1. Child-Responsive Urban Policies, Laws and Standards: A Guidance

UN-Habitat and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have developed this Guide which highlights the important role that policy and legislation play in setting normative standards and minimum expectations for duty-bearers in all aspects of children's development. The guidance essentially supports governments at all levels to create urban spaces where children can access basic services, clean air and water; where children feel safe to play, learn and grow, which includes ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are integrated into public policies and decision-making processes.



Read the full report [Here](#)



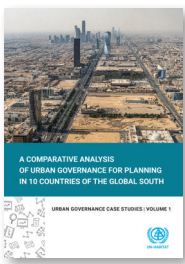
2. Enabling Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning Processes

This toolkit features a step-by-step process 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.



Read the full report [Here](#)



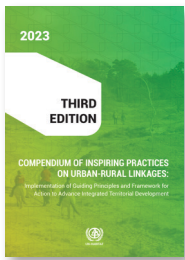


3. A Comparative Analysis of Urban Governance for Planning in 10 Countries Of The Global South: Urban Governance Case Studies, Volume 1

UN-Habitat has conducted this in-depth study on the state of urban governance for planning in 10 countries in the global South (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Guinea, Niger State, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, and Uganda), based on governance principles in the SDGS and NUA. The research findings support previous United Nations studies that found that urban governance systems are currently unfit for purpose and need critical reforms to enable sustainable and inclusive urban development. The findings also serve to inform public officials and other stakeholders working to protect the rights of urban populations on possible actions to improve urban governance.



Read the full report [Here](#)

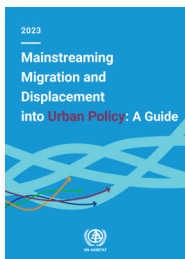


4. Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages - Third Edition

This third Compendium showcases 17 case studies from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. It provides inspiring examples of efforts in various areas, such as linking urban and rural areas, food and biodiversity, waste management, social integration, climate mitigation, and nutrition. Overall, the compendium serves as a valuable comparative resource for government leaders, urban and rural experts, and readers interested in urban-rural linkages and sustainable territorial development.



Read the full report [Here](#)



5. Mainstreaming Migration and Displacement into Urban Policy: A Guide

The connection between migration and urbanization is central to the well-being of migrants, refugees, and IDPs and the cities hosting them. This Guide has been developed for governments at all levels in the management of migration and displacement in urban areas. The guide outlines the basic policy processes involved in developing or revising urban policies that adequately address the realities of migration and displacement. It also includes a 10-step pathway of recommendations and actions to achieve a more holistic, integrated, and effective policy response.



Read the full report [Here](#)



6. Decision Making in Metropolitan Governance

UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona has developed this guide which offers practical tools based on international trends and 22 global case study findings to facilitate inclusive and equitable processes of decision-making in metropolitan areas. The guide presents key messages and policy recommendations, which seek to inspire and guide those who have the competence, authority and role to make decisions affecting metropolises for the benefit of their communities.



Read the full report [Here](#)

F. EVENTS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2024

1. **26th January:** Urban Law Day 2024 - Organized by UN-Habitat and Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
2. **14th February:** 18th PLGS CoP meeting on "Legislative-Judiciary Dialogues on Climate Change."
3. **24th April:** 19th PLGS CoP on "Integrating Smart City Strategies into National Urban Policies."



PLGS Publications



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