

SOCIO-CULTURAL URBAN FRAMEWORK



HABITAT III POLICY PAPERS





POLICY PAPER 2:
**SOCIO-CULTURAL
URBAN
FRAMEWORK**

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The Habitat III Policy Units and Papers were coordinated by the Habitat III team comprised of Ana B. Moreno, Wataru Kawasaki, Irwin Gabriel Lopez, Laura Bullon-Cassis, and Dennis Mwamati. Gratitude should also be expressed to the interns and volunteers who supported this process.

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Foreword

The New Urban Agenda was unanimously adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador on 20 October 2016. In December 2016, during the sixty-eighth plenary session of the seventy-first General Assembly, all United Nations Member States endorsed the New Urban Agenda and committed to work together towards a paradigm shift in the way we plan, build, and manage our cities.

The implementation of the New Urban Agenda is crucial for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. How we envisage and share our urban spaces ultimately impacts how we address global challenges, and it is in our cities, towns, and villages where actions must be prioritized and operationalized. Over 30,000 Conference participants came together in Quito to discuss this common vision for sustainable development and its effective implementation.

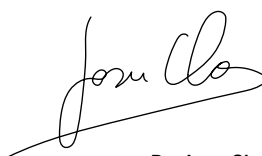
The Habitat III Policy Units were formed to identify policy priorities, critical issues, and challenges, including structural and policy constraints, which would serve as inputs to the New Urban Agenda. They were also tasked with developing action-oriented recommendations for its implementation.

Each Policy Unit was led by two organizations and composed of a maximum of 20 experts with different and cross cutting expertise, each of which were nominated by Member States and stakeholders from all regions. The experts were drawn from various constituent groups and backgrounds, and their selection was guided by geographical and gender balance considerations, as well as qualitative criteria regarding expertise and experience in each relevant policy area.

The Habitat III Policy Papers are the final outcome of the Habitat III Policy Units' work. The Papers served as official inputs to the Habitat III process and were a key part of the formulation of the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda. They are also part of the Habitat III legacy and a valuable resource of information and knowledge that various urban actors may find useful in their work on housing and sustainable urban development. The exercise that was carried out with Policy Units and Policy Papers sets a pioneering precedent for future United Nations intergovernmental processes to be not only informed by, but also based on independent expert knowledge.

I would like to express my appreciation to all policy experts and co-leading organizations who provided their insight, expertise, and time to develop the Policy Papers. I especially thank the Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine (IAGU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as Policy Unit 2 co-leaders for their stewardship in coordinating inputs from policy experts and finalizing the Policy Paper on Socio-Cultural Urban Framework.

I am grateful for the immense dedication and enthusiasm that the co-leaders and policy experts have shown in taking up the challenge of collecting and consolidating key policy recommendations for the New Urban Agenda. And I would like to express my gratitude by showcasing their key messages towards the New Urban Agenda.



Dr. Joan Clos

Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference
on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Acknowledgements

The Habitat III Secretariat expresses its deep appreciation to Member States that provided financial support for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III): the People's Republic of China, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Kenya, the United Mexican States, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of South Africa, and the Kingdom of Spain.

Our gratitude goes out to local and regional governments that financially contributed to the Habitat III preparatory process and the Conference itself, in a pioneering and unique way: the City Council of Barcelona, the Municipal Government of Cuenca, the Government of the Federal District of Mexico, the Government of the State of Mexico, as well as the city of Surabaya.

We would like to convey special appreciation for the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme for their financial contribution to the Habitat III preparatory process and Conference.

The Habitat III Secretariat would also like to express its gratitude to the organizations and institutions which supported the Conference with in-kind funds: the Ford Foundation, the Municipality of Tel-Aviv, the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM), and the United Arab Emirates.

We would also like to give special thanks for the in-kind contributions that made the Policy Units a reality by hosting some of the Expert Group Meetings in 2015 and 2016: the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) - University College London, the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, the Ford Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), the London School of Economics (LSE Cities), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP), the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Urban Innovation Centre – Future Cities Catapult, and the World Bank.

Finally, we would like to convey our most sincere appreciation for the voluntary work of all the Policy Unit co-lead organizations and their representatives, as well as the Policy Unit experts, who enthusiastically and generously shared their knowledge in the elaboration of the Habitat III Policy Papers. Their commitment and extensive time spent preparing the policy recommendations contributed to a vibrant preparatory process and Conference, and are reflected in the New Urban Agenda.





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Acronyms/Abbreviations

| | |
|----------------|--|
| CMM | Montreal Metropolitan Community |
| DPU | Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College London |
| ESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| IAGU | Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine of Senegal |
| ICOMOS | International Council on Monuments and Sites |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology |
| IDB | Inter-American Development Bank |
| IDRC | International Development Research Centre |
| IFACCA | International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INU | National Institute of Urban Planning of Italy |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| ISOCARP | International Society of City and Regional Planners |
| KRIHS | Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements |
| LSE | London School of Economics |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| OHCHR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| SEWA | Self-Employed Women Association |
| UCLG | United Cities and Local Governments |
| UITP | Union Internationale des Transports Publics |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UN Environment | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UN-Habitat | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNISDR | United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNIFEM | United Nations Development Fund for Women [transferred to UN-Women] |
| WHO | World Health Organization |





Introduction

Technical expertise towards the New Urban Agenda

The United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador, to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, and to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda with a set of global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development.

The Habitat III Conference and its preparatory process provided a unique opportunity to bring together diverse urban actors, particularly local authorities, to contribute to the development of the New Urban Agenda in the new global development context after the historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and other global development agreements and frameworks.

In September 2014, during the first session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) held in New York at the United Nations headquarters, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Dr. Joan Clos, presented a report¹ on the preparations for the Conference and launched an innovative, inclusive, and action-oriented preparatory process carried out in four areas: knowledge, engagement, policy, and operations.

In the same report, paragraph 68, it is noted that the work of several Policy Units on thematic areas could facilitate the collection of inputs to the Habitat III preparatory process in an innovative way, ensuring the participation of all actors in the composition of those units.

A Habitat III Strategic Framework was developed based on these four areas, while linkages among the four areas were guided by the principles of innovation and inclusiveness requested by Member States.

¹ A/CONF.226/PC.1/4

FIGURE 1. HABITAT III STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

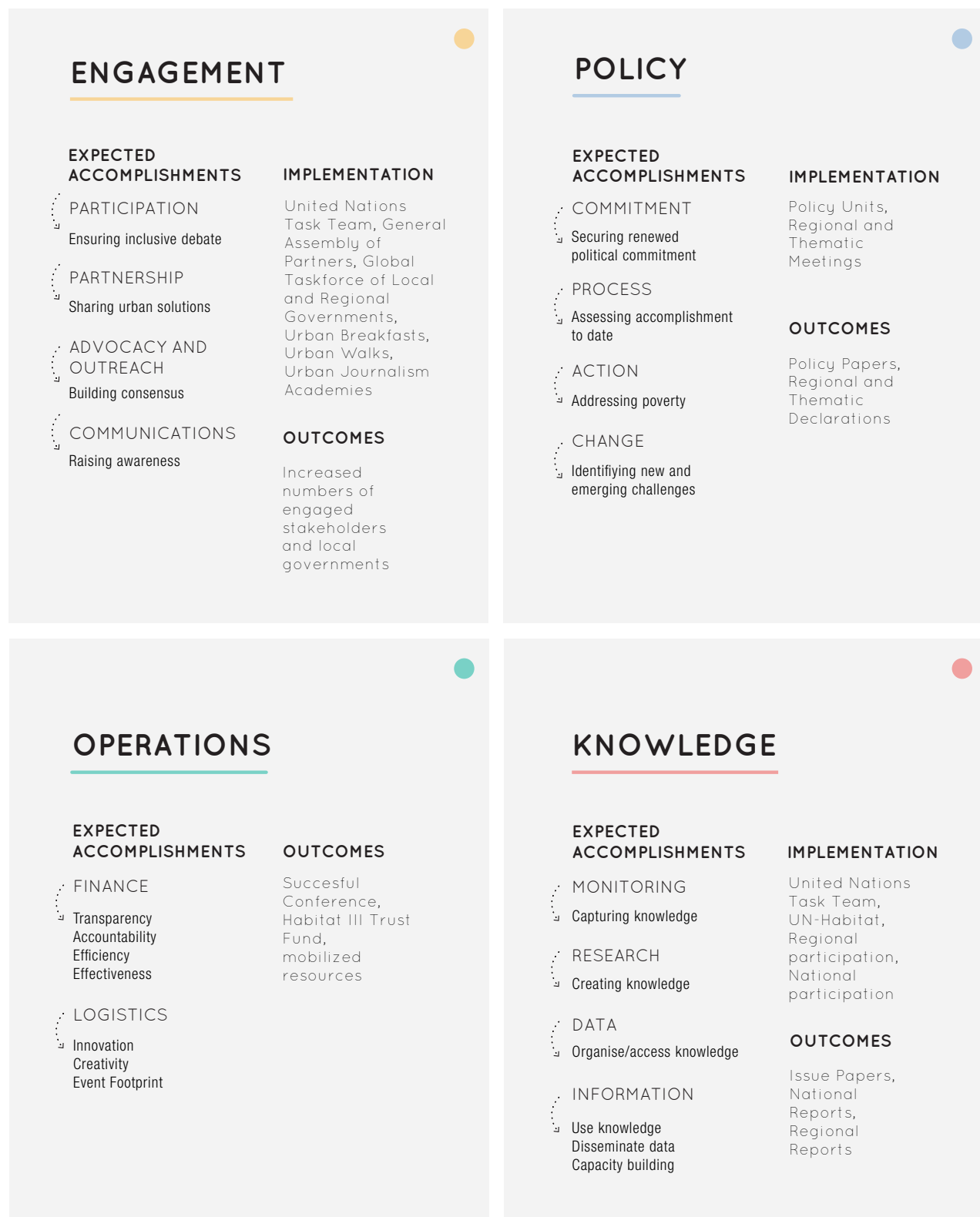




FIGURE 2. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE HABITAT III POLICY AREA



Establishment of the Policy Units

After PrepCom1, which took place in September 2014, from October to December 2014, the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee proposed the Habitat III Thematic Framework with six thematic areas, 22 Issue Papers and ten Policy Units.

FIGURE 3. HABITAT III THEMATIC FRAMEWORK



| AREAS | ISSUE PAPERS | POLICY UNITS |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities | 1. Inclusive cities (a.o. Pro-poor, Gender, Youth, Ageing) 2. Migration and refugees in urban areas 3. Safer Cities 4. Urban Culture and Heritage | 1. Right to the City and Cities for All 2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework |
| 2. Urban Frameworks | 5. Urban Rules and Legislation 6. Urban Governance 7. Municipal Finance | 3. National Urban Policies 4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development 5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems |
| 3. Spatial Development | 8. Urban and Spatial Planning and Design 9. Urban Land 10. Urban-rural linkages 11. Public Space | 6. Urban Spatial Strategies: Land Market and Segregation |
| 4. Urban Economy | 12. Local Economic Development 13. Jobs and Livelihoods 14. Informal Sector | 7. Urban Economic Development Strategies |
| 5. Urban Ecology and Environment | 15. Urban Resilience 16. Urban Ecosystems and Resource Management 17. Cities and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management | 8. Urban Ecology and Resilience |
| 6. Urban Housing and Basic Services | 18. Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including energy 19. Transport and Mobility 20. Housing 21. Smart Cities 22. Informal Settlements | 9. Urban Services and Technology 10. Housing Policies |



At the second session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee (PrepCom2), held in April 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, at the headquarters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Member States called upon participating States to support the work of the Policy Units with a goal of facilitating the elaboration of policy recommendations which would contribute, together with the inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders, to the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee's work in preparing the draft outcome document of the Conference.²

On 8 May 2015, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference and pursuant to the request by Member States to select technical experts -- keeping a balance between Government-nominated technical experts and others and guided by the need for equitable geographical representation and gender balance -- Dr. Joan Clos sent an official letter encouraging Member States of the United Nations to support the work of the Policy Units by nominating suitably qualified technical experts to constitute ten Policy Units in order to facilitate the elaboration of policy recommendations. Stakeholders were also invited to nominate experts. The terms of reference for co-lead organizations and experts were shared on the Habitat III website, as well as the selection process and criteria details (see Appendixes A, B and C).

Over 700 nominations were received from Member States as well as stakeholders' organizations, including experts from academia, national and local governments, civil society, and other regional and international bodies. A selection process based on the set criteria such as expertise, gender balance, and geographical representation was completed in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

A total of 20 appointed organizations, two per Policy Unit, were selected based on their expertise in the subject area given the specific topic of the Policy Unit, participation and engagement in other intergovernmental processes and/or global development frameworks, and diversity in their constituent groups. The co-lead organizations also contributed technical, financial, or in-kind support to the work of the Policy Units.

A maximum of 20 experts per Policy Unit were also selected, including at least one expert on gender issues and one on children and youth. Each Policy Unit had at least one expert from a Least Developed Country.

² See 1/1205 resolution at A/CONF.226/PC.2/6.

FIGURE 4. HABITAT III POLICY UNITS CO-LEAD ORGANIZATIONS

| AREAS | POLICY UNITS | CO-LEAD ORGANIZATIONS |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Social Cohesion and Equity – Livable Cities | 1. Right to the City, and Cities for All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ActionAid • CAF-Development Bank of Latin America |
| | 2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine of Senegal (IAGU) • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| 2. Urban Frameworks | 3. National Urban Policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) • United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) |
| | 4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSE Cities, London School of Economics and Political Science • United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), facilitating the Global Taskforce |
| | 5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincoln Institute of Land Policy • World Bank |
| 3. Spatial Development | 6. Urban Spatial Strategy: Land Market and Segregation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Institute of Urban Planning of Italy (INU) • Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC) |
| 4. Urban Economy | 7. Urban Economic Development Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) - University College London • Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) |
| 5. Urban Ecology and Environment | 8. Urban Ecology and Resilience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rockefeller Foundation • United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) |
| 6. Urban Housing and Basic Services | 9. Urban Services and Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of German Cities • Union International des Transports Publics (UITP) |
| | 10. Housing Policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat for Humanity • Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) |



The Habitat III Secretariat and the co-leaders organized several virtual meetings throughout the work of the Policy Units from September 2015 until the end of February 2016 in order to strengthen coordination, clarify matters of the required work, and prepare for the face-to-face Expert Group Meetings, and for more substantive discussions and decision-making on the contents of the Policy Papers.

A total of 20 Policy Unit Expert Group Meetings were organized from November 2015 to February 2016, and hosted by some of the co-lead organizations or key partners of the Habitat III preparatory process. Participants of the Expert Group Meetings were composed of policy experts and co-leaders and coordinated by the Habitat III Secretariat.

FIGURE 5 - HABITAT III POLICY UNITS LIST OF EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS

| Policy Unit | City/Country | Dates | Hosted by |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Policy Unit 1 | Lima, Peru | 24-25 November 2015 | CAF-Development Bank of Latin America |
| | Bogota, Colombia | 27-28 January 2016 | CAF-Development Bank of Latin America |
| Policy Unit 2 | New York, USA | 25-27 January 2016 | The Ford Foundation |
| | Paris, France | 22-25 February 2016 | UNESCO |
| Policy Unit 3 | Paris, France | 12-13 November 2015 | OECD |
| | Incheon, Republic of Korea | 15-16 December 2015 | UN-Habitat; Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) |
| Policy Unit 4 | London, UK | 15-16 December 2015 | LSE Cities, London School of Economics and Political Science |
| | Barcelona, Spain | 10-12 February 2016 | United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), facilitating the Global Taskforce |
| Policy Unit 5 | Washington DC, USA | 20-22 January 2016 | World Bank |
| | London, UK | 15-16 February 2016 | Urban Innovation Centre – Future Cities Catapult |
| Policy Unit 6 | Barcelona, Spain | 16-17 November 2015 | UN-Habitat |
| | New York, USA | 4-5 February 2016 | The Ford Foundation |
| Policy Unit 7 | London, UK | 3-4 December 2015 | Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) - University College London |
| | London, UK | 9-10 February 2016 | Urban Innovation Centre – Future Cities Catapult |
| Policy Unit 8 | Bangkok, Thailand | 23-24 November 2015 | The Rockefeller Foundation |
| | Paris, France | 25-26 January 2016 | OECD |
| Policy Unit 9 | Barcelona, Spain | 17-18 November 2015 | UN-Habitat |
| | Brussels, Belgium | 11-12 February 2016 | Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP) |
| Policy Unit 10 | Barcelona, Spain | 19-20 November 2015 | UN-Habitat |
| | Washington DC, USA | 27-29 January 2016 | Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) |

First outcome: Policy Paper Frameworks

All the Policy Units identified challenges, policy priorities, and critical issues as well as developed action-oriented recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The Policy Paper Framework was based on the template provided by the Habitat III Secretariat (see Appendices D and E) and submitted by the end of December 2015. It was also published online on the Habitat III website.

Official comments on the ten Policy Paper Frameworks by Member States and stakeholders were received by the end of January 2016, and also made available on the Habitat III website as a contribution to the policy process towards Habitat III. The co-lead organizations and experts took the feedback and comments into consideration to further work on the elaboration of the Policy Papers.

Comments from the perspective of the United Nations were also shared by the United Nations system through the United Nations Task Team on Habitat III (see Appendix F).

FROM MEMBER STATES

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- European Union and Member States
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Japan
- Mexico
- Myanmar
- Netherlands (the)
- Norway
- Russian Federation (the)
- Senegal
- Thailand
- United States of America (the)

FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- Caritas International
- Ecoagriculture Partners
- Habitat International Coalition
- Helpage International
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
- Institute for Housing and Urban Studies, Erasmus University of Rotterdam
- International Council for Science and Future Earth
- Techo
- Union for International Cancer Control
- World Future Council
- World Resources Institute
- World Wildlife Fund

FROM UN AGENCIES

- OHCHR
- UN Environment
- UN-Habitat
- UNISDR
- UN-Women
- WHO



Finalization of the Policy Papers

Throughout the Expert Group Meetings, all ten Policy Papers were finalized and delivered by the Policy Units on 29 February 2016, and published on the Habitat III website. The Policy Papers were the result of collective efforts from the co-leaders and experts who had countless virtual and face-to-face discussions, resulting in critical and action-oriented policy recommendations to feed into the New Urban Agenda.

A formal handover of the Policy Papers to the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Bureau of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee took place during the Habitat III Europe Regional Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, on Friday, 17 March 2016.

Representatives of the Policy Unit co-leaders and experts met with the Secretary-General of the Conference as well as the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, and co-lead organizations of the Policy Units were thanked for their dedicated work and support, while the experts of all ten Policy Units were commended for their tireless efforts and the expertise they demonstrated in finalizing the Policy Papers.

Intersessional Process towards the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda

Policy Units were further involved as headway was being made in preparations for Habitat III. Furthering its vision for the preparatory process and for the Habitat III Conference to be carried out in an inclusive, efficient, effective, and improved manner, the General Assembly, in its resolution A/70/210, decided to organize five days of Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings before the submission of the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda in order to provide an opportunity for feedback on the conclusions of the Habitat III Policy Units and the Habitat III Regional and Thematic Meetings.

As part of the Intersessional Process, the Secretary-General of the Conference convened the Policy Units at the Habitat III Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings, which took place from 25 to 29 April 2016 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The meeting brought together over 500 participants representing relevant stakeholders, international organizations, the United Nations system, and governments, more than 120 of which were Policy Unit experts and co-leaders from the respective organizations who participated and acted as moderators, presenters, and panelists over the period of five-day consultations.

The meeting was organized with daily themes on regional perspectives; transformative commitments for sustainable urban development; effective implementation; and how to enhance means of implementation. Co-leaders, in particular, played a significant role in organizing and leading each panel discussion in coordination with the Habitat III Secretariat. Panels aimed to examine the recommendations and outputs of the Policy Papers.



The formal handover of the Policy Papers at the Habitat III Europe Regional Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic



The Quito Conference: Policy directions towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Apart from the elaboration of the Policy Papers, the Policy Units continued to contribute to the next stages of the Habitat III process, with their feedback and the Policy Papers actively resonating throughout the development of the outcome document that ultimately articulated the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference.

With the agreed New Urban Agenda, Policy Dialogue sessions were organized with the leadership of the co-lead organizations during the Habitat III Conference in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016. The co-lead organizations developed a concept note for the Policy Dialogues which aimed to provide rich and innovative discussions and conversations on the theme of the Conference based on the elaborated recommendations of the respective Policy Papers. The Policy Dialogues, with a particular action-oriented focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, were able to mobilize a variety of actors from all over the world, and provided a unique space to discuss the Policy Units thematic areas.

A unique legacy

The Policy Papers, due to the dedicated work of the Policy Units, were the building blocks of the New Urban Agenda, and contributed to the participatory, innovative, and inclusive manner in which the Conference in Quito took place. The creation of the Policy Units has played a key role in opening new opportunities to build on and to increase the relevance of sustainable urban development as a priority among Member States, the United Nations system, local governments, stakeholders, and other key urban players to implement the New Urban Agenda and achieve its goals together.

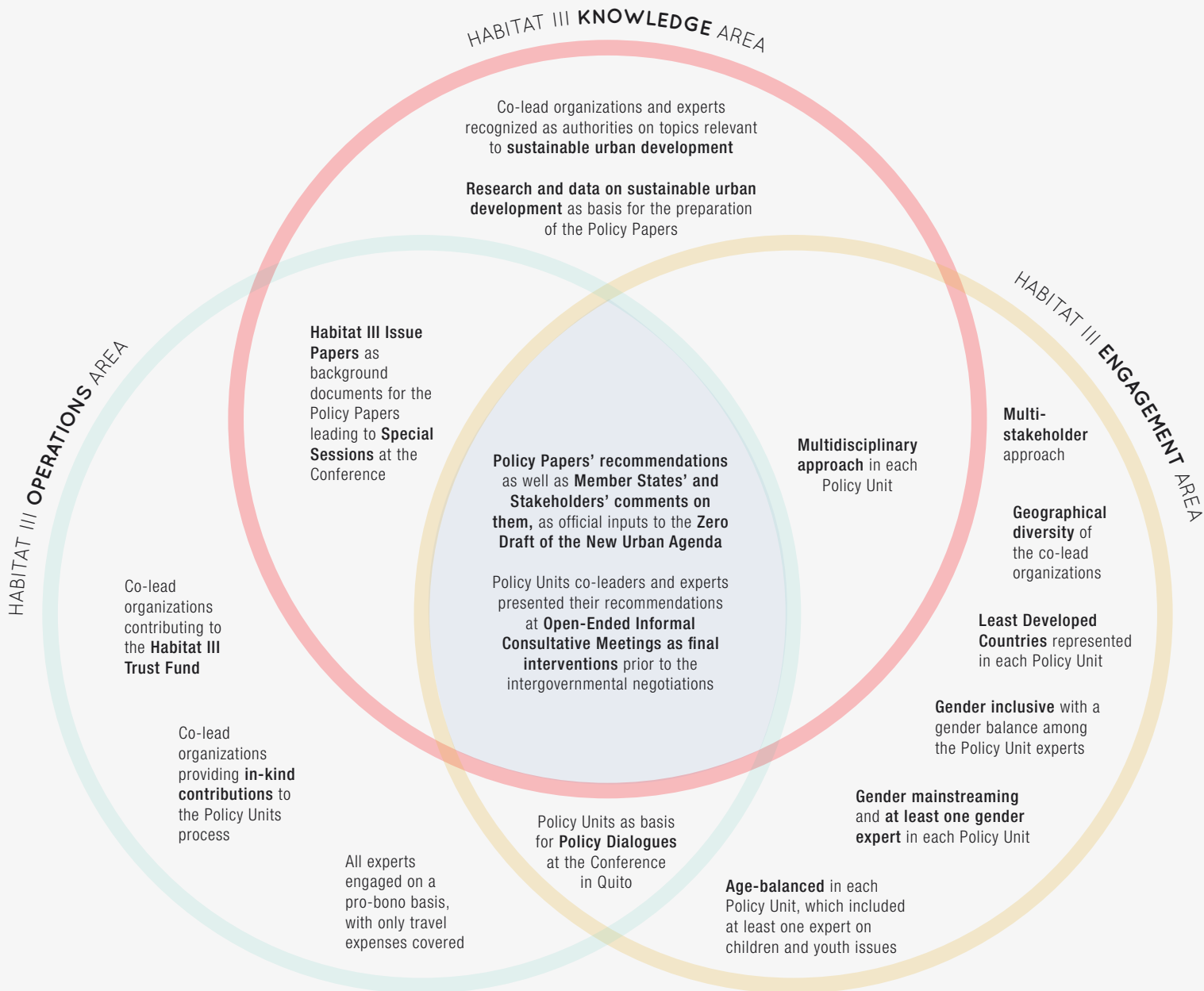
FIGURE 6. POLICY UNITS' ROLE IN THE HABITAT III STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Policy was one of the four conceptualized areas, along with knowledge, engagement, and operations, in the Habitat III strategic framework, which laid out the efforts necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the Habitat III Conference and its preparatory process.

The Policy Area, composed of Policy Units and Regional and Thematic Meetings, played an important role in providing significant substantive inputs during the Habitat III preparatory process and the formulation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Policy Units brought together 200 experts and 20 co-lead organizations recognized as authorities on sustainable urban development to create ten Policy Papers, which resulted in key building blocks of the New Urban Agenda in an inclusive, innovative, and participatory manner.

Apart from the results of the Policy Units in the Policy Area, each of the Habitat III strategic areas maximized its synergy effect and its role by interacting across and interlinking among the other three areas, ensuring that the entire process in the run up to the Habitat III Conference was integrated. This figure demonstrates how the Policy Units enabled the successful work of the Policy Area, while complementing and contributing to the other areas, with the active involvement of Member States, the United Nations system, local governments, stakeholders, and other key urban experts.







Policy Unit 2 on Socio-Cultural Urban Framework

Co-Lead Organizations

INSTITUT AFRICAIN DE GESTION URBAINE (IAGU)

The IAGU is an international NGO specializing in research and development, technical support, training and information. Created in 1987, IAGU comes under the aegis of the African Foundation for Urban Management (Fagu). Its main mission is to support municipalities and the authorities of the cities of West and Central Africa to strengthen their planning and management capabilities to improve local governance, promote sustainable management of the environment and the fight against poverty.

www.iagu.org

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, gathering 195 Member States and 10 Associate Members. It aims to build peace and promoting sustainable development through its five major programmes: Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. UNESCO functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge international agreements on a wide range of issues. It also serves as a clearinghouse for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge, while helping Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. In the field of Culture, it aims at safeguarding and promoting heritage in all its forms, preserving natural heritage, and fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions.

www.unesco.org

Co-leaders¹

INSTITUT AFRICAINE DE GESTION URBAINE (IAGU)

Oumar Cissé

Executive Secretary

Dr. Cissé is a civil engineer who holds a master's degree in Environmental Studies and a PhD in Planning and Environment from the University of Montreal. Since 1997, Mr. Cissé has served as the Executive Secretary of the African Institute for Urban Management (IAGU). His previous positions included a stint as a municipal engineer and environmentalist at the urban community of Dakar, where Mr. Cissé founded the sub-directorate of the environment in 1992. Dr. Cissé is a researcher in urban environments and specializes in issues of urban waste. Dr. Cissé has trained African professionals in urban areas as a lecturer at the Institute of Urban Planning at the University of Montreal since 2000, and as an associate professor at the international French-language Senghor University in Alexandria, Egypt since April 2007. Dr. Cissé has acted as an international consultant (with UNDP, CIDA, UN-Habitat) and has authored several articles and international communications in urban environment. Dr. Cissé has also served as the President of the Network of African Institutions Urban Management (ANUMI) since 2003, and was the Coordinator of the Regional Centre of the Basel Convention on hazardous waste in French-speaking Africa from 2004 to 2006. Dr. Cissé's main areas of intervention are municipal waste, environmental planning, public/private partnership in urban services, urban agriculture, and international cooperation in urban areas.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

Francesco Bandarin

Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO

From 2000 to 2010, Mr. Bandarin was the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Secretary of the World Heritage Convention. From 2010 to 2014, Mr. Bandarin served as the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture. Mr. Bandarin was re-appointed to this position for an interim period until February 2018. In 2014, Mr. Bandarin was appointed the President of the Jury of the Venice Architecture Biennale, curated by Rem Koolhaas and the President of the Jury of the First Shenzhen Creative Design Award (SCDA). Mr. Bandarin is the President of the Italian Association of Historic Cities (ANCSA), a member of the Visiting Committee of the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles and a member of the Steering Committee of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Mr. Bandarin holds degrees in Architecture (IUAV Venice) and City and Regional Planning (UC Berkeley), and has been a professor of Urban Planning and Urban Conservation at the University of Venice (IUAV) from 1980 to 2000. Mr. Bandarin's recent publications include: *The Historic Urban Landscape: Managing Heritage in an Urban Century* (2012) and *Reconnecting the City. The Historic Urban Landscape Approach and the Future of Urban Heritage* (2015), both of which were published by Wiley-Blackwell.

¹ All biographies of the co-leaders and experts are as of the date of the establishment of the Policy Units in September 2015.

**Dorine Dubois***Coordinator for Culture and Development, UNESCO*

Ms. Dubois is responsible for the coordination of the UNESCO culture and development initiatives, and the cooperation with the United Nations, international organizations, and external partners, in the Executive Office of the Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO. Specialized in international and European law and political studies (College of Europe, Belgium), Ms. Dubois began her career at UNESCO in 2000 in the External Relations Sector, then worked at the European Commission's Directorate General for Justice and Home Affairs, and joined UNESCO again in 2003 as a Liaison Officer in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Director-General for External Relations. Ms. Dubois then worked for six years as the Executive Officer of the Bureau of the Budget, where she coordinated the negotiations of a harmonized budgetary policy within the United Nations. In 2010, Ms. Dubois joined the Executive Office of the Assistant Director-General for Culture. Ms. Dubois has notably led the team in charge of the UNESCO Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development and is mandated with the coordination of the UNESCO contribution to the Habitat III process in the field of Education, Culture, the Natural Sciences, and Social and Human Sciences. In addition, since 2015, Ms. Dubois has been the Special Assistant of H.E. Mr. Simataa, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, and advises him in the framework of the current reform of the governance of UNESCO.

Experts of Policy Unit 2 on Socio-Cultural Urban Framework

Ana Lucy Bengochea

Coordinator of the Community Practitioners Platform on Resilience and Wagucha

Ms. Bengochea is the coordinator of the Community Practitioner Platform on Resilience in Honduras and is also the community organizer in empowering women and youth through cultural and environmental restoration, disaster reconstruction, and collective sustainable livelihood projects. Ms. Bengochea is a member of GROOTS International.

Stephen Berrisford

Associate Professor, African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town

Mr. Berrisford previously held the post of Director of the Land Development Facilitation at the National Department of Land Affairs, and worked in the planning departments of the Cape Town and Johannesburg municipalities. Mr. Berrisford established Stephen Berrisford Consulting in 2000, and his clients include major international development agencies as well as South Africa Government entities. Mr. Berrisford's work focuses on practical and legal solutions to the challenges of rapid urban growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. Mr. Berrisford has regularly published academic articles and book chapters since 1996, and has presented papers at a wide range of international conferences.

Sonia Maria Dias

Waste Sector Specialist, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Ms. Dias has extensive experience as a researcher and as a consultant in solid waste management. Ms. Dias is a sector specialist at WIEGO, and her consulting experience focused on social mobilization, coordination of partnerships, empowerment of sector unions, and informal sector integration. Ms. Dias has extensive knowledge of the conditions under which informal sectors may successfully be integrated in the waste management sector to raise recycling rates and save costs for municipalities and end-users. Ms. Dias is the Latin American representative for the Collaborative Working Group on Solid Waste (CWG) and member of the Observatory for Inclusive Recycling and an Eisenhower fellow.

Lucy Earle

Urban Specialist

Ms. Earle is currently leading the UK Government's Urban Crises Programme, and is a Post-Doctoral fellow from the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town. Ms. Earle worked for UN-Habitat in Nairobi on the evaluation of gender mainstreaming across programming, as well as doing research within the UN on the work of the UN system on gender equality and women's empowerment. Ms. Earle is also an urban technical adviser for the UK's Department for International Development and has published a series of academic articles in high profile urban and development studies journals.

Alev Erkilet

Professor, Sakarya University

Ms. Erkilet is a sociologist who completed her PhD with Acettepe University in Ankara. From 1987 to 2000 she was an assistant professor at the University of Kırıkkale. Ms. Erkilet worked for the Istanbul Metropolitan Planning Office as a sociologist and has published numerous academic articles and essays on Islamism, modernity, urban issues, and social movements, and her areas of research include social change, modernization processes, and political sociology.



Ana Liz Flores

Huairou Commission

Ms. Flores is an international consultant specializing in local development, sustainable natural resources management, and climate change adaptation. Ms. Flores coordinates the action research on community resilience priorities in the post-HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action) Agenda, and has multilaterally worked with transnational organization for design and implementation of sustainable development with the Development Bank of Latin America, the World Bank, and the European Union.

Maryam Hariri

Vice-President at Ogilvy & Mathers, Senior Community Engagement and Risk Communication Advisor, FEMA, and Adjunct Professor, New York University

Ms. Hariri is the Vice-President at Ogilvy & Mathers and serves as the Senior Community Engagement and Risk Communication lead at FEMA Region IX, which includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands. Prior to joining Ogilvy, Ms. Hariri led hazard mitigation and resilience planning efforts at the city of New York where she helped to create innovative post-Hurricane Sandy programs for the Mayor's Office, the Department of City Planning, and the Office of Emergency Management. Ms. Hariri is an Adjunct Professor at New York University, teaching courses on flood risk management in coastal cities, social vulnerability, and food systems resilience in the Department of Environmental Studies and Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health. Ms. Hariri sits on numerous international and local expert committees and working groups, including the Habitat III Policy Expert Committee, International Rescue Committee Urban Expert Group, and NYU's Food and City Working Group. Ms. Hariri is an urban planner by training with B.A. and M.A. degrees from UC Berkeley and New York University.

Jyoti Hosagrahar

UNESCO Chair for Culture, Habitat

Ms. Hosagrahar is a professor at the GSAPP, Columbia University, New York where she directs the Sustainable Urbanism International Lab that is an NGO in India. Ms. Hosagrahar is also UNESCO Chair Professor in Culture, Habitat, and Sustainable Development at Srishti Institute of Art, Design, and Technology in India where she is also Chair of the PhD program. Ms. Hosagrahar served as an expert member of the national Advisory Committee for World Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India (2011-2015). Since 2006 Ms. Hosagrahar has served as a technical expert for UNESCO on historic cities, culture and development, and urban sustainability. Ms. Hosagrahar has worked closely with the World Heritage Center and the Culture Sector at UNESCO in the drafting of the Historic Urban Landscapes Recommendation. Ms. Hosagrahar is also on the UNESCO Expert Group for World Heritage and Sustainable Development. Ms. Hosagrahar serves on the Executive Committee of ICOMOS India member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Theory and Philosophy (Theophil) and Historic Towns and Cities (CIVVIH). Since 2010 has been involved with UNESCO's efforts in Culture and Development authoring the brochure "Power of Culture for Development" for the MDG Review meeting in New York in 2010, a strategy paper on Culture and Development for the Culture Sector of UNESCO in 2012. Ms. Hosagrahar is a Global Advisor for the UN Global Compact Cities Program, co-author of the Policy paper for "Operationalizing Culture in the Sustainable Development of Cities" for Gold IV of the UN United Cities and Local Governments, and an Expert Group member on Public Space with UN-Habitat.

Nazrul Islam

Chairman Centre for Urban Studies

Mr. Islam received his B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. in Geography from the University of Dhaka and was also educated at the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada; the East-West Center, Hawaii, USA, and Development Planning Unit at University College London, UK. Mr. Islam taught in the Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka, from 1963 to 2007, and in the Urban Development Planning at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Mr. Islam has served as Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh from 2007 to 2011, the Chairman of the Board of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (DWASA), and as a Member of several urban development-related committees formed by the Government. Mr. Islam is currently the National Policy Advisor for Urban Affairs, UNDP Bangladesh and is the Founder-Honorary Chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS), Dhaka.

Philippe Madec

Architect

Mr. Madec is an architect and urban planner engaged in sustainable development and the environment from its early stages. Mr. Madec's work, centered on an ecologically responsible approach, also reflects upon the social, economic and human factors involved in sustainable architecture. In 2000, Mr. Madec created the first French Department of Education on Sustainable Architecture at the National School of Architecture in Lyon. Mr. Madec has taught in universities worldwide (including Columbia University, the National School of Landscape Architecture in Versailles, the University of Montreal, Harvard University), and received the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2012.

Valerie Mbaipor

International Program Development Professional

Ms. Mbaipor, an International student assistant at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, USA is a strategy consultant in the Ivory Coast for the WFP, a gender-based violence expert for UNFPA, and a strategy consultant to the Ministry of Education of Chad. Ms. Mbaipor obtained a master's of Sociology from the University of Manchester, UK and master's in Sustainable Development, International Policy, and Management (from the SIT Graduate Institute and World Learning in Washington DC). Ms. Mbaipor has experience in supporting education system transformation and sustainability to maximize youth, women, community, and economic development in various organizations in African countries.

Ambreena Manji

Professor of Land Law and Development, Cardiff University

Ms. Manji held academic posts at the Universities of Warwick and Keele. Ms. Manji's reputation for research leadership was established during her tenure as the Director of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Kenya between 2010 and 2014. Ms. Manji has advised several international organizations on land issues, including the FAO and UNDP, and is on the Council of the African Studies Association of the UK. Ms. Manji serves on the research committee of the British Institute in Eastern Africa and is a board member of Social and Legal Studies and Feminist Legal Studies.

Isaac Frimpong Mensa-Bonsu

Director of Plan Coordination, National Development Planning Commission of Ghana

Mr. Mensa-Bonsu helps in coordinating national, sector, and sub-national plan preparation. Mr. Mensa-Bonsu holds a bachelor's degree (Hons.) in Development Planning from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, a Master of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Hokkaido University in Japan, and PhD in Environmental Science (Planning Option) from Hokkaido University. Mr. Mensa-Bonsu is a member of the governing boards of a number of state institutions including the Energy Commission, Ghana Railway Development Authority, Vice-Chairman of the board of Social Investment Fund and a member of the UNESCO National Committee on Man and the Biosphere.

Rosario Palacios

Universidad Católica Sociology Institute

Ms. Palacios is a national consultant for the Urban Development Council and Public Space Department, and a senior consultant to the Santiago City Government. Ms. Palacios is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Universidad Católica de Chile. Ms. Palacios was awarded a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has conducted various research projects on urban culture at Santiago, Chile. Ms. Palacios' main research interests are in citizen participation, informal work, public spaces, qualitative research methods, urban ethnography, and visual methodologies.



Jordi Pascual

United Cities and Local Governments

Mr. Pascual is the founding coordinator of the Committee on culture of the world organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The Committee is focused in the implementation of Agenda 21 for culture (2004), the first global cultural-policy document for cities. Agenda 21 for culture emphasizes the interconnection among culture, sustainability, diversity, participation of citizens and governance. In 2015 UCLG approved "Culture 21 Actions", a practical toolkit on Culture and Sustainable Cities. Mr. Pascual has been a member state of the jury of the European Capital of Culture (2010, 2011, 2013 and 2016). He teaches cultural policies and management at the Open University of Catalonia. Mr. Pascual is one of the leaders of the global campaign "The future we want includes culture" that struggled to include culture in the Sustainable Development Goals. The campaign approved three documents on "culture as a goal" (2013), "cultural targets" (2014) and "cultural indicators" (2015). Mr. Pascual was awarded a PhD in International Cultural Relations and European Cultural Policies from the University Pompeu Fabra and Interarts Foundation.

Mary Rowe

Executive Vice president, The Municipal Art Society, New York

Ms. Rowe is the coordinator of Centre for City Ecology, Director at The New Orleans Institute of Resilience and Innovation, and Vice President of Urban Programs at Blue Moon Funds. Ms. Rowe has been awarded the Bellagio residency by Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio, Italy and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Ms. Rowe has written publications on BP oil spills and sustainable designs.

Lourdes Ampudia Rueda

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Ms. Rueda is a lecturer at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad de Juárez, and a specialist on urban and regional economy with an emphasis on labor market and gender studies. Ms. Rueda worked as the Coordinator of Academic Development Support ICSA-UACJ, Sub-Director of Studies for Institutional Development, and is currently a PhD student in Urban Studies at the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez.

Joseph Salukvadza

Department of Human Geography, Tbilisi State University

Ms. Salukvadza is a lecturer and professor at the Department of Human Geography, Tbilisi State University, and was the head of that department 2000 and 2005. Ms. Salukvadza has conducted studies, consultancies, and projects with the World Bank, FAO, and other international entities, and specializes in human geography, land policy and land management, urban geography, and GIS.

Hans Verschure

Professor Emeritus

Mr. Verschure is professor emeritus with special assignments, at the K.U.Leuven, Post Graduate Centre Human Settlements (PGCHS), Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Spatial Planning. His specialties are training and capacity building, policymaking, research, and development and follow-up of projects in the domains of habitat, sustainable urban and rural settlement development, urban renewal and heritage conservation, spatial and environmental planning, in developing countries, more specifically in North-, East- and Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Latin-America, South- and South-East Asia. Mr. Verschure was for many years programme director of the international course programme 'Master of Architecture in Human Settlements' (1985-2007), and guest Professor at the Brussels University teaching "Environmental Planning and Policy". Mr. Verschure has initiated and guided many development cooperation programmes for the Belgian Development Cooperation and for international agencies, including the major programme 'Localising Agenda 21: Strategic Planning for Sustainable Development', in cooperation with UN-Habitat, Nairobi and active in Kenya, Morocco, Vietnam, Cuba etc. Mr. Verschure participated in the Habitat I in Vancouver 1976 and in almost all World Urban Fora.

Hamento Kusuma Widjaja*Architect, Rujak Center for Urban Studies*

Mr. Widjaja is a practicing architect, urban analyst, and activist advocating sustainable city and living solutions. Mr. Widjaja co-founded Rujak Center for Urban Studies (RCUS) in 2010 and has been its Director since. RCUS currently works with partners in seven different cities in Indonesia to encourage urban knowledge co-production as basis for improving urban policies. Mr. Widjaja collaborated with NGOs, communities, and community architects in building settlements in several places, including most recently in post-Yolanda Tacloban, the Philippines. Back in the early 2000s Mr. Widjaja was the team leader for UN-Habitat/UNDP City Development Strategy program in Indonesia. Mr. Widjaja is known in art scenes in parts of Southeast and East Asia and did his study at the architecture department of Parahyangan University in Bandung, Indonesia and at the Post Graduate Center Human Settlements of K.U. Leuven in Leuven.



POLICY PAPER 2
SOCIO-CULTURAL
URBAN FRAMEWORK

Executive summary

We live in a world today that is increasingly urbanized and disrupted by political and economic conflicts and climate change-related impacts. As the New Urban Agenda looks to the future to guide the shape of cities for the next 20 years, this Policy Unit looks at ways to humanize the New Urban Agenda. The present paper is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the need to “strengthen the efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” as a dedicated target of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (target 11.4). We focus at once on urban development that is socially and culturally inclusive of all urban dwellers, as well as the potential of social forms and cultural assets and identities to propel urban development that is more sustainable and resilient socially, economically, and environmentally.

Vision. We envision cities where the social and cultural aspects of urban life can contribute to inclusion and resilience, as well as cities that are more people-centred and liveable. If urban areas are to truly serve as “engines of growth”, reducing poverty and including all urban dwellers in the processes and benefits of development are essential to making cities better for all. The New Urban Agenda must promote inclusion of all urban dwellers, regardless of citizenship, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, social or economic status, or ethnic origin. This is particularly important for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including refugees and migrants, who often feel excluded from urban life. Our vision is that of cities and towns as safe for all their residents and where culture forms and activities thrive and cultural diversity fosters peace and social cohesion. Cities must integrate tangible and intangible cultural heritage and creative practices with urban development built on the collective intelligence of people recognizing and valuing the need for cultural actors (artists, historians, heritage experts, cultural producers and managers, as well as the media) to be involved in urban processes. Contrary to current modes of urban development premised on homogenized and universalized models of efficiency and economic rationality, the New Urban Agenda must emphasize place-based urban development that is rooted in and shaped by the people and communities that inhabit it. Spatial organization, patterns and design of urban space can promote or hinder social cohesion, equity and inclusion. Social and cultural infrastructure is as fundamental to making cities liveable as basic infrastructure.

Policy challenges. The challenges to achieving such an urban vision are in several dimensions. First, the benefits of urbanization are very unequally shared and, in many contexts, a substantial proportion of urban dwellers are not able to access them. Second, globalized and homogenized urban development have diminished and threatened a plethora of diverse tangible and intangible heritage in many cities around the world. Cultural diversity, including a range of institutions, practices, world views, people, forms, experiences, languages and knowledge systems, is being eroded or deliberately erased as communities are assumed to be homogeneous and monolithic. Third, social exclusion is reinforced by built environments that do not facilitate gatherings of people, collective uses and the practice of different cultures within them. Informal

livelihood practices such as street vendors are penalized and criminalized while segregation and social tensions increase through the development of gated communities. Finally, migration and the sudden influx of large numbers of displaced people into towns and cities pose a variety of challenges, but are also enormous contributions to urban areas economically, socially, and culturally. Migration is a global phenomenon that is transforming countries, cities and towns around the world including transnational migration, refugees fleeing conflicts and violence, or those internally displaced by disasters and climate change. The contributions of migrants to urban life often remain illegal and unrecognized, leaving them vulnerable and excluded.

Priority actions, policy design, implementation, monitoring and key actors. The priority actions for the New Urban Agenda identified by the Policy Unit integrate culture and cultural heritage into urban development, safeguarding cultural assets, and promoting cultural diversity; addressing migration of all types from internal to international, voluntary to forced, and developing strategies for including migrants in contributing to and benefiting from cities; reducing urban violence and enhancing safety for all; planning and designing the built environment and social infrastructure to mitigate segregation and exclusion and enhance diversity in social, cultural, and economic activities. Towards this end we see participatory processes of design, planning, and policymaking as a critical transformative action that needs to be institutionalized in the New Urban Agenda at all stages from problem identification to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Education, capacity-building, and awareness for all stakeholders are essential to enable robust participatory processes. Diversity and inclusiveness in media and information and communications technology (ICT) is also necessary to support engagement, information, and dialogue. The priority actions we suggest can only be taken forward successfully by the engagement of all key actors from public authorities at various levels of government, and large scale industries to small businesses, non governmental organizations (NGOs), and communities. Based on these priorities, we have proposed illustrative policy designs with indicators and monitoring mechanisms for community participation; city liveability; culture and cultural heritage in urban development; education and capacity-building; media and technology; migration and refugees; safety and violence; and finance, business, and real estate.

Conclusion. We see the New Urban Agenda as an opportunity to consistently and systematically put in place planning, design, and policymaking processes that will lead to inclusive, people-centred and culturally sensitive urban development paradigms. Therefore, the planning and design of cities and their urban policies must empower and enable different social groups to overcome systemic and institutional inequalities and vulnerabilities to make all urban dwellers active agents in making and benefiting from their cities. Safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, promoting cultural diversity and integrating culture with urban development contributes towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of poverty alleviation, gender equality, and cities that are safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Culture contributes to making cities sustainable as a driver of inclusive economic development;



an enabler for peace, social cohesion, inclusion and equity; and in promoting the liveability and sustainability of urban areas. Through socially inclusive, participatory, and culture-sensitive approaches to city design, planning and policies, the New Urban Agenda must help to make the vision of sustainable cities a reality.

1. Vision and framework of the policy paper's contribution to the New Urban Agenda

1. How can the New Urban Agenda include sociocultural frameworks? What are the key characteristics of such a perspective? How can a focus on the social and cultural elements of urban life help to address the future challenges of towns and cities, with special attention to the issues of safety, migration, equity and equality?
2. Today's towns and cities face challenges of social, cultural and spatial exclusion, violence, uneven investment, destruction, and loss of tangible and intangible cultural assets, in addition to broader threats related to climate change and large-scale migration. These challenges are only set to increase in severity.
3. The New Urban Agenda therefore presents an opportunity to drive forward a vision of cities that are people-centred, inclusive, resilient and safe; where cultural diversity is not only respected but promoted as a foundation for the stability and sustainability of urban societies. This is a vision of towns and cities as safe havens where all residents, regardless of citizenship, social or economic status, are able to benefit from urban life; where those who strive to contribute socially, economically and culturally to their neighbourhood, town or city are able to do so; and for those who seek sanctuary, can live in dignity, safety and with self-reliance, until they are able to return home or another permanent solution is found. It defines a city that integrates cultural heritage and creative practices into urban development, built on the collective intelligence of people, and where culture and cultural heritage foster peace and social cohesion, and inclusive societies, while helping to counter urban violence.
4. This paper provides policy guidance on how attention to the social and cultural aspects of urban life can contribute to inclusion and resilience as well as cities that are more people-centred and simply more liveable.

A. Towards people-centred cities

5. There is no one model that can be promoted for urban areas, but there is an "essence" to urban life. It is made up of a variety of elements, including:

- (a) Recognition of and respect for a diversity of cultural forms, knowledge, and practices;
- (b) Conviviality among people of different ethnic, social and income backgrounds;
- (c) Diversity of the built environment and layering of the old and the new;
- (d) Understanding of the dynamic and evolving nature of economies, societies and the fabric of towns and cities;
- (e) Opportunities for positive human interaction — with urban forms and spaces as well as with other people.

6. These could be considered "urban sensibilities". They can serve to "(re)humanize" the city and act as a counterweight to homogenization, exclusion and violence.
7. Urban sensibilities and everyday practices must be given due consideration in the New Urban Agenda, as they contribute to making cities liveable and productive. A focus on everyday practices and an understanding of urban life can help to place people, rather than mere economic development, at the centre of public policy and planning processes. Inclusion can also be promoted through equitable investment in social infrastructure across cities and towns.
8. Urban areas are often described as "engines of growth" but the promise of poverty reduction and development will not be realized if the focus remains purely on the economy and on returns on investment. The social and cultural aspects of urban life — the way in which different groups in society are able to engage with, contribute to and benefit from what towns and cities have to offer — is equally important. This "use value" of towns and cities must be recognized, protected and nurtured — as a contribution not only to the fundamental well-being of urban dwellers in its own right, but to productive and liveable urban societies.

B. Place-based urban identities

9. The New Urban Agenda can help to avoid the continuation of the trend towards homogenization — where patterns of investment render towns, and particularly larger cities, without a grounding in time or place and serving as mere receptacles for capital investments. In many cities around the world today, residential property is seen as a safety deposit

box, rather than homes for productive members of society embedded in a social and cultural context. Sometimes this approach has resulted in neighbourhoods of luxury buildings that are left largely uninhabited. Similarly, gated communities limit interaction between people from different walks of life. The stripping away of place-based identity and the spatial segregation generated by these types of investments can generate a sense of disenfranchisement from the city and urban society. By contrast, building on the diversity of culture and heritage can help foster peaceful and cohesive societies that serve to counter urban violence.

C. Inclusive, safe and human-scale built environments

10. Urban cultural practices and sensibilities are thus intimately connected with the built environment and how it promotes social interaction and provides opportunity for different ways of living. There are built environments that give room for culture to develop, and others that asphyxiate cultural diversity and inclusion. The way in which we design, invest in and use our built environment — the assets, systems, services, spatial forms, patterns and designs that make up the city — can promote or hinder social cohesion, equality and inclusion and, in turn, determine how urban sensibilities and everyday practices are destroyed, preserved or generated.
11. The built environment is also critical for ensuring safety and security, through public spaces that support formal and informal cultural, social and economic activities, protect from environmental threats, and provide safety from crime and violence.

D. Cities conducive to social cohesion and respect for diversity

12. The built environment can facilitate the gathering of people and encourage collective uses and the practice of different cultures. Fostering social interaction and recognition of the diverse cultural practices within cities enable mutual understanding and respect. Social encounter in public space and the experience of sharing the same urban condition, as users of the built environment, reinforces the feeling of safety and community. All of these contribute to greater social cohesion. The New Urban Agenda must promote inclusion of all urban dwellers, regardless of citizenship, social or economic status, or ethnic origin. This is particularly important for refugees and migrants, who are often among the most vulnerable. Combatting xenophobia and stigma is critical, as is recognizing that

towns and cities have been built, not only on the labour of migrants, but also on their social and cultural contributions. Migration flows have — and will continue to — render urban areas dynamic, constantly evolving, and centres of cultural diversity.

13. The New Urban Agenda must recognize the different ways in which people inhabit and use the city, and demonstrate an appreciation that towns and cities can reduce economic inequalities while enabling greater inclusivity to the rewards and benefits of growth. Promoting urban everyday practices and cultural diversity can therefore be seen as a counterweight to the homogenization of the urban environment, and a way to combat stigma, social exclusion and violence.

E. Culture-based urban development

14. Participative urban governance with respect to cultural producers is paramount. The sociocultural urban framework is incomplete unless cities and towns are able to promote concrete partnerships among the public (mainly, the local governments) and cultural actors (artists, historians, heritage experts, cultural producers and managers, as well as the media). Cultural actors need to be recognized, valued and involved in all processes related to sustainable urban development.
15. Tangible and intangible cultural assets and creative practices must be integrated into urban development processes from inception to implementation. Well-planned cities would have integrated cultural heritage and activities in their master plans and strategic plans so that the disruptive impact of development on heritage would have been mitigated and the positive impacts enhanced.
16. When planned by its users, an urban environment takes into account spatial practices and promotes safety, security and access to housing and basic services. This should be facilitated by responsive urban government, working in partnership with local populations.

II. Policy challenges

A. Persistent urban inequalities contribute to social and spatial fragmentation

17. Inequality remains an enduring challenge for towns and cities in the twenty-first century. The benefits of urbanization are unequally shared



and, in many contexts, a substantial proportion of urban dwellers are not able to access them. Privatization of public space, uneven investment in assets and services, and gentrification can lead to displacement and exclude whole groups of citizens. Those particularly affected are ethnic minorities, lower income communities, refugees and migrants. Among these groups, youth, women and elderly people can be doubly disadvantaged. The main challenge for twenty-first century cities is the equitable provision of urban (economic and social) services such as transport, energy, water and sanitation, housing, and solid waste management. At present, in many instances, the social structures and spatial logic of urban areas are treated in isolation of one another. To advance equity, inclusion, and safety in the city, the New Urban Agenda must address the social fabric of the city alongside its infrastructure, design and assets. Also, access to culture (libraries, heritage, creativity, new media) should be given equal consideration if sustainable transformation is to be taken seriously. Through a holistic approach, it will be possible to make concrete progress towards equity, belonging and safety in urban areas.

B. Increasing threats to urban heritage and cultural diversity undermine social cohesion and urban resilience

18. Given the link between culture, identity, and place making, another challenge is to promote built environments that reinforce cultural diversity, inclusion, equity, safety and social cohesion. Cultural heritage must be taken into account if we want built environments that allow cultures to thrive. In many cities around the world, the built cultural heritage is threatened or neglected, and in danger of destruction. There is a lack of inventories of cultural heritage and cultural producers, and a monopolized mass media, which promotes a homogeneous image of towns and cities. Cultural heritage is very narrowly defined in policies and implementation and as a result, development projects are frequently pitted in opposition to its preservation and to creative practices. While some elite or classical performance and visual arts are supported in many countries, countless other forms are being lost every day. In order to counter this, educational programmes for arts and culture that address cultural diversity should be developed.
19. Environmental degradation and natural hazards, as well as political and economic conflicts, also contribute to the loss and destruction of the lived heritage of cities and of cultural knowledge. The crucial importance of cultural resilience in the face of disasters is largely overlooked in disaster risk reduction and management.

C. Homogenization of urban environments threatens cultural diversity and promotes social exclusion

20. In a different vein, globalization and homogenization are not only resulting in the standardization of built environments but also in cultural identities and expressions being increasingly homogenized or being denigrated as inferior. This is particularly the case of marginalized groups, including refugees and migrants. Culture is by very nature contextual and varies from people to people and from place to place. The challenge is to strengthen diversity against tendencies to globalize or to reduce cultural expressions to marketing products. Cultural diversity, including a range of institutions, practices, world views, people, forms, experiences, languages and knowledge systems, is being eroded or deliberately erased as communities are assumed to be homogeneous and monolithic.
21. Similarly, social exclusion is reinforced by built environments which do not facilitate gatherings of people, collective uses and the practice of different cultures within them. Trends such as defensive architecture or the privatization of public spaces must be rejected. Instead, mixed-use zones for people of diverse origins and use of public spaces that are accessible to all, as settings for livelihoods, especially for the working poor, should be considered.

D. Lack of coherence between cultural and urban policies threatens urban sustainability

22. In most cities around the world, laws and policies around the safeguarding and management of cultural heritage and creative production are separate from those focused on urban development. This divergence is detrimental to both the cultural assets and to sustainable urban development.

E. Cultural rights remain overlooked or insufficiently respected

23. Human-rights based approaches to protecting and enjoying cultural heritage and cultural and creative expressions are frequently overlooked. In addition, cultural rights are poorly understood. On the one hand, some abuses have led to the instrumentalization of culture in an attempt to justify the violation of human rights. On the other hand, some approaches

aiming to defend human rights may be imposed without taking into account cultural specificities. In accordance with the advance version of the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (February 2016), “the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (art. 4), further stresses that no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope”. Cultural rights “are firmly embedded in the universal human rights framework. Hence, the implementation of human rights must take into consideration respect for cultural rights, even as cultural rights themselves must take into consideration respect for other universal human rights norms.”

F. Communities should be strongly supported to contribute to urban planning and management

24. On this issue, a further challenge is to ensure that communities engage with and work alongside local authorities. To achieve this, people's capacity to contribute to the planning and management of towns and cities must be enhanced through education focused on participation. Government capacity for communication must also be increased, and technical jargon removed from these processes. A core issue to be addressed is to broaden the scope of citizen participation processes. Urban dwellers must play a part in the decisions that relate to the ecological, social, economic, political and cultural environment. Currently, the most excluded from these processes are those with high levels of vulnerability, including women and children, older people and people with disabilities. This results in disregard for their needs in urban policies.

G. The built environment should be designed in ways that ensure security and foster inclusion

25. A further challenge for today's towns and cities is to ensure that built environments address safety in all its dimensions. This includes safety from crime and violence, as well as protection from natural disasters and environmental hazards caused by air and water pollution, lack of sanitation and industrial accidents. An additional aspect of safety and security in urban areas is related to the urban informal economy, without which large swathes of the population would be even more vulnerable. As such, steps must be taken to enhance and embrace the livelihood practices of informal workers, rather than penalizing or criminalizing informal workers and undermining or destroying their activities. In cities around the world, street vendors have carved out space in what the Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA) calls “natural markets” — near transport hubs or public institutions — to sell goods to passers-by. When these natural markets are destroyed and vendors are evicted, economic diversity can also be severely affected. In the long run, this can lead to greater insecurity in cities, since street vendors and informal recyclers contribute to safety in public spaces. In sum, the challenge

is to overcome insecurity and violence in cities that result from social exclusion, environmental hazards, and economic, social and political inequality.

H. Building local capacities and harnessing human capital is a key challenge for cities

26. Many of today's towns and cities also face the maximum brunt of the negative impacts of globalization because of a web of issues related to limited financing, limited government capacity, lack of data, lack of integrated urban planning, unarticulated governance, including high levels of corruption, and absence of necessary legal frameworks for supporting cultural diversity. The role of municipalities should be encouraged and strengthened by improving the human capital through diverse technical staff that includes different expertise and professional training. Local governments are the ones closer to people's everyday life challenges and aware of the cultural differences within their jurisdictions. They should be empowered in order to ensure equal access to culture, education and health-care services and social infrastructure for all citizens, provide job opportunities and a diverse economic environment, and make diverse cultural practices possible.

I. Access to cultural and communication resources remains insufficient

27. Promoting local media content provides a platform for sharing and expressing local knowledge and experience, opening up avenues for new creative expressions, exchange, interaction and understanding. In taking a people-centred approach to urban development, the role of the cultural and creative industries is of crucial importance, determining not only how content is created, but how it is produced, distributed and used. All inhabitants of cities should have access to the means of expression and dissemination as guarantees of their cultural diversity.
28. Many States have adopted laws on commercial advertising and marketing, but they remain mostly self-regulated. These practices have an increasing bearing on the cultural and symbolic communication within cities and more broadly on the cultural diversity of its inhabitants.
29. Audiovisual and communication outlets should be accessed and owned by those who generate its content. Cities are faced with challenges when they do not host or own such outlets and are thus unable to produce their own cultural content and guarantee its dissemination. Furthermore, while technology has generated new ways of bringing people together and have opened up new development pathways for creative expression, limits of access to these resources can create or compound existing societal fragmentation and exclusion, in particular for marginalized or



vulnerable groups and individuals. The challenge is to build the necessary conditions and mechanisms whereby access and participation in the media, cultural and creative industries is not only broadened but ensured at the local level.

J. The potential of migrations for urban development should be further recognized and enhanced

30. The challenge related to migration and displacement today is to make towns and cities a place where new arrivals of people can contribute, with their labour and culture, to urban development. Migration is a global phenomenon that is transforming countries, cities and towns around the world. While research demonstrates the positive contributions that migrants can make to their host and home economies if their energies and ambitions are tapped in positive ways, the contributions of international migrants are often only measured in terms of the remittances they send to their home countries. Migrants may not be integrated into the formal economy, or perform jobs below their skill level. This is a particular concern for female migrants, whose social and economic contributions are often undervalued, and whose work may not be legally recognized.
31. Alongside the demographic shifts brought about by national, regional and international labour migration, the world is also currently experiencing a crisis of forced displacement, which is predominantly urban in nature. More than half of all refugees and internally displaced people have sought sanctuary in towns and cities. Forced displacement flows include refugees fleeing conflict; refugees who have already sought asylum in one country but have decided to seek a better future in another; internally displaced people who have been forced to move because of conflict and violence; and those who have moved internally or across borders because of “natural” disasters and other climate-related events. Recurrent events such as floods, droughts, cyclones and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns can have a huge impact on rural areas, where individuals and families are eventually obliged to move in order to survive climate change-induced migration can be perceived as both “slow onset, disaster-induced” and economic migration. What links all these populations is the fact that the majority of them will end up in urban areas — in developed and developing countries alike.
32. Over the years urban areas have absorbed migrants and other displaced people, which has allowed them to be dynamic, constantly evolving and, in many parts of the world, centres of diversity. As well as places of potential opportunity, towns and cities should turn into places of sanctuary

for those fleeing violence, conflict and persecution. The Sustainable Development Goals make specific reference to migrant and refugee populations and they must be part of all efforts to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, governed by non-discriminatory laws and policies that promote sustainable development. Migrants and refugees often find themselves the object of stigma, racism and xenophobic violence. Where they are segregated from other urban populations and without basic rights and entitlements, migrant and displaced communities may resort to precarious or illegal livelihood options and housing solutions. These vulnerabilities may be exacerbated by language barriers, lack of familiarity with local norms and customs, social isolation and limited awareness of their rights, entitlements or where to seek help.

33. Moreover, the vast majority of refugees worldwide seek safety in the region neighbouring their place of origin, where hosting municipalities may lack the means and capacities to respond adequately to migrants’ needs and deal with massive pressure on urban services that are used and relied upon by refugees and host communities alike. For example, short-term camp-based solutions can cause long-term problems: camps become permanent, with very poor standards of living, disconnected from vital city systems. However, outside of camps, the principal alternative for refugees and internally displaced people who arrive without assets (or once these are depleted) is to move to informal areas of the city where they are exposed to natural and other hazards, including environmental contamination. In situations where disasters displace people from one part of the city to another, new informal settlements may be spontaneously created without the assistance that could reduce risk in the event of future disasters, or facilitate the eventual provision of basic services to the area. For these reasons, towns and cities need to be better prepared to absorb migrant and displaced populations in ways that are safe and dignified. This should be incorporated into urban planning frameworks and processes. The goal of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable towns and cities must encompass all urban residents, whether legally “citizens” or not.

III. Prioritizing policy options: transformative actions for the New Urban Agenda

34. The challenges of systemic social exclusion, violence and uneven investment in urban areas, persistent poverty, the escalating frequency of prolonged conflicts at the regional and local levels, as well as emerging “disruptive” factors relating to climate change and large-scale migration, demand that cities and towns integrate the social and cultural aspects

of urban life into local and national policy frameworks and actions. The policy recommendations below will provide national, regional, and local authorities with strategic guidance on priorities and policies to promote cultural diversity and creativity, cohesive community identity, and ensure safe, vibrant, inclusive and resilient built environments, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the need to “strengthen the efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” as a dedicated target of Sustainable Development Goal 11.

A. Prioritize participatory and people-centred policymaking processes

- Institutionalize citizen participation in urban development, regeneration, and adaptive reuse decision-making processes to ensure the integration of local knowledge and expertise, the safeguarding of historic landscapes and a range of cultural landmarks (including grand monuments and ordinary places that are culturally significant to local communities), and an increase in policy ownership and effectiveness. This should also include establishing participatory budgeting processes.
- Invest in a wide range of social infrastructure services, including formal and informal public spaces, liveable streets, transportation and food systems infrastructure and networks, to promote social connections and community networks, enhance public safety, and retain cultural heritage values, practices and assets.
- Evaluate and promote traditions and practices related to solidarity systems, sharing of common land and goods, non-monetary exchange systems, and ecological and resource-conserving practices (locally produced foods, local materials and skills in construction, waste recycling and reuse practices, water conserving practices, etc.).

B. Foster place-based and culturally sensitive urban governance

- Strengthen links between local urban contexts and priorities, national frameworks, legislation and approaches to ensure that the diversity of cultural heritage and on-the-ground realities are appropriately prioritized in national and regional policies.
- Ensure that basic infrastructure designs prioritize the local context, cultural heritage, and diversity of lived uses to retain a sense of place and the cultural identity of cities and towns.

- Promote partnerships between public, private, civil-society and academic stakeholders to catalyse innovative cooperation, knowledge exchanges, and inclusive decision-making mechanisms.
- Guarantee transparent and accountable governance for cultural infrastructure, particularly publicly funded infrastructure, including the participation of civil society in governance bodies.

C. Incorporate culture and creativity in planning instruments and strategies

- Incorporate cultural heritage considerations in planning instruments, including master plans, zoning guidelines, and strategic growth policies, so as to safeguard a diverse range of tangible and intangible cultural assets and landscapes.
- Include an “urban culture and heritage” priority policy or action in urban strategies, particularly in all area-based urban regeneration and development strategies (city centres, informal settlements, deprived neighbourhoods), to ensure a sense of community identity and promote social connections and better living standards of people living in those areas.
- Guarantee that all local governments develop a long-term local cultural plan with open participatory processes which is closely and operationally linked to the long-term urban strategy.
- Incorporate culture in disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience plans, notably local knowledge, traditions, and priorities to safeguard the living heritage of neighbourhoods (built context) and community identity (social context).
- Prioritize urban policies that accommodate and promote open, flexible, and safe public spaces that catalyse innovation and experimentation in all urban districts and neighbourhoods.

D. Promote access to culture and respect for cultural rights of all

- Recognize and guarantee access to cultural services as a basic urban service (museums, art schools, libraries, theatres and monuments) through adequate policies and institutional frameworks, so as to facilitate social interactions and relationships, empower people and allow for the expression of their cultural identities and the enhancement of the community’s capacity to absorb, adapt and recover from a wide range of climate, economic, political, and social impacts.



- Implement a long-term programme for contemporary art, innovation and experimentation, with adequate working spaces and community projects in all urban districts and neighbourhoods, including public art.
- Promote in all cities and towns access to cultural rights and “the right of all to participate in cultural life”, with a particular focus on freedom of speech, the diversity of creative expressions and heritage.
- Address the tenure rights of indigenous peoples to ensure their rights and promote diverse and inclusive economic development.
- Emphasize gender equality in cultural policies and programmes with a view to recognizing, promoting and increasing the visibility and status of women’s contributions to cultural activities.

E. Strengthen cultural components in education and capacity-building programmes and strategies

- Develop cultural educational programmes that account for a variety of cultural and creative expressions, including heritage, and promote visibility of cultural activities of historically marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- Increase expertise in and awareness of sociocultural practices and principles among local and national authorities to ensure that policies safeguard and promote living cultural practices and heritage.

F. Broaden awareness and foster recognition of cultural diversity through media and technology

- Invest in basic telecommunication infrastructure to enable local media and community commentators to share local cultural heritage and community identity stories via multiple platforms, including TV, radio, print and Internet to help create a sense of community and engage a wide range of urban dwellers.
- Ensure diverse local media, including private and public broadcasters of all sizes, to promote the integration of cultural diversity and public opinion into local decision-making processes.
- Use social media to raise awareness of acute urban sociocultural issues and initiate discussions on culture-related projects and programmes, including plans for the rehabilitation/renovation of particular sites, neighbourhoods, public open spaces and cultural landscapes.

- Make ICT and digital communication accessible to artists and cultural producers, especially women, marginalized and vulnerable persons.

G. Recognize and foster the potential of migration for urban development

- Acknowledge that migration is an inevitable phenomenon, be it international, internal, voluntary or forced, and ensure that towns and cities are able to absorb additional populations in ways that are dignified and contribute to longer-term sustainable urban development.
- Ensure that towns and cities can provide a safe haven for refugees and other forcibly displaced people by providing assistance and advice to new arrivals, promoting their self-reliance and encouraging their incorporation into the community. It further requires city-level public campaigns to change negative perceptions of migrants and displaced people.
- Ensure that urban planning processes respond to changing migration patterns and take into consideration their impact on local sustainable urban development. Planning processes should also ensure that small and medium-sized urban centres are able to absorb additional migrant and displaced populations, so as to reduce the pressure on densely populated capitals and other large cities. Similarly, emergency response to large-scale migration movements should be informed by longer-term planning and sustainable development concerns.
- Enable the contribution of displaced people to local and national economies by supporting their integration into the formal labour market.
- Facilitate forcibly displaced people’s access to services and legal support through national and local policies, in collaboration with international actors where appropriate (particularly with regards to tenure and rental agreements), and provide information on rights, entitlements and available services in ways that are accessible to people from different backgrounds and languages.
- Ensure sufficient support to cities and municipalities that host forcibly displaced people (refugees, internally displaced people) by providing financial transfers that enable them to deal with additional pressure on urban services, building their capacity to respond to displacement crises and engaging them in the formulation and implementation of migration and refugee policies.
- Introduce concepts of migration and displacement into related university curricula, such as urban planning.

H. Ensure security and counter urban violence through urban policies

- Contribute to safer cities and the right to the city by improving police and security services with a view to protecting vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees, from violence and persecution.
- Recognize the contribution to local economy and public safety of street vendors and others whose livelihoods depend on access to public space and ensure that they are able to pursue their livelihoods without harassment.
- Create or strengthen social capital through the promotion of alternative business models such as cooperatives based on solidarity and collaboration.

IV. Key actors for action: enabling institutions

35. The implementation of the proposed policy recommendations not only requires the involvement of a wide range of actors but is also contingent upon the effective coordination of these actors and alignment of the work carried out at the national and local levels.

A. Central government/national authorities

- Ensure that legal frameworks are established to facilitate citizen participation and which are reflected in national and local budgets.
- Invest in towns and cities to ensure social infrastructure and cultural heritage for all.
- Establish spaces for dialogue to promote national policies, and to ensure that local governments' perspectives are heard.

B. Local government/authorities

- Strengthen the involvement of different actors in participatory processes at the local level.
- Promote safety and inclusion in towns and cities through legal frameworks that foster cultural diversity, different work practices and uses of public spaces, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women, migrants and refugees.

- Reinforce local responsibility for planning, zoning and master plans, and investment in cities.
- Strengthen alignment between local and national frameworks. This should be carried out through integrating urban design work, social and cultural programmes and initiatives within national frameworks, and ensuring that decisions on services and infrastructure at the national level are adapted to local needs and demands.
- Ensure that local government staff promote the diversity of the urban area, building on their understanding of the social dynamics, cultural heritage and creative assets of their towns and cities to support the integration social and cultural factors into planning and public life.

C. Civil society

- Relevant civil society actors and groups (NGOs, grass-roots organizations, neighbourhood groups, volunteers, faith-based organizations, community leaders, advocacy groups, unions and relevant professional associations, among others) should lead participatory processes and demand space for dialogue with local and central governments.
- Strengthen engagement with communities, develop demands, visions and proposals for the built environment, and support urban practices, inclusion, capacity-building and the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- Recognize and foster the role of local community groups in creating, activating and implementing social and cultural priorities in towns and cities. Community actors also play an active role as local mediators and to bridge gaps between local people and formal institutions and authorities.
- Drive communication on disaster risks and safety issues in towns and cities.

D. Academia

- Support the promotion of and transmission of cultural practices.
- Engage in policy design and implementation through schools of urban planning, human geography, and sociology, among others.
- Support evidence-based decision-making by providing analyses based on research and systematic studies/surveys of sociocultural processes that take place in urban areas.



E. Media

- Promote cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions.
- Leverage technology as a tool to support local communities and diverse cultural groups.
- Participate in agreements to promote diverse contents and ways of designing and using public spaces.

F. International organizations

- Strengthen policy actions for conserving cultural heritage, diversity of cultural expressions and promoting towns and cities for all (UN-Habitat, UNESCO and ILO and urban observatories).
- Ensure that work in migration and displacement is adapted to the urban context and undertaken in collaboration with local governments and civil society (UNHCR, IOM and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat).
- Support investments in cultural heritage and creative expressions (IDB, World Bank, and regional banks such as CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, among others).

G. Private sector

- Adhere to established legal frameworks for actions in towns and cities, and develop initiatives through public-private partnerships or other forms of collaboration.

V. Policy design, implementation and monitoring

36. The priority actions identified for the New Urban Agenda seek to integrate culture and cultural heritage with urban development, safeguard cultural assets, and promote cultural diversity, together with addressing voluntary and forced migration and developing strategies for their inclusion, reducing urban violence and enhancing safety for all. These actions should not only be taken forward through multi-stakeholder engagement, but also through participatory processes of design, planning, and policymaking. These are critical transformative actions that need to be institutionalized at all stages from problem identification to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and supported through education, capacity-building, and awareness-raising.
37. National and local governments should draft policy guidelines that incorporate ways to introduce and strengthen citizen participation. These processes and mechanisms (including councils, committees, forums, etc.) should be implemented and opportunities to engage should be made public. Citizenship education programmes are crucial to these efforts.
38. Effective planning and design of the built environment and social infrastructure will be crucial to mitigate segregation and exclusion and to enhance diversity in social, cultural, and economic activities. Similarly, diversity and inclusiveness in media and ICT will serve as key constituents in supporting engagement, information and dialogue.
39. Participatory monitoring mechanisms should include diverse stakeholders (including women, local minorities, marginalized groups, etc.). Progress reports should be made available to all citizens on a regular basis.
40. Nationwide implementation and systematic maintenance of “urban indicators” (such as a city liveability index) should be established, with a special focus on measures to respect cultural diversity and diverse social groups, to achieve gender equality, safer cities, and promote and safeguard culture, and the inclusion of migrants and refugees. “Urban indicators” (see Urban Indicators Guidelines; Monitoring the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals, 2004) should include:
 - (a) Percentage of gender representation in all participatory mechanisms;
 - (b) Increase/decrease of safety in cities;
 - (c) Number and type of heritage (material and non-material conservation actions undertaken);
 - (d) Indicators to assess increase of inclusive educational programmes focusing on culture, social innovation, safer cities, newcomers, migrants, refugees, and in general underprivileged groups in society;
 - (e) Number, type and quality of actions undertaken to assist migrants and refugees.
41. A broad range of social, economic, political, environmental, cultural and physical considerations must be taken into account to realize the vision of liveable cities and towns for all. The prioritizing of policy options in section III put forth principles, frameworks, and actions that promote: rigorous involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes, integration of cultural education and cultural heritage capacity-building programmes, protection of open media, communication, and development of urban

design and land use policies that include migrants, refugees and ensure open, green, flexible, safe and resilient built environments.

42. Achieving such a vision must be supported by establishing clear policy recommendations and guidelines for policy design, monitoring and evaluation. This implies a set of indicators. These indicators should aim at measuring: the management of programme and policy implementations; the identification of good practices and shared knowledge; and transparency, accountability and innovation.
43. In accordance with these priorities, the following proposed policy designs, indicators and monitoring mechanisms serve to strengthen: community participation; planning and policymaking; culture and cultural heritage policy design; media and technology; migration and disadvantaged groups; safety and counter-violence measures; policy design and financing and implementation. The table below provides guidelines for policy design and monitoring with suggested indicators (process and structural indicators).

| Category | Design | Indicators | Monitoring |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Community participation | National, regional and local authorities create policy guidelines and metrics to introduce, integrate and strengthen community participation in urban public policy development, design and implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Number of community participatory mechanisms and decision-making bodies, such as councils, committees, commissions, boards and coalitions developed and supported by authorities annually – Number of women, low-income community members, populations with disabilities and other vulnerable groups represented in participatory mechanisms and decision-making bodies – Number of public meetings, charrettes and open houses held during policy design and implementation processes – Number of community-driven collaborative processes supported by national, regional and local authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quarterly reporting on the indicators to measure progress of participatory mechanisms – Annual reports on the results yielded by indicators to ensure proper documentation and transparency – Update indicators annually to ensure relevance and consistency with community values |
| Planning and policymaking | Creation of urban and social indicators based on a city liveability index (inclusive of gender equality and safety in cities) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Number of urban liveability indices created, tailored to the local context and adopted locally by cities and towns – Number of inclusive educational programmes focusing on culture, social innovation, safer cities, newcomers, migrants, refugees and underprivileged groups as a whole – Number, type and quality of actions undertaken to assist migrant and refugee integration in cities and towns – Number of social indicators, such as health, education, crime and physical environment integrated into urban policies | Quarterly reporting on cities and towns that have adopted a liveability index |



| Category | Design | Indicators | Monitoring |
|---|---|--|--|
| Culture and cultural heritage policy design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Detailed, comprehensive inventories and mappings of cultural heritage to be undertaken with the participation of local communities to identify diverse, meaningful sites beyond buildings and protected landscapes typically listed by national and state agencies – Detailed, comprehensive inventories and mapping of intangible heritage to be undertaken with the participation of local communities to identify a diversity of practices and knowledge, and include these in all development plans for sustainable towns and cities – Increase citizen awareness (particularly youth and newcomers) and appreciation of the cultural heritage of their towns, cities and regions – Local knowledge, tangible and intangible heritage, and measures to promote creativity are to be included in all urban development plans – Enforce legislation and define substantial punitive measures to stop the wilful destruction of cultural heritage and places of cultural value, including landscapes, green areas, regardless of whether they are privately or publicly managed – Develop master/strategic urban development plans, which clearly indicate all cultural assets, including buildings, sites and landscapes, and clarify indigenous peoples' tenure rights, claims to traditionally common rights of access, etc. and enforce the protection, respect for and preservation of such cultural valuables – Evaluate accessible, decentralized and well-resourced cultural infrastructures, including museums and monuments, but also art schools, libraries, theatres and occasional sociocultural activities, such as festivals at the city and neighbourhood levels – Establish training programmes for public school teachers and community leaders to apply the plans – Establish programmes for post-disaster reconstruction that capitalize on and reinforce local practices – Stimulate public educational institutions to establish "arts and culture" education programmes. These programmes are ideally negotiated between the local communities (people, local government and civil society) and the educational authorities (local and national) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Number of cultural heritage education and capacity-building programmes developed and implemented – Regular participatory inventories and mappings of cultural heritage in cities and towns – Number of informal and formal public spaces in cities and towns – Inventories of tangible and intangible cultural heritage published and widely distributed – Number of violations concerning the destruction of cultural heritage – Number of inclusive educational programmes focusing on culture, social innovation, safer cities, newcomers, migrants, refugees and underprivileged groups as a whole – Heritage and cultural impact assessments, routinely carried out for development proposals – Access to all types of cultural activities (such as museums, theatre, festivals) is to be improved by drastically reducing the price of events (certainly those subsidized by public funding), so as to encourage participation among low/no income groups – Number of development projects designed to enhance the cultural life of the city | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annual land-use and development report to include the growth or decline of cultural heritage sites – Inventories are to be regularly updated and their distribution evaluated – Monitor increase in percentage of low/no income groups that participate in cultural activities – Monitor the impact of tourism on cultural heritage in order to ensure its sustainability by preventing the destruction of the cultural assets of towns and cities through their excessive use or commodification |

| Category | Design | Indicators | Monitoring |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Media and technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support the promotion of local media (TV stations, community radio, local press, Internet), which create a real “local meaning” for citizens – Stimulate the openness and independency of local media so as to maintain a diversity of sources of information and opinions – Establish control measures to guarantee that such local media reflect and analyse urban processes in a professional and relevant manner – Encouragement of diversity by local governments through private and public broadcasters, while ensuring that the voice of small broadcasters reaches all citizens – These plans are to be developed for short-term decisions as well as for long-term planning. Moreover, such plans include a long-term programme for contemporary art, innovation and experimentation, with adequate spaces/antennas in all urban districts and neighbourhoods. In addition, it will include open source and Internet provided by local governments – Freedom of expression, of press and access to information of public decisions are to be legally enforced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annually reported and recorded access to and increased use of social media, particularly by underprivileged groups – Number and diversity of active local community media outlets – Assess the accessibility of social media, and innovative technologies in libraries, community centres, social restaurants in particular – Assess the increase of social innovation activities, particularly those accessible to young people, small enterprises, artists and underprivileged groups – Distribution of resilience and preventive plans and dissemination of information on such plans through various media – Increase in the number of training programmes and learning processes, and updating of information – Number of schools, households, etc. that have been actively informed of such plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assess participation of local media in development of benchmarks and indicators of cultural heritage and knowledge-sharing policies on annual basis – Local governments have published plans with clear urban cultural dimensions (detailing support to arts, to heritage and to various cultural activities) integrated in overall development plans. The plans will include how local media are proactive and employ new technologies to embrace and propel local cultures into the public sphere of a city and to reach and engage with a wide variety of citizens. Regularly monitor the increased use and access, particularly by elderly people, disadvantaged groups, newcomers and otherwise often “forgotten” social groups – Independent local media, not controlled by governments – Monitor freedom of expression and press, and access to public decision-making information – Establish ombudsman/mediating service if violations or monitoring do not yield sufficient results |

| Category | Design | Indicators | Monitoring |
|--|--|--|---|
| Migrants, refugees, displaced persons and disadvantaged groups | Preparation of legal framework, institutional set-up and guidelines by countries and local governments/municipalities for improved assistance to migrants, refugees/ displaced persons and disadvantaged groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Number of legal frameworks/institutional frameworks and guidelines in place and operational – Publish budget and other assistance for the hosting of internally displaced people/refugees that municipalities receive (financial support and necessary facilities) from the State – Publish institutional set-up and support programmes for migrants and refugees annually, and show the percentage increase – Publish percentage of migrant and refugee unemployment and compare it to the total average in the town and city – Assess number of refugees/migrants living in informal areas/structures – Evaluate access to utility provisions: drinking water, sewer system, gas/heating, electricity, etc. of the migrant/refugee population – Measure percentage of refugees/migrants with access to accessible education and health-care facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assess and monitor cultural policies and programmes for their inclusiveness, taking into account the promotion of gender equality – Prioritize strategies to place the issue of gender equality at the centre of cultural policies, with a view to recognizing, promoting and increasing the visibility and status of women's contributions to cultural activities. Monitor the number of youth and disadvantaged groups that take part in cultural activities and develop measures to improve their participation – Refugees and migrants enjoy the same rights of employment and income as the average mainstream population – Refugees and migrants live in acceptable conditions, not separated/ isolated from the main population, have sufficient utilities, basic social services – Update educational programmes at all levels to include issues on migration, displacement, refugees, etc. in curricula, and increase such issues particularly for all civil servants, academics, professionals and practitioners likely to have to deal with these groups |
| Safety and violence prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepare resilience and preventive plans to cope with natural and man-made disasters – Establish programmes post-disaster reconstruction practices that capitalize on and reinforce local practices (traditional and newly locally developed) – Safer cities measures are adopted and integrated in all future urban planning efforts. These include resilience, disaster prevention and mitigation, safer public places, police and community vigilance, promoting reporting on violence, particularly as related to women, children and in general to underprivileged groups – Establishment of accurate database on various types of crimes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Distribution of resilience and preventive plans and dissemination of information on such plans through various media – Number of training programmes and learning processes specifically on resilience and disaster prevention – Type and places of crimes are recorded and regularly published – Percentage of the police and security force trained in human rights showing year-to-year improvements – Human rights section included in code of conducts of policy and security forces – Percentage reduction in reports on violence and/or deaths showing year-to-year improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitor application and updating of all resilience and disaster prevention plans – Monitor creation of human rights chapters; number of reported torture and/or deaths and number of training courses implemented at police and military academies – Make reporting of crimes an easy and accessible tool to monitor evolution |

| Category | Design | Indicators | Monitoring |
|---|--|---|--|
| Policy design, financing and implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments to include minimum 3 per cent of budget to arts and cultural activities, with publicly clear and transparent information, and accountable monitoring undertaken by non-political and independent assessments within local civil society Inclusion of stringent measures to respect and protect cultural heritage by all public tendering and disbursement of public funds Land speculation by public authorities and private developers is discouraged so as to control prices of land and rent, with a view to increasing accessibility to basic infrastructure and services for underprivileged people in urban areas Highly encourage corporate social responsibility and promote various types of social innovation, particularly focusing on initiatives by starters, by not-exclusively-for-profit enterprises, by newcomers, and by more sustainable resource-conserving modes of production/distribution/reuse Provide financial support to towns and cities that welcome refugees and internally displaced people with additional basic services Solicit sponsorship and assistance from the private business community to support programmes for refugees and internally displaced people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish public budget spent on arts, creative activities, etc. and the methods of distribution Include efforts to annually increase budget for social and culture-related activities Publish private contribution and sponsoring on arts and creative activities, and their yearly increase Take stock of and widely publish the variety of new socioeconomic initiatives (month-by-month inventory) Rent and sales are regularly checked for whether they match with inflation, and excessive increases are indicated and questioned/investigated Land prices, prices of property sales and rent are regularly published Publish budgets specifically allocated to host refugees and internally displaced people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor all public tendering to include all the above as stringent assessment criteria Monitor efficiency of (micro)financing Control all public spending so as to guarantee the effective increase and outreach of social and cultural activities, both formal and informal. Such effectiveness is not to be based primarily on economic efficiency but rather on creativity, multiplication effect and outreach to disadvantaged groups Monitor the number of refugees and internally displaced people, and the budget spent on welcoming the groups and monitor changes In numbers and in basic services provided |



VI. Conclusions

44. The New Urban Agenda is an opportunity to shape socially, culturally, economically and politically inclusive cities. Moving forward from past views of cities as problems, cities should be considered as dynamic spatial configurations that provide opportunities for everyone to engage in shaping them and in achieving their aspirations. We emphasize the need to recognize both tangible and intangible heritage as part of the “layering” of cities and urban forms, meanings, and identities. At the same time, contemporary, creative and forward-looking, innovative approaches are necessary to better integrate culture with sustainable development. The New Urban Agenda presents an opportunity to consistently and systematically develop planning, design, and policymaking processes that will lead to inclusive, people-centred and culturally sensitive urban development paradigms.
45. Therefore, the planning and design of cities and their urban policies must:
 - (a) Promote people-centred cities:
 - (i) Empower and enable different social groups to overcome systemic and institutional inequalities and vulnerabilities to render all citizens active agents and participants of urban life;
 - (ii) Catalyse culture-based activities and cultural diversity to boost social interaction and community engagement in place making;
 - (iii) Humanize cities through culture to enhance their liveability and empower people to connect with their communities and shape their urban environments;
 - (iv) Foster cultural liveliness, which makes cities and urban spaces meaningful to people, enhancing social interaction and liveability. In turn, cities that are rich in social infrastructure and public spaces nourish cultural production and consumption.
 - (b) Target poverty alleviation:
 - (i) Safeguard and nurture culture-based livelihoods both traditional and contemporary;
 - (ii) Help alleviate poverty and managing economic transitions by enhancing the cultural assets and human potential of cities;
 - (iii) Support the diversity of formal and informal economic activities, social interactions, cultural forms and practices, governance mechanisms, spatial arrangements, housing solutions, and infrastructural services.
 - (c) Foster safe and inclusive cities:
 - (i) Ensure safe and secure environment in cities so that everyone, including women, marginalized, vulnerable, and displaced people, can live, work, and participate in the urban life of cities without fear of violence and intimidation;
 - (ii) Build on the diversity of culture and heritage to foster peace and intercultural dialogue, and counter urban violence.
 - (d) Develop sustainable built environments:
 - (i) Nurture and promote cultural diversity and creativity in identity, expressions, built environment, urban development, regeneration, and adaptive reuse;
 - (ii) Ensure access to basic infrastructure and affordable housing for all urban dwellers, including the poor, women, youth, elderly, the disabled, marginalized and vulnerable communities such as migrants, in order to enable cultural diversity so people can be active cultural producers and consumers;
 - (iii) Help create mixed-use inclusive public spaces, both formally designated and designed as well as those that become informal public spaces that provide necessary opportunities for social integration and culture-based activities. A variety of public places are necessary in cities to enhance liveability and to leverage culture and creativity to foster social cohesion and participation in urban decision-making.
 - (e) Encourage inclusive policies and urban governance:
 - (i) Ensure that statutory and legal provisions are introduced and implemented on a human rights-based approach to enable socially inclusive and culturally vibrant cities;

- (ii) Strengthen commitment to relevant United Nations resolutions;
- (iii) Improve urban governance by enabling and strengthening participation and engagement of all groups of residents in decision-making processes, from identifying challenges and potentials to evaluating and monitoring interventions;
- (iv) Promote investment in social and cultural infrastructure at various scales that promote social interactions and safeguards tangible and intangible cultural heritage and creative practices.

46. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Goal 11 on sustainable cities and target 11.4, the New Urban Agenda should integrate the aforementioned policy recommendations to harness the power of sociocultural frameworks for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.



POLICY PAPER 2
ANNEXES

Annex I

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POLICY PAPER 2
APPENDIXES

Appendix A. Policy Units selection process and criteria



1

HABITAT III POLICY UNITS SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the preparations towards Habitat III, a total of ten Policy Papers on relevant topics will be developed by Policy Units (each Policy Unit will develop one Policy Paper) composed of 20 experts each, coming from different geographic areas and constituencies. The main objectives of this will be:

- // To bring together high-level expertise to explore state-of-the-art research and analysis on specific themes;
- // To identify good practices and lessons learned; and
- // To develop policy recommendations on particular issues regarding sustainable urban development.

The ten Policy Units will focus respectively on the following ten topics:

1. Right to the City, and Cities for All;
2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework;
3. National Urban Policies;
4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development;
5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems;
6. Urban Spatial Strategy: Land Market and Segregation;
7. Urban Economic Development Strategy;
8. Urban Ecology and Resilience;
9. Urban Services and Technology; and
10. Housing Policies.

IDENTIFICATION OF EXPERTS

The process to identify experts for the composition of ten Policy Units will include the following steps:

1. Request to Member States to officially propose, to the Secretary-General of the Conference, suitable experts to be part of specific Policy Units.





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To this aim, a letter was sent on 8 May 2015 to all Member States.

2. Request to accredited stakeholders to officially propose, to the Secretary-General of the Conference, suitable experts to be part of specific Policy Units.

To this aim a letter to all ECOSOC, Habitat II, and specially accredited organizations will be sent.

In addition to the accredited organizations, the Habitat III Secretariat in consultation with Bureau Members may invite other international organizations, recognized for their contributions to specific Policy Units' topics, to propose suitable experts. The Habitat III Secretariat is not limiting the number of nominated experts.

3. The Habitat III Secretariat will also request the UN Task Team, building on the work done for the preparation of Issue Papers, to propose suitable experts to be part of specific Policy Units.

[See Terms of Reference for Experts]

CRITERIA OF SELECTION

Based on the proposals received, the Secretary General will appoint 20 experts for each Policy Unit. The selection, conducted in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, will be based on the following criteria:

// DEMONSTRABLE COMPETENCE

The candidate should be able to demonstrate a highly recognized competency at the level of work experience and production of research/studies on subjects directly related to the topic of the Policy Unit. To this aim, research and publications issued on the topics, relevant work experience, and participation and engagement in other intergovernmental processes and/or global development frameworks will be considered and evaluated.

// GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE

The selection will strive to ensure a fair balance on the geographic origin of the experts in order for all five geographic regions to be fairly represented in each unit.

// GENDER BALANCE

Whenever possible and depending on the availability of suitable candidates, the selection will ensure that male and female are equally represented in all the units.





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In addition to the above, careful considerations will be made, as relevant, on ensuring the diversity of approaches and sub-thematic focuses. When necessary, other mechanisms such as interviews could be carried out during the selection process.

The selection will be nominative based on the above criteria.

As part of the nominations, the Habitat III Secretariat is expecting to receive the CVs of experts.

CO-LEAD ORGANIZATIONS

Each Policy Unit will be co-led by two organizations appointed by the Secretary-General of the Conference. The organizations willing to co-lead a Policy Unit will be selected in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, based on the following criteria:

- // International scope of the organization and high level demonstrable recognition in the subject area and/or specific topic of the Policy Unit;
- // Priority will be given to international organizations that can demonstrate participation and engagement in other intergovernmental processes and/or global development frameworks; and
- // Diversity in their constituent groups.

[See Terms of Reference for Co-lead organizations]

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The cost of the Policy Units has been calculated in approximately 2.5 Million USD, including travel for two meetings (and one virtual meeting), the Habitat III Secretariat support and travel, the documentation, publication of documents, translation in six official UN languages, and the technical support for the open consultations. Each Policy Unit would cost 250,000 USD. Member States and other potential donors are being approached for contributing to the Habitat III Trust Fund.



Appendix B. Terms of reference for co-lead organizations



HABITAT III POLICY UNITS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CO-LEAD ORGANIZATIONS

Each Policy Unit will be co-led by two organizations appointed by the Secretary-General of the Conference, upon selection by the Secretary-General of the Conference in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III.

Organizations should be nominated to co-lead Policy Units based on the following criteria:

- // International scope of the organization, and high level demonstrable recognition in the subject area and/or specific topic of the Policy Unit;
- // Participation and engagement in other intergovernmental processes and/or global development frameworks;
- // Diversity in their constituent groups; and
- // Geographical balance.

Policy Unit co-leaders can be nominated by Member States, stakeholders recognized by the UNECOSOC, and Habitat II accreditations, and specially accredited organizations.

Based on the proposals received, the Secretary-General will appoint 20 organizations to co-lead ten Policy Units.

STARTING DATE: September 2015

CLOSING DATE: 29 February 2016 (involvement until the end of the Habitat III process might be requested at the later stage)

DUTIES AND RESPONSABILITIES OF CO-LEADERS

In close collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat:

- Coordinate contribution on substantive documents prepared by selected Policy Unit experts;
- Coordinate preparation of a detailed structure of the draft Policy Papers;
- Support analysis of the available data, including available statistics, information available in Habitat III Issue Papers, outcomes from official Regional and Thematic Meetings, etc.
- Support presentation of the structure and the preliminary contents and messages of the Policy Papers at Expert Group Meetings;
- Coordinate meetings organized online; and





- Submit draft and final deliverables of respective Policy Units to the Secretary-General of the Conference.

BENEFITS AND EXPENSES

The work of co-lead organizations is on voluntarily basis. The Habitat III Trust Fund will cover travel expenses and associated daily allowances for the two planned Expert Group Meetings.

The working language will be English.

CALENDAR

- September 2015: work of experts starts. Introduction, orientation kit, background documents, strategic framework for each Policy Unit, decisions on each group on calendar of Expert Group Meetings, operational arrangements, etc.
- October 2015: first Expert Group Meeting
- November 2015: second Expert Group Meeting
- December 2015: first draft of the ten Policy Papers (as established by PrepCom2)
- January 2016: written comments by Member States and stakeholders submission period
- February 2016: final presentation of the ten Policy Papers
- Virtual meetings may take place within the period of work of the Policy Unit





Appendix C. Terms of reference for Policy Unit experts



HABITAT III POLICY UNITS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXPERTS

Organizational setting

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in October 2016. In resolution 66/207 and in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996, and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Habitat III Conference to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of the "New Urban Agenda", building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996.

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcome document.

The Conference is addressed to all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society organizations, regional and local government and municipality representatives, professionals and researchers, academia, foundations, women and youth groups, trade unions, and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

1

Habitat III will be one of the first UN global summits after the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns, and villages are planned and managed, in order to fulfill their role as drivers of sustainable development, and hence shape the implementation of a new global development agenda and climate change goals.

Policy Units

As part of the preparatory process for Habitat III, several initiatives are being developed in order to serve as technical inputs for the preparation of the outcome document, including the Policy Units. Each out of ten Policy Units will be composed of 20 technical experts working in academia, government, civil society, and regional and international bodies, among other fields.

Policy Units are intended to identify challenges, policy priorities, and critical issues as well as the development of action-oriented recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The issues discussed by each Policy Unit, and the ten Policy Papers prepared, will serve as technical inputs for Member States' consideration in the preparation of the outcome document of the Conference.





The main objectives of the Policy Units are:

- // To bring together high-level expertise to explore state-of-the-art research and analysis on specific themes;
- // To identify good practices and lessons learned; and
- // To develop policy recommendations on particular issues regarding sustainable urban development.

The ten Policy Units will focus respectively on the following ten topics:

1. Right to the City, and Cities for All;
2. Socio-Cultural Urban Framework;
3. National Urban Policies;
4. Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development;
5. Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems;
6. Urban Spatial Strategy: Land Market and Segregation;
7. Urban Economic Development Strategy;
8. Urban Ecology and Resilience;
9. Urban Services and Technology; and
10. Housing Policies.

2

The Policy Unit co-leaders

Each Policy Unit is co-led by two organizations appointed by the Secretary-General of the Conference, upon selection by the Secretary-General in close consultation with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III.

In close collaboration with the Habitat III Secretariat, the Policy Units co-leaders:

- Coordinate contribution on substantive documents prepared by selected Policy Unit experts;
- Coordinate preparation of a detailed structure of the draft Policy Papers;
- Support analysis of the available data, including available statistics, information available in Habitat III Issue Papers, outcomes from official Regional and Thematic Meetings, etc.
- Support presentation of the structure and the preliminary contents and messages of the Policy Papers at Expert Group Meetings;
- Coordinate meetings organized online; and
- Submit draft and final deliverables of respective Policy Units to the Secretary-General of the Conference.





The Habitat III Secretariat

The Habitat III Secretariat is the main focal point for the Policy Unit experts and works closely with the Policy Unit co-leaders in ensuring the coordination of the elaboration of the Policy Papers.

The Policy Unit experts

Selected experts will be home-based.

Starting date: 1 September 2015

Closing date: 29 February 2016 (involvement until the end of the Habitat III process might be requested at the later stage) Duties and responsibilities:

- Contribute to reviewing substantive documents prepared for the Post-2015 process, and other relevant intergovernmental conferences;
- Support the analysis of the available data, including available statistics, information available in Habitat III Issue Papers, outcomes from official Regional and Thematic Meetings, etc.;
- Support preparation of the structure and the preliminary contents and messages of the Policy Papers at the first and second Expert Group Meetings (EGM1 and EGM2);
- Participate in the meeting organized online and other virtual exchanges;
- Advise on incorporating proposed changes into the draft Policy Papers, harmonize Policy Papers, and submit to the Habitat III Secretariat.

3

Benefits and expenses:

The work of experts is on voluntarily basis. The Habitat III Trust Fund will cover travel expenses and associated daily allowances for the two planned expert group meetings.



The working language will be English.



Calendar:

- September 2015: work of experts starts. Introduction, orientation kit, background documents, strategic framework for each Policy Unit, decisions on each group on calendar of expert group meetings, operational arrangement, etc.
- October 2015: first Expert Group Meeting
- November 2015: second Expert Group Meeting
- December 2015: first draft of the ten Policy Papers (as established by PrepCom2)
- January 2016: written comments by Member States and stakeholders submission period
- February 2016: final presentation of the ten Policy Papers
- Virtual meetings may take place within the period of work of the Policy Unit





Appendix D. Policy Paper Framework template

|   HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Expected Accomplishment | Activities | Scope | Outcome |
| 1. Challenges | Identify challenges, including structural and policy constraints | Review of the Habitat III Issue Papers | Local level, national level, stakeholders ... Other specificities: type of country (small island, landlocked...), type of city (intermediate, megalopolis...), specific area (tropical zone, subregion...) | Problem definition is established after an analysis and assessment of the state and trends regarding the issues of the specific policy unit. |
| | | Review/ analysis of key publications/documents | | |
| | | Identification of examples/projects/practices | | |
| | | Identify research and data | | |
| 2. Priorities | Identify the policy priorities and critical issues for the implementation of a New Urban Agenda | Establish a criteria for identifying policy priorities | Local level, national level, stakeholders ... Other specificities: type of country (small island, landlocked...), type of city (intermediate, megalopolis...), specific area (tropical zone, subregion...) | Policy options are established and a criteria to prioritize them in terms of impact and transformation is created |
| | | Define key transformations to achieve by policy priorities | | |
| | | Identify conditions or external factors favourable for the success of the policy priorities | | |
| | | Create targets for those policy priorities | | |
| 3. Implementation | Develop action-oriented recommendations | Identify key actions at all levels of implementation | Local level, national level, stakeholders ... Other specificities: type of country (small island, landlocked...), type of city (intermediate, megalopolis...), specific area (tropical zone, subregion...) | Policy design, implementation and monitoring |
| | | Analyse financial resources required and instruments for their sustainability | | |
| | | Establish indicators of successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation | | |
| | | Analyse linkages with the Agenda 2030 | | |

|   HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK (CHALLENGES) | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Expected Accomplishment | Activities | Outputs |
| 1. Challenges | 1.1. Identify challenges, including structural and policy constraints | a. Review of the Habitat III Issue Papers | a.1. Main recommendations to take into account from the issue paper |
| | | | a.2. Disagreements/controversy |
| | | b. Review/ analysis of key publications/documents | b.1. Bibliography / Key documents |
| | | c. Identification of examples/projects/practices | c.1. List of examples/projects/practices |
| | | d. Identify research and data | d.1. SDGs targets and indicators related |
| | | | d.2. List of other indicators to be taken into account |

|   HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK (PRIORITIES) | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| | Expected Accomplishment | Activities | Outputs |
| 2. Priorities | 2.1. Identify the policy priorities and critical issues for the implementation of a New Urban Agenda | a. Establish a criteria for identifying policy priorities | a.1. List of criteria |
| | | b. Define key transformations to achieve by policy priorities | b.1. List of key transformations |
| | | c. Identify conditions or external factors favourable for the success of the policy priorities | c.1. List of external factors |
| | | d. Create targets for those policy priorities | d.1. List of targets |



|   HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK (IMPLEMENTATION) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Expected Accomplishment | Activities | Outputs |
| 3. Implementation | 3.1. Develop action-oriented recommendations | a. Identify key actions at all levels of implementation | a.1. Key actions |
| | | b. Analyse financial resources required and instruments for their sustainability | b.1. Financial resources |
| | | c. Establish indicators of successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation | c.1. Indicators of success c.2. Monitoring mechanisms c.3. Linkages with the Agenda 2030 |

Appendix E. Policy Paper template



United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Policy Paper Template

25 pages [Calibri (Body)/ font 11]

Executive Summary:

This section summarizes the key issues, contents, objectives, and strategic directions covered by the respective Policy Units. [2 pages]

1. Vision and Framework of the Policy Paper's Contribution to the New Urban Agenda

This section provides guiding principles, global norms, and frameworks (e.g. SDGs) that link to the New Urban Agenda. [2 pages]

2. Policy Challenges

This section discusses key policy issues and challenges and also provides analyses and assessments of the states and trends of the thematic areas covered. [4 pages]

3. Prioritizing Policy Options – Transformative Actions for the New Urban Agenda

This section identifies policy priorities and critical recommendations for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, criteria for the policy priorities, and targets. [5 pages]

4. Key Actors for Actions – Enabling Institutions

This section identifies key actors such as central and local governments, academia, civil society organizations, private sector and social movements, and others to transform policy priorities to actions that will contribute to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda. [5 pages]

5. Policy Design, Implementation, and Monitoring

This section addresses operational means to implement policy recommendations, including possible financing options and monitoring instruments. It discusses analysis of linkages with the 2030 Agenda. [5 pages]

6. Conclusion

This section summarizes the key messages, highlighting the new opportunities for action in realizing the New Urban Agenda. [2 pages]

Annexes:

Policy Paper Framework

Other annexes to be considered such as case studies





Appendix F. Web links to Policy Unit 2 background documents

Policy Paper 2 Framework

<http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/PU2-HABITAT-III-POLICY-PAPER-FRAMEWORK.pdf>

Comments received by Member States to the Policy Paper 2 Framework

<http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/preparatory-process/policy-units/>

Argentina
Brazil
Colombia
Ecuador
European Union and Member States
Finland
Germany
Japan
Mexico
Netherlands (the)
Norway
United States of America (the)

Comments received by stakeholders' organizations to the Policy Paper 2 Framework

<http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/preparatory-process/policy-units/>

Habitat International Coalition
HelpAge International
International Council for Science
TECHO
World Resources Institute





United Nations

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