

# THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND CITIES FOR ALL



HABITAT III POLICY PAPERS





POLICY PAPER 1:  
**THE RIGHT TO  
THE CITY AND  
CITIES FOR ALL**

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The Habitat III Policy Units and Papers were coordinated by the Habitat III Secretariat. The work was led by the team comprised of Ana B. Moreno, Wataru Kawasaki, Irwin Gabriel Lopez, Laura Bullon-Cassis, and Dennis Mwamati. Gratitude should also be expressed to the rest of the Habitat III Secretariat, 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-lead organizations who provided their insight, expertise, and time to develop the ten Policy Papers. I especially thank ActionAid and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America as Policy Unit 1 co-leaders for their stewardship in coordinating inputs from policy experts and finalizing the Policy Paper on the Right to the City and Cities for All.

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.

**Dr. Joan Clos**

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

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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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| ACHR       | Asian Coalition for Housing Rights  |
| ARC-PEACE  | International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility           |
| ASF        | Architecture sans frontières  |
| CES        | Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra                          |
| CICSA      | Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur Argentina                            |
| CISDP      | Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG |
| CMM        | Montreal Metropolitan Community   |
| CODI       | Community Organizations Development Institute                                   |
| DALO       | Droit au Logement Opposable (enforceable right to housing)                      |
| DPU        | Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College London             |
| GIS/RS     | Geospatial information system and the remote sensing                            |
| HIC        | Habitat International Coalition   |
| IAGU       | Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine of Senegal                                 |
| IDB        | Inter-American Development Bank   |
| IEMS       | Informal Economy Monitoring Study   |
| ILEG       | Institute for Law and Environmental Governance                                  |
| INU        | National Institute of Urban Planning of Italy                                   |
| KRIHS      | Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements                                  |
| LSE        | London School of Economics  |
| MERA       | Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority  |
| NGO        | Non-governmental organization   |
| OECD       | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development                           |
| OHCHR      | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights                 |
| UCLG       | United Cities and Local Governments   |
| UIM        | Iberoamerican Union of Municipalists  |
| UITP       | Union Internationale des Transports Publics                                     |
| UNESCO     | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization                |
| 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                               |
| WHO        | World Health Organization   |
| WIEGO      | Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing                        |



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# 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 report<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.226/PC.1/4

FIGURE 1. HABITAT III STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

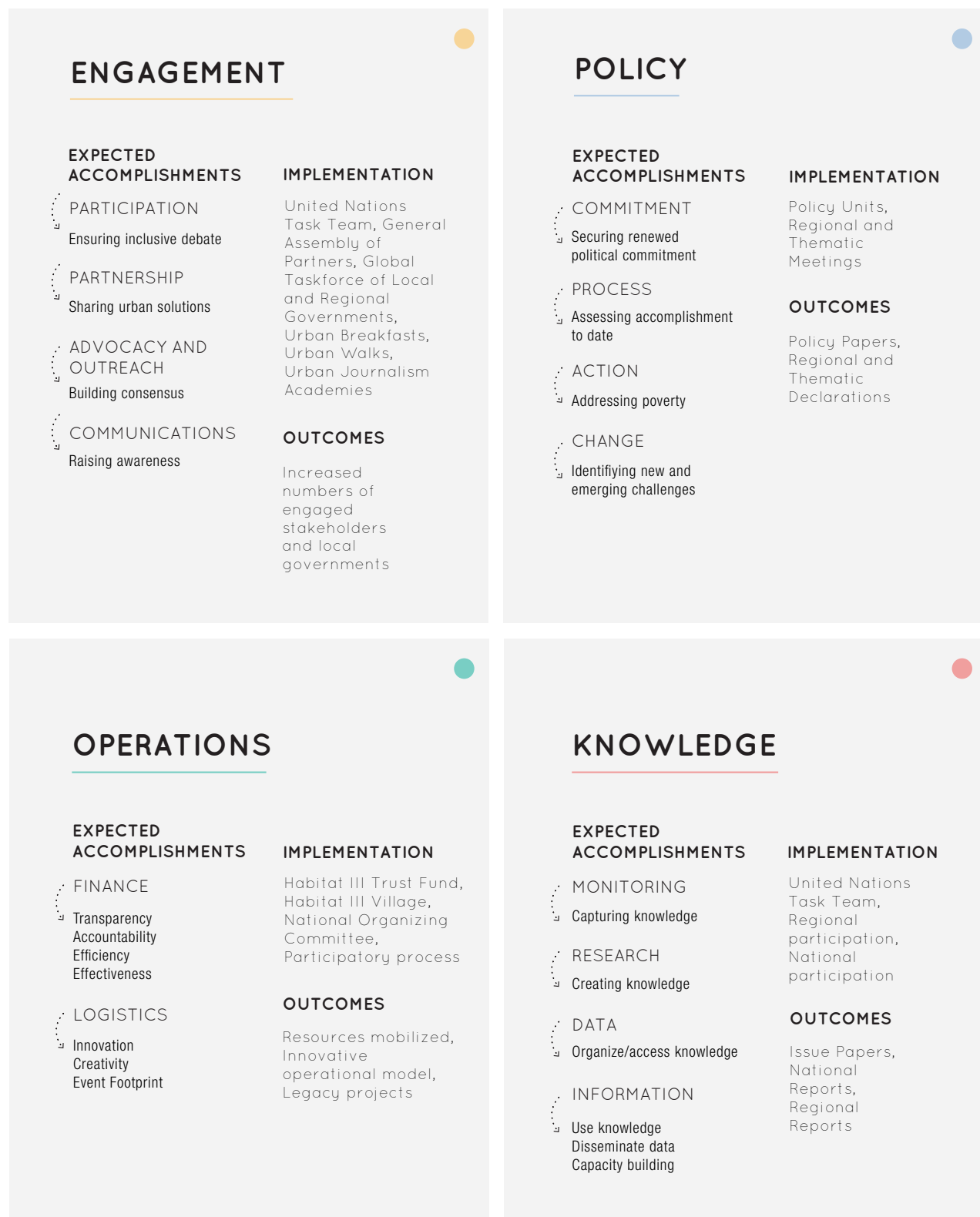





FIGURE 2. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE HABITAT III POLICY AREA



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

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.

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



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 Habitat III 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

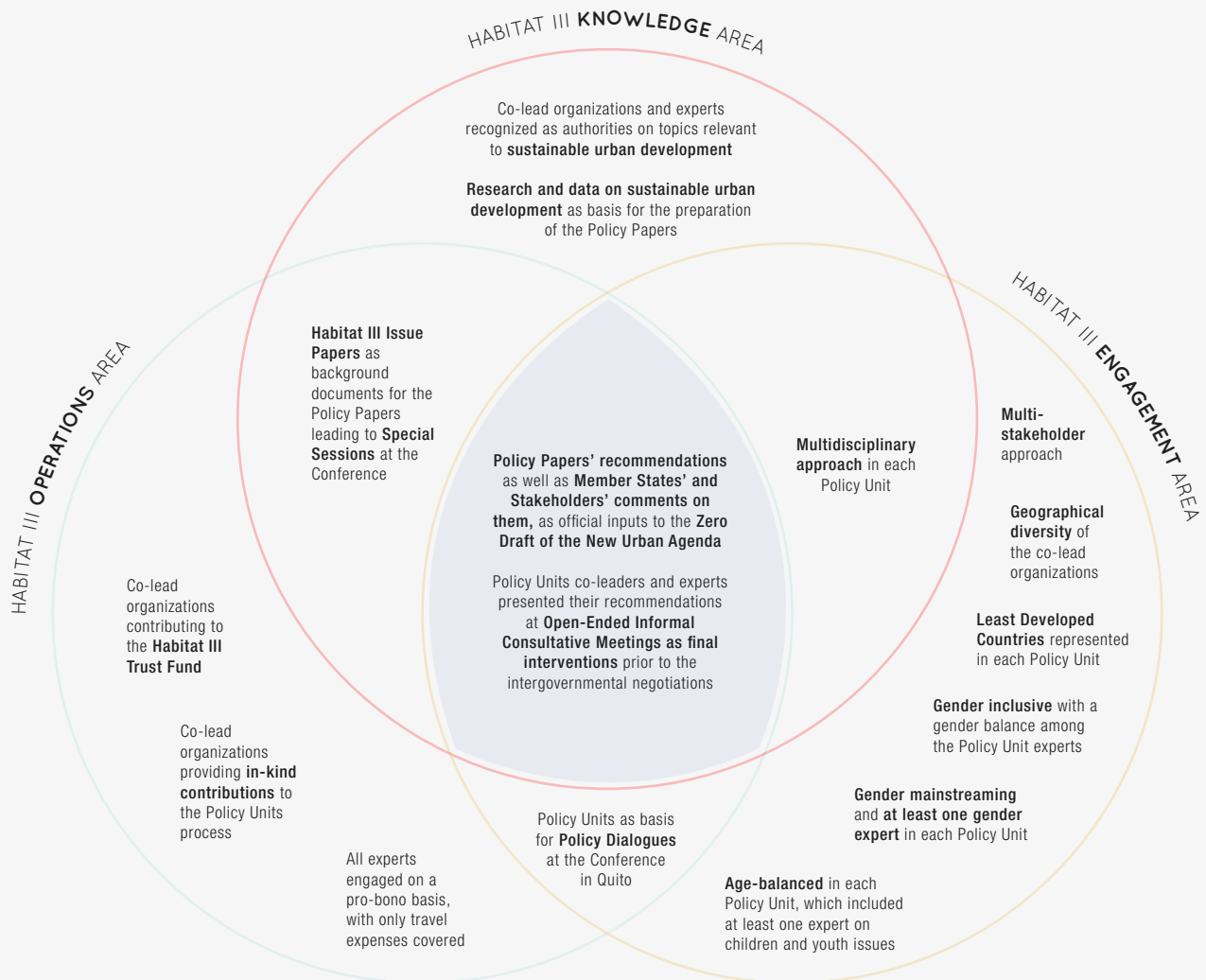
Policy was one of the four conceptualized areas, along with knowledge, engagement, and operations, in the Habitat III strategic framework, which laid out the efforts necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the Habitat III Conference and its preparatory process.

The Policy Area, composed of Policy Units and Regional and Thematic Meetings (see Figure 1), 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 1 on the Right to the City and Cities for All

### Co-Lead Organizations

#### **ACTIONAID**

ActionAid is an international non-governmental organization whose aim is to further human rights for all and defeat poverty and social injustice worldwide. It was founded in 1972 and works with local partners in over 45 countries, helping over 15 million impoverished and disadvantaged people across the world. Its head office is located in South Africa with hubs in Asia, the Americas, and Europe.

[www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

#### **CAF-DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA**

CAF-Development Bank of Latin America is a development bank created in 1970, made up by 19 countries - 17 of Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal- as well as 14 private banks in the region. It promotes a sustainable development model through credit operations, non-reimbursable resources, and support in the technical and financial structuring of projects in the public and private sectors of Latin America.

[www.caf.com](http://www.caf.com)

## Co-leaders<sup>1</sup>

### ACTIONAID

#### **Marcelo Montenegro Guimarães**

*Safe Cities for Women Campaign Manager, Brazil*

Mr. Marcelo Montenegro Guimarães is a lawyer by profession and an activist from Brazil who has been engaged with youth movements from an early age. Mr. Guimarães then joined ActionAid Brazil in 2006 as a policy and campaigns officer. Mr. Guimarães was involved in a range of campaigns, especially with the HungerFREE Campaign which had, as one of its main accomplishments, the inclusion of the right to food as a fundamental right in Brazil's Federal Constitution. Mr. Guimarães subsequently have been working with different movements and grassroots and civil society organizations and networks, helping to implement different campaign and policy actions across different areas including urban governance, women's rights, food rights, agroecology, and climate change. Since 2013, Mr. Guimarães has been in the national coordination of ActionAid Safe Cities for Women campaign, engaging with local and feminist organizations and with the National Forum for Urban Reform (a network that gathers the main urban movements in Brazil together with different NGOs and local organizations) to demand action towards the end of violence against women in public spaces and services, and to promote women's right to the city. In 2015, Mr. Guimarães became the international manager of the Safe Cities for Women campaign, which involves more than 17 countries. Mr. Guimarães represents ActionAid in the Global Platform for the Right to the City, an international coalition that is actively engaged with the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda. at III process, he represented ActionAid as co-leader of the Policy Unit 1 on the Right to the City and Cities for all.

#### **Sandeep Chachra**

*Centre for Informal sector and Labour Studies, School Social Sciences, Jawahar Lal Nehru University*

Mr. Chachra is currently a social anthropologist by training, who has worked in many capacities with ActionAid India and ActionAid International as well as other development organizations over the past two decades to answer his call of living and working with the most marginalized communities. Mr. Chachra is an active part of a collective for developing the global platform on Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance, and the South-South People's Solidarity Forum. He has been involved with the work of peasant movements in Asia and Africa, and has been a supporter of developing social movement platforms. He is an active member of international Development Economics Associates and the World Forum of Alternatives Council. Mr. Chachra is the Executive Director of ActionAid India is the Managing Editor of *Agrarian south: Journal of Political Economy*, which seeks to address current challenges such as food, energy, climate, and economic crises. Mr. Chachra is also an active member of International Development Economics Associates and world Forum of Alternatives Council, Mr. Chachra volunteers as National Advisor on Homelessness and Urban Poverty. is also currently working on developing the South Asia processes for the World Forum of Alternatives.

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



## CAF-DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA

### **Hely Olivares**

*Principal Executive at the Vice-presidency of Social Development, CAF-Development Bank of Latin America*

Mr. Hely Olivares is a Principal Executive at the Vice- Presidency of Social Development of CAF. In his current role, Mr. Olivares has coordinated activities associated with CAF's Cities with a Future Program and others specifically in the areas of urban development, public sector governance, citizens' security, and youth programs. Prior to joining CAF, Mr. Olivares held several positions in the private and public sectors, which required him to serve as an in-house consultant on topics of analysis that include political risk, intelligence gathering, and economic development. Among them, Mr. Olivares worked in Washington, D.C. for the Organization of American States and held a number of other positions in Texas and Virginia working on political elections and international business. Mr. Olivares is a graduate in Economics and Latin American Studies of the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Olivares also holds a master's in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where he was awarded the merit-based Dean Carne-sale Fellowship.

## Experts of Policy Unit 1 on the Right to the City and Cities for All

### **Delia Brenda Acosta**

*Professor, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad de Juárez*

Ms. Acosta is a psychologist who has participated in the development of the social, economic, and cultural diagnosis of local environments for the design of interventions and prevention of violence in the northern region of Mexico.

### **Anna Badyna**

*Research Fellow, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham*

Ms. Badyna holds an MSc in the Built Environment from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and a Doctorate in Human Geography from the University of Oxford. Ms. Badyna previously worked professionally in the development industry. Her research lies at the interface between human geography, sociology, and urban and housing studies. Ms. Badyna was also visiting research fellow, Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Research Assistant on Gender, Ethnicity, Migration and Service Employment, University of Oxford, Property Developer, Barkli Corporation, Moscow, and Head of the Department for Property Cadastre, Federal Cadastral Chamber for the Khabarovsk Region.

### **Allison Brown**

*Professor of Urban Planning and International Development, Cardiff University*

Ms. Brown is an urban planner and development policy expert with 30 years of international experience in academia and professional practice, with research and PhD supervision expertise in urban informal economies and sustainable urban development, and consultancy experience in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Her international consultancy included ten years working on World Bank and national development projects in the Middle East followed by academic research in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Ms. Brown is also the Director for the master's programme in International Planning and Development and the planning advisor to the global advocacy group WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing).

### **Somsook Boonyabancha**

*Secretary-General, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)*

Ms. Boonyabancha graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and from the Housing and Urbanization Course in Copenhagen, Denmark. Formerly, Ms. Boonyabancha was the Director of the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) in Thailand and has worked on housing development for the urban poor and slum upgrading in Thailand and other Asian countries for the past 30 years.

### **Emilio de la Cerda**

*Director, School of Architecture, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*

Ms. Cerda was an architect until 2014 and is now the Executive Secretary of the National Heritage of Chile. Mr. Cerda is the co-creator of the Quinta Monroy housing project in Iquique, and holds a master's degree from the Catholic University of Chile. Ms. Cerda was also General Secretary of the National Council of Monuments of Chile from 2011 to 2014 and Director of the School of Architecture of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile from 2014 to 2015.

### **Eva Garcia Chueca**

*Researcher, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)*

Ms. Chueca is the Coordinator of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Ms. Chueca holds a degree in Law from the University of Barcelona and a master's degree in Citizenship and Human Rights: Ethics and Politics. During her professional career, Ms. Chueca has developed expertise in local policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy, human rights and the right to the city. Ms. Chueca also has extensive experience in the field of international relations, global networking of cities, alter-globalisation movements and social emancipation.

**Thomas Coggin**

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Mr. Coggin holds a postgraduate degree in global governance from the German Development Institute, as well as a postgraduate qualification in diplomacy and negotiation from the Foreign Service Academy of the German Federal Foreign Office. Mr. Coggin coordinates the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space and is the editor and founder of urbanjoburg.com.

**Ana Falu**

*Professor, National University of Cordoba*

Ms. Falu is an architect, with a postgraduate degree from Rotterdam and TU Delft in the Netherlands, where she obtained her "Doktoraal" in 1982. Ms. Falu was the Regional Director of UNIFEM (UN-Women) in the Andean Region (2002-04) and in Brazil and South Cone Countries (2004-09). Ms. Falu is an academic, social activist, and feminist, and is the Co-founder of the Women and Habitat Network for America Latina, the Founder of the Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur Argentina (CICSA) in Argentina, the Vice-President of Habitat International Coalition (HIC), and Gender Expert of the Iberoamerican Union of Municipalists (UIM).

**Luz Maria Sanchez Hurtado**

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Ms. Hurtado is an architect and urban planner with degrees in Architecture, Urban Planning, and Urbanism from Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal in Lima and from KTH at the University of Stockholm, as well as a postgraduate degree in International Construction Management from the University of Lund in Sweden. Ms. Hurtado was re-elected as the co-chair of the International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility (ARC-PEACE) until 2016, and is currently designing strategic reconstruction plans for Nepal in close coordination with the Architecture sans Frontieres (ASF) International.

**Arun Jain**

*Professor, Urban Designer, Urban Strategist, Institute for City and Regional Planning (ISR), Faculty of Planning, Building & the Environment Technical University of Berlin*

Mr. Jain is a US and Indian educated urban designer and urban strategist with over 30 years of international experience in practice and academia. In addition to his work as an international consultant and advisor in urban design, development, and urban strategy, he is also a professor at the Institute for City and Regional Planning, (Stadt und Regionalplanung), ISR at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. From 2003-2009 he was Portland, Oregon's first Chief Urban Designer. Mr. Jain works at both the strategic and project levels, and maintains active engagements with city and regional (public) administrations, private sector development companies, professional institutions, universities, foundations, and other international organizations to improve cities and urban life. Mr. Jain's current interests include decision support tools for urban development, behavior sensitive infrastructure strategies, urban design and development frameworks, as well as helping clarify the role of technology in urban development. Many of these concerns have evolved from his work in 2001 to create a national policy structure and a development suitability and decision support tool for the island country of Palau.

**Frauke Kraas**

*Chair, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne*

Ms. Kraas is a geographer focusing on research in urban and socio-economic development in Southeast Asia. Ms. Kraas was a visiting professor of the University of Yangon in Myanmar between 2012 and 2014, and is currently a speaker of the Priority Program "Megacities: Informal Dynamics of Global Change" at the German Research Council based on the Pearl River Delta in China and Dhaka in Bangladesh.

### **Margaret Lombe**

*Associate Professor at Boston College School of Social Work*

Dr. Lombe is a faculty associate at the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis with an area of expertise in international social development, and an emphasis on social inclusion/exclusion and capacity building.

### **Kevin Mugenya**

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Mr. Mugenya is a Public Policy Analyst and governance expert on sustainable development with nine years' experience in research, advocacy, and public policy analysis on various urban developmental agendas. Mr. Mugenya holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy from the Centre of Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy Unit in the University of Nairobi, and has worked as a Programme Officer at the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG).

### **Sarah Nandudu**

*National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda*

Ms. Nandudu is the Vice Chairperson at the National Slum Dweller Federation of Uganda and Central community leader in implementation of transformation settlements of the urban poor in Uganda. Ms. Nandudu is a key member of the Uganda National Urban Policy and made keynote addresses at seventh session of the World Urban Forum, Future of Places - 2015, Future Cities Africa Conference 2015, United Nations Governing Council 2015, and Habitat III PrepCom2 in 2015.

### **Zione Ntaba**

*Judge, High Court of Malawi*

Ms. Ntaba holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Malawi and a master's degree in Advanced Legislative Drafting for the University of London. Ms. Ntaba previously worked at the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) as the Director of Legal Affairs and Board Secretary, and at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as a State Advocate as well as Legislative Counsel. Ms. Ntaba is actively involved as a member of the Woman Judges Association of Malawi, focusing on providing legal advice to women and children, holding legal clinics, and offering mentorship programmes. Besides, Ms. Ntaba has also been involved in drafting principal and subsidiary legislation. Her professional career has also involved giving legal advice to government on various legal issues like contracts and international agreements on water projects, construction issues, loan agreements and energy projects. Ms. Ntaba has also done human rights and state party reporting.

### **Sally Roever**

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Ms. Roever holds a PhD in political science from the University of California at Berkeley (2005) with specializations in research design, qualitative and quantitative methodology, and Latin American politics. Ms. Roever's work for WIEGO focuses primarily on urban policy trends in the street vending sector, law and informality, and research methods. Ms. Roever is the Director of the Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) and sits on WIEGO committees for research, law and informality, and the focal cities initiative. Prior to joining WIEGO, Ms. Roever was a lecturer at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague and a Visiting Researcher in Public Administration at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

### **Nelson Saule Jr.**

*Coordinator of the Right to the City Area, Polis Institute*

Mr. Saule has a Doctorate in Law from the Catholic University of Sao Paulo and is a Counselor of the Council of Cities ("Conselho das Cidades") at the Ministry of Cities. Since 2013, through the Polis Institute, Mr. Saule coordinates the Global Platform Right to the City and the international research on ways of implementing the Right to the City in cities and countries in Latin America, Europe, and Africa. Mr. Saule is a professor of urban law and the coordinator of the law school graduate program at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo.



**Mao Qizhi**

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Mr. Qizhi is the Vice President of the Human Settlements Institute of the Tsinghua University. Mr. Qizhi has been engaged in research and teaching in urban and regional planning, urban design, infrastructure planning, and GIS/RS and virtual reality technology application in rural and urban planning. Mr. Qizhi holds a doctorate in engineering from Tsinghua University, a master's degree from Stuttgart University in Germany, and a bachelor's degree in Architecture from Zhejiang University.



POLICY PAPER 1:  
**THE RIGHT TO THE CITY  
AND CITIES FOR ALL**

## Executive summary

This policy paper provides the framework for the New Urban Agenda which will be discussed in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The right to the city should be considered as a new paradigm for urban development that seeks to address the major challenges in cities and human settlements of rapid urbanization, poverty reduction, social exclusion, and environmental risk that call for decisive actions and new policy priorities by national, regional, and local governments.

The policy paper unpacks the right to the city through examining three pillars: spatially just resource distribution, political agency, and social, economic and cultural diversity. It further identifies several core thematic cross-cutting challenges that the right to the city confronts when being implemented: urban spatial strategies, urban governance, urban economy, social aspects, and urban environment. Each pillar is then addressed in detail by identifying its main issues:

- (a) **Pillar 1:** land for housing and livelihoods, and the de-commodification of urban space; urban commons, public space, and biodiversity; access to basic services and infrastructure, and controlling pollution; unplanned and informal settlements habitation; resilience, climate change, disaster and risk management;
- (b) **Pillar 2:** inclusive governance; inclusive urban planning; citizenship; enabling participation, transparency, and democratization;
- (c) **Pillar 3:** recognition of social actors — including gender — for migration and refugees; embracing identity, cultural practice, diversity, and heritage; safer cities, livelihoods, well-being, and welfare; poverty risk and employment vulnerabilities; inclusive economy and solidarity economy.

Each pillar is then developed with concrete recommendations — namely transformations — to overcome the issues at hand and specifies key actions needed to achieve these goals under each of the three pillars.

Accomplishing an inclusive urban agenda requires the active engagement of key actors — such as central and local governments; academia; civil society organizations; private sector; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; the informal non-corporate sector; social movements, among others — in order to transform the existing policy priorities into palpable and sustainable actions.

To ensure the implementation and evaluation of this new policy framework, the document proposes the inclusion of proper financing and monitoring components throughout the three pillars. Furthermore, in foresight, it reflects on the required institutional strategy that will facilitate implementation mechanisms for the New Urban Agenda in a post-Habitat III phase.

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

### A. The right to the city at the heart of the New Urban Agenda

1. Despite the global policy commitments undertaken by States and other key actors since Habitat I and Habitat II (the Habitat Agenda), the current urban development model failed to address the problems of urban poverty and social exclusion that are endemic in many cities today. As more than half of the world's population now lives in cities, increasing to two thirds by 2050, Habitat III provides a unique opportunity for the New Urban Agenda to enhance and extend human rights perspectives in their application to cities and human settlements, and embrace a shift in the predominant urban pattern in order to minimize socio-spatial injustices, enhance equity, socio-spatial inclusion, political participation and a decent life for all inhabitants.
2. The right to the city is a new paradigm that provides an alternative framework to rethink cities and urbanization. It envisions the effective fulfilment of all internationally agreed human rights, sustainable development objectives as expressed through the Sustainable Development Goals, and the commitments of the Habitat Agenda. Against this framework, it nevertheless brings a new dimension to serve as foundation for the New Urban Agenda based on an understanding of the city as a place that strives to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.

### B. Principles and approaches of the right to the city

3. The right to the city encompasses all civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights as enshrined in existing international human rights treaties, covenants, and conventions. In accordance with the Vienna Declaration (1993), it calls for a universal, interdependent, and interrelated implementation to human rights.
4. Building on internationally recognized human rights, the right to the city considers cities themselves as commons, envisaging respect and protection of human rights for all; full exercise of citizenship for all inhabitants; the social dimension of land, property, and urban assets in cities and human settlements; transparent and accountable political participation and management of cities; inclusive economies, with rights to work and secure livelihoods; responsible and sustainable management of the commons (natural environment, built and historic environment, cultural assets, energy supplies, etc.); sufficient, accessible and quality public spaces and community facilities; cities without violence, particularly



for women, girls, and disadvantaged groups; the promotion of culture as a lever of social cohesion, social capital, self-expression and identity, memory and heritage, and a balanced relationship between cities and towns within national jurisdictions, and between human settlements and their rural hinterlands.

5. The right to the city draws on 50 years of experience and debate, and is set out in existing international <sup>1</sup> and regional <sup>2</sup> human rights treaties and instruments. It builds on the commitments of the 1996 Habitat II outcome, the Habitat Agenda that emphasized rural/urban linkages and the need to apply human rights standards in human settlements.<sup>3</sup> The right to the city has also been operationalized in global compacts,<sup>4</sup> national legislation,<sup>5</sup> and city charters <sup>6</sup> around the world, for example in Brazil and Ecuador:

*“the right to urban land, housing, environmental sanitation, urban infrastructure, transportation, and public services to work and leisure for current and future generations,”* and as *“[the right to] democratic administration [of cities] by means of participation of the population and of the representative associations of the various community groups in the conception, implementation, and monitoring of urban development projects, plans, and programmes”* (art. 2.1 and II of Brazil’s City Statute, 2001).

*“the right of people to a safe and healthy habitat, and to adequate and decent housing regardless of their social and economic status”* and *“to fully enjoy the city and its public spaces on the basis of the principles of sustainability, social justice, respect for different urban cultures, and a balance between the urban and the rural. Exercising the right to the city is [further] based on the democratic management of the city, on the social and environmental function of property and of the city, and on the full exercise of citizenship”* (arts. 30 and 31 of Ecuador’s Constitution, 2008).

6. According to these definitions, the right to the city is a collective and diffuse right that belongs to all inhabitants, both present and future generations, analogous to the right to environment enshrined in international agreements on sustainable development,<sup>7</sup> which States interpret through their own national laws and jurisdiction.
7. This approach is consistent with other rights that have been enshrined in international legal instruments and national laws, such as those related to gender equality,<sup>8</sup> and the diversity of cultural expressions <sup>9</sup> or World Heritage. The latter, which is particularly relevant from the right to the city perspective, seeks collective protection of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value considered as World Cultural and Natural Heritage,<sup>10</sup> and is augmented by instruments safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.<sup>11</sup> Maintaining the Habitat II commitments as a core baseline means accepting *“the right to the city within a human rights habitat”*. That calls for regional or country-specific targets and experience-based indicators in implementation.
8. Implicit in the right to the city is the recognition that urban space and its functions are both contributors to and expressions of social and gender exclusion, and thus the need to address spatial exclusion. Against this framework, the right to the city envisions: ensuring that all inhabitants have the capacity to access the urban resources, services, goods, and opportunities of city life; enabling effective citizen participation in local policies with responsibility; enabling governments to ensure just distribution of resources, and acknowledging sociocultural diversity as a source of social enhancement.
9. In terms of implementation, the right to the city calls for the strategic alliance of key urban actors, including all inhabitants that needs to be trans-scalar and take place at the global, national, and local levels. The right to the city further calls for an enhanced role for all citizens, particularly women, marginalized groups, and the urban poor.

<sup>1</sup> International instruments include: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966); International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1968); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); Convention on the rights of the Child (1989); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers (1977); Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951); Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) on universality and indivisibility of human rights.

<sup>2</sup> Regional instruments include: American Convention on Human Rights (1969); European Convention on Human Rights (1950); African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (1981).

<sup>3</sup> The Habitat Agenda, 1996, <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The-Habitat-Agenda-Istanbul-Declaration-on-Human-Settlements-2006.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Global compacts include: World Charter for the Right to the City (2005); Rio de Janeiro Manifesto on the Right to the City (World Urban Forum, 2010); Global Platform for the Right to the City Action Plan and Thematic Axes (2014); Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Right City (2014).

<sup>5</sup> National legislation, e.g.: Brazil’s City Statute (2001) and Ecuador’s Constitution (2008).

<sup>6</sup> City charters include: European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (Saint Denis, 2000); Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (2010); Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City (UCLG, 2011).

<sup>7</sup> For example, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992).

<sup>8</sup> European Union (2000) *The European Charter for Women in the City*; and Barcelona (2004) Charter for Women’s Right to the City (Barcelona 2004).

<sup>9</sup> See the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

<sup>10</sup> Under art. 11 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the following cities have been declared so: Potosí, Bolivia (2014), Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (1982), Ancient City of Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic (2013), Liverpool — Maritime Mercantile City, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2012), and Old City of Sana’a, Yemen (2015).

<sup>11</sup> Articles 2 and 11 of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage refer to the protection of spaces, including urban and rural areas. Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity include some areas of the following cities: Yaaral and Degal, Mali (2008); Palenque de San Basilio, Colombia (2008); Cordova, Spain (2012); Majlis, United Arab Emirates; Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar (2015).

## C. Defining the right to the city

10. The right to the city is thus defined as the right of all inhabitants present and future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to the quality of life. The right to the city further implies responsibilities on governments and people to claim, defend, and promote this right. The city as a common good contains the following components:
  - (a) A city free of discrimination based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation;
  - (b) A city of inclusive citizenship in which all inhabitants, whether permanent or transitional, are considered as citizens and granted equal rights; e.g. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, the differently abled, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence and indigenous peoples;
  - (c) A city with enhanced political participation in the definition, implementation, monitoring, and budgeting of urban policies and spatial planning in order to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and inclusion of the diversity of inhabitants and their organizations;
  - (d) A city fulfilling its social functions, that is, ensuring equitable access for all to shelter, goods, services and urban opportunities, particularly for women and other marginalized groups; a city that prioritizes the collectively defined public interest, ensuring a socially just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural spaces;
  - (e) A city with quality public spaces that enhances social interactions and political participation, promotes sociocultural expressions, embraces diversity, and fosters social cohesion; a city where public spaces contribute to building safer cities and to meeting the needs of inhabitants;
  - (f) A city of gender equality which adopts all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women, men, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in political, social, economic and cultural terms; a city which takes all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, to guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfilment of fundamental human rights, and a life free of violence;
  - (g) A city with cultural diversity, which respects, protects, and promotes the diverse livelihoods, customs, memory, identities, expressions, and sociocultural forms of its inhabitants;
  - (h) A city with inclusive economies that ensures access to secure livelihoods and decent work for all inhabitants, that gives room to other economies, such as solidarity economy, sharing economy, circular economy, and that acknowledges the role of women in the care economy;
  - (i) A city as a system within the settlement and common ecosystem that respects rural-urban linkages, and protects biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems, and supports city-regions, city-town cooperation, and connectivity.
11. In many jurisdictions, these components are already protected by national, regional or local laws. However, in combination they are at the origin of the conceptualization of the right to the city as both a collective and diffuse right. The co-responsibility of governments and citizens is to claim, defend, and promote this right.
12. It is recognized that the term "right to the city" translates well into some languages but is more difficult in others, and that it applies to all human settlements, not just cities. From a legal perspective, many aspects of the right to the city already have legal protection, e.g. the natural environment (i.e. urban parks, forests or rivers), tangible and intangible cultural heritage (i.e. historic buildings, monuments or neighbourhoods, cultural expressions) or public spaces, among others. As a collective right, it pertains to the diversity of all inhabitants on the basis of their common interest. As a diffuse right, the right to the city belongs to present and future generations; it is indivisible and not subject to exclusive use or appropriation.
13. The right to the city as a diffuse right can be exercised in every metropolis, city, village, or town that is institutionally organized as local administrative unit with district, municipal or metropolitan character. It includes the urban space as well as the rural or semi-rural surroundings that form part of its territory.



## D. Pillars of the right to the city

14. The right to the city has an interdependent and cross-cutting structure based on three pillars that support what this new paradigm represents for the New Urban Agenda. Each pillar encompasses several issues and priorities for cities, and they act as an umbrella for the discussion of five cross-cutting thematic areas: urban spatial strategies, urban governance, urban economy, social aspects, and environmental aspects.

**Right to the city = spatially just resource distribution + political agency + social, economic and cultural diversity**

### Pillar 1: Spatially just resource distribution

15. The right to the city envisions a socially and spatially just distribution and planning of material resources, ensuring good living conditions across the human settlement continuum. These resources, accessible in both formal and informal sectors and areas, are defined by acceptable quality standards, and include: public space and the urban commons; investments in basic infrastructures and services (e.g. water, electricity, waste, and sanitation); appropriate, accessible and affordable transportation options; appropriate and dignified housing and settlements; equitable livelihoods, opportunities, and decent jobs, including solidarity and circular economy initiatives; education; healthcare; and investments in the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, and in climate change protection. This pillar envisions all inhabitants, particularly women, as caretakers and as protagonists in the delivery and enjoyment of these resources for a full life. In this respect, it also requires recognition and specific measures targeting marginalized groups (e.g. young people, migrants and refugees, informal workers, and the differently abled).

### Pillar 2: Political agency

16. The right to the city is realized only when structures, processes, and policies enable all inhabitants as social and political actors to exercise the full content and meaning of citizenship. In this regard, specific policies are required to ensure that women, as well as marginalized groups, have effective access to political agency. Together with all levels of government, the inhabitants of all settlements — including temporary and transitional dwellers — are protagonists in (re)making and shaping their living environment. This process takes place to a standard that fully meets the everyday needs and aspirations of inhabitants, and which is able to confront the challenges faced by settlements. In this way, this pillar lessens the relatively high control by capital and State elites over decisions regarding the organization and management of the city and its spaces, and reconfigures urban space, land, and property in a manner that maximizes use value for all inhabitants. It requires transparency, accountability, and the democratization of data for decision-making and the allocation of opportunities and resources.

### Pillar 3: Social, economic and cultural diversity

17. The right to the city fully embraces diversity and difference in gender, identity, ethnicity, religion, heritage, collective memory, cultural and economic practice, and sociocultural expression. This pillar calls for the recognition of culture, neighbouring, and stakeholding as a lever for social cohesion, social capital, innovation, safer cities, self-expression, and identity. It requires that the city create possibilities of encounter, interactions, and active connections, in which reciprocal relations and mutual understanding advances a renewed form of urban life. It requires respecting and valorizing all religions, ethnicities, cultures, economies and customs. It also envisions the promotion of artistic expressions as a means to unlock social potential and creativity, and to build community and solidarity. Central to city life is also the use of urban space, particularly for women in their reproductive and productive work. This pillar calls finally for the need to acknowledge recreation and leisure as part of a full life.

## II. Policy challenges

### A. Cross-cutting thematic areas: the core challenges

18. This section examines the challenges across the five cross-cutting themes, before mapping these onto the three pillars of the right to the city.

| Urban spatial strategies   | Urban governance   | Urban economy   | Social aspects   | Urban environment  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Access for all to the resources and opportunities of city life   | Access for all to transparent and inclusive urban governance   | Economic rights as a core component of the right to the city  | Right to safety, security, and well-being  | Access for all to resilient cities encompassing biodiverse and unpolluted urban environments   |
| <p>Spatial strategies and urban planning practices have a profound impact on people's experience of city life and on social integration and inclusion.<sup>a</sup></p> <p>Participatory planning can prioritize environmentally just and socially inclusive urban development, and respond to the needs for shelter, livelihoods, and urban services of the vulnerable and marginalized people.</p> <p>Improved access to public space, transport, and green environments can foster cultural diversity, integration, and urban resilience. Urban planning could benefit the urban poor in zones of poverty and informal settlements by celebrating the vibrant mixed-use areas as vital contributions to urban housing, economies, and services</p> | <p>The right to the city recognizes the role of inhabitants in participating to shape the city, and a city constituted as a local political community that ensures adequate living conditions and peaceful coexistence between peoples and the government.</p> <p>Part of this recognition goes beyond ensuring free and fair local government elections,<sup>c</sup> and entails the meaningful participation of people in the governance processes of a city.</p> <p>The right to the city recognizes the value of disagreement and debate, and enjoins all with the task of collectively shaping and making the city.<sup>d</sup> In this context local government has a central role in the promotion, protection, and guarantee of human rights in the city</p> | <p>The realization of the right to the city as a concept that recognizes the dignity of every human being is dependent on each and every person's ability to enjoy the economic opportunities that cities have to offer. Yet the current trend toward increased concentration of income, resources, and power in cities has left large segments of the population excluded from the rewards and benefits of growth.<sup>f</sup> Worldwide, 1.5 billion people currently live in multidimensional poverty.<sup>g</sup> And many of them are employed: the International Labour Organization estimates that one third of all workers — around 839 million — cannot earn enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty</p> | <p>The social aspect of the right to the city locates people and communities in society.<sup>h</sup> It highlights identity and heritage along with gender, youth, ageing, disability, migration, and refugee status. It encompasses issues of culture, neighbouring, and stakeholding. This focus is premised on the view that human interaction and/or social exchange are critical for embracing the complexity and contestations of urban life and for its socially sustainable organization and management.<sup>k</sup></p> <p>The social aspect appreciates that the question of identity has become challenging and requires new collective responses. It recognizes that the promotion of social integration, harmony, and cohesion are important values, which are played out in the social arena</p> | <p>Right to the city approach has a comprehensive understanding of the key role that protection of biodiversity and natural resources in every urban settlement will have, in the near future, to face the growing challenges produced by the climate change, to manage city pollution, and to create the appropriate conditions for the living.</p> <p>To do this, ecological, geographical, geological, and climate conditions of each urban environment should be considered as remarkable attributes and taken into account when planning the cities.</p> <p>This approach should include landscape design, storm water management, soil quality, environmental restoration, green infrastructure, and territorial matters as aspects that do affect the right to the city</p> |

<sup>a</sup>. UN-Habitat (2015) Habitat III issue paper on Urban and Spatial Planning and Design, [http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-8\\_Urban-and-Spatial-Planning-and-Design-2.0.pdf](http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-8_Urban-and-Spatial-Planning-and-Design-2.0.pdf)

<sup>b</sup>. UN-Habitat (2009) Planning Sustainable Cities: Global Report on Human Settlements 2009, <http://unhabitat.org/books/global-report-on-human-settlements-2009-planning-sustainable-cities-policy-direction-abridged-edition/>

<sup>c</sup>. As article VIII of the World Charter on the Right to the City (2004) points out, this is still a critical aspect of the right to the city.

<sup>d</sup>. Borja, J. (2010) "Democracy in Search of the Future city" in A Sugranyes and C Mathivet. *Cities for All: Proposals and Experiences towards the Right to the City*, pp. 29-30.

<sup>e</sup>. UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, 2011, *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City*, Section C, Values and Principles.

<sup>f</sup>. Habitat III issue paper No. 1, p. 2, and World Charter for the Right to the City, Preamble.

<sup>g</sup>. Human Development Report 2015, p. 61.

<sup>h</sup>. International Labour Organization, 2014 *World of Work Report: Developing with Jobs*.

<sup>i</sup>. Bhalla, A. and Lapeyre, F. (1999). *Poverty and exclusion in a global world*. London: Macmillan Press.

<sup>j</sup>. UN-Habitat (2010). *Measuring and Monitoring Urban Social Inclusion: Challenges and Way Forward*, prepared for UN-Habitat by M. Lombe.

<sup>k</sup>. Vlemminckx, K. and Berghman, J. (2001). *Social exclusion and the welfare state: An overview of conceptual issues and implications*. In D. Mayes, J. Berghman, and R. Salais (eds.), *Social exclusion and European policy* (pp. 27-46) Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.





## B. Mapping the thematic challenges onto right to the city pillars

### Pillar 1: spatially just resource distribution

#### Issue 1.1: land for housing and livelihoods, and the de-commodification of urban space

19. Access to adequate and affordable housing for all is one of the most critical challenges facing cities today. Major cities experience severe housing shortages while housing provision is largely driven by speculative land and property development practices, and tends to be geographically and socially concentrated, creating exclusive islands of good quality of life for few side-by-side with areas of residential disadvantage. In parallel, there is a growing challenge of degrading housing, basic infrastructure, and local amenities beyond these major urban territories. Housing policy is largely concerned with numbers of units built, and mortgage finance rather than with housing and residential inequalities. Home ownership has been supported as the principal tenure through policies and private sector supply, to the exclusion of the urban poor. Rental housing must be a policy priority and recognize the value of popular investment in urban housing (e.g. in informal and unplanned settlements). A critical problem has been the marketization of urban space disregarding the social function of land and housing. There is thus an urgent need to: challenge land speculation linked to gentrification and economic growth,<sup>12</sup> accommodate housing needs through diverse housing tenure choices, and ensure a continuum of affordable and adequate housing (including socially produced and community-led housing). The role of women in housing programmes must be central at both local and national levels, and the government must recognize the existence of innovative and successful experiences led by women. Housing policy should prioritize secure housing tenure and recognize the importance of the home both as a place for living and a place of work and income-generation.

#### Issue 1.2: urban commons, public space and biodiversity

20. The character of a city is defined by its streets and public spaces.<sup>13</sup> From squares and boulevards to neighbourhood gardens and children's playgrounds, public space frames the city's image. Public space takes many forms, including parks, sidewalks, footpaths, marketplaces, but also edge space, waterfronts or beaches — often important spaces for the urban poor.<sup>14</sup> The amount and quality of public space is critical, but its value may be limited by poor management or exclusionary policing such as restricting access for young people, the urban poor, and urban

livelihoods. The privatization of the ownership and management of public space undermines its social, political, and economic value as a core asset in cities, particularly for the urban poor. Public space should be recognized as key locus for social, political, and cultural expression, and a space for inclusion and equity in the multicultural cities of the twenty-first century. Safe, secure access for women and children is critical. Historic city centres should be celebrated and protected as central to urban heritage and identity. The natural resources of cities are also a key asset for biodiversity and human enjoyment — including rivers, coastal zones, forested areas and open green land — and should be protected and safeguarded.

#### Issue 1.3: access to basic services and infrastructure, and controlling pollution

21. The coverage of basic infrastructure and services is very uneven. The growth of major cities also puts a substantial pressure on their existing infrastructure, creating infrastructure shortages. Informal settlements exist, with limited or no access to basic infrastructure, although small-scale affordable community-managed infrastructure projects are being implemented across the globe. Some settlements at the national level have limited scope of services and often degrading infrastructure. Ensuring environmental quality of potable water, effective solid waste disposal to promote reuse and recycling, safe sanitation for communities, including understanding the specific needs of women and children for safe water and sanitation is a priority. Mobility is also key to ensure affordable and accessible travel by least polluting modes. Air and water quality and noise pollution are critical challenges for metropolitan areas, and there is a critical need for better disposal of hazardous waste.

#### Issue 1.4: unplanned and informal settlements — habitation

22. Informal settlements vary according to underlying practices and a country's specific sociocultural, political-institutional, and regulatory context. They have different challenges and needs that require place-specific responses. The factors behind these settlements' formation are multidimensional, and commonly related to: structural economic changes and poverty, rapid urbanization and migration to major cities in search of jobs and life opportunities, civil conflicts, and systematic changes in housing, spatial and urban planning, and land management fields.
23. In the recent decade, the living conditions of slum dwellers in many countries have been noticeably improved through international targets,

<sup>12</sup> Gentrification needs to be distinguished from community-led transformative regeneration, including areas of a city which may have been impacted negatively by "urban decay". We propose that efforts focus on community-led regeneration.

<sup>13</sup> UN-Habitat (2015) Habitat III issue paper on Public Space, [http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-11\\_Public-Space-2.0.compressed.pdf](http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-11_Public-Space-2.0.compressed.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Brown, A. (ed.) (2006) *Contested Space: Street trading, public space and livelihoods in developing cities*, Rugby: ITDG Publishing.

dedicated systematic national policies, budget allocations, and integrated participatory actions.<sup>15</sup> Such upgrading practices should instead be uniformly applied across regions and cities and supported with systematic measures to prevent their future formation. Positive improvements are threatened by persistent socio-spatial inequalities manifested in both city and regional contexts.

24. While slums may not be present in the context of countries with developed and emerging market economies, distinctive concentration of poor housing and degraded infrastructure, local services, and amenities can be found there in almost every city and region. Yet unplanned and informal settlements have the significant advantage of mixed land use.
25. Slum residents may be cash-poor but may have remarkable resourcefulness embedded in social safety nets that support livelihoods and informal employment. The combination of social and physical structures of slums offers additional support mechanisms — for example, proximity to jobs and markets, flexibility to extend shelters using their own labour, possibilities to carry out ground-level home-based work activities (such as trade, services, or small agricultural activities).

#### **Issue 1.5: resilience, climate change, disaster and risk management**

26. Building resilience in cities and urban areas that can cope with sudden shocks (flooding, tropical storms or earthquakes or the longer term trends inherent in climate change) and create safe living environments free from pollution is a key element of the right to the city. Adaptation to threats from climate change and other natural processes must be a priority for people who live in vulnerable areas. Reducing energy consumption is critical, through developing production and consumption models that provide alternatives to a carbon-based fossil fuel economy, and energy-efficient housing and buildings. Challenges include acknowledging and diminishing the urban heat island effect; conserving and recycling water; conserving the natural resilience of the urban landscape, e.g. wetlands and waterways for flood retention, and not building in disaster-prone locations. Local governments have a core role to play in post-disaster recovery, training in disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation is critical for governments and residents of areas at risk.

### **Pillar 2: political agency**

#### **Issue 2.1: inclusive governance**

27. Governance structures are the most formal spaces in which the making of a city takes place. If put in operation, ensuring effective and equal participation of all stakeholders, especially civil society, they contribute in ensuring that the making of a city is fair and just for all. They contain the policies that guide the city, the legislation that governs the city, as well as the democratic institutions that defend the right to the city. There is a need to diminish the structural barriers for enabling the right to the city in urban governance. These include: a tendency to “top-down” governance, lack of structures and processes to support effective negotiation and participation, and lack of local government representation at key international forums (e.g. Habitat III). There are particular challenges for the governance and management of large metropolitan areas, such as institutional fragmentation, to ensure the delivery of coordinated multilevel governance across diverse cities and regions. It is imperative to involve poor inhabitants — particularly those in disadvantaged groups — in all programmes that may affect their quality of life.

#### **Issue 2.2: inclusive urban planning**

28. Managing urban features and the physical form of cities is a central challenge for urban governments to ensure social, cultural, and economic inclusion, and protection of common assets for all city inhabitants. Urban settlements are influenced by powerful forces, including resource constraints, pressures of population growth and change, sea level rise and climate change, and economic instability, which must be addressed if cities are to be environmentally safe, economically secure, and socially inclusive. Proposed solutions include: achieving balanced development between major cities and smaller settlements; balancing urban-rural linkages; tackling urban sprawl, achieving diverse, socially integrated neighbourhoods; ensuring that urban renewal does not create fragmented, socially segregated cities; enabling mobility for all urban residents; tackling water, air and land pollution; promoting green infrastructure, promoting urban resilience, and the ability to tackle climate change; and ensuring food security in cities.

<sup>15</sup> UN-Habitat (2014). Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, PSUP.



### Issue 2.3: citizenship

29. A core dimension of the right to the city is a “city of inclusive citizenship”, which means the recognition of all inhabitants — whether permanent or transitional, living in legal or informal condition — as legal citizens of the city. The concept of cities for all recognizes that the city comprises multiple actors, including urban inhabitants, civil and third sector organizations, governments, and the private sector. Increasingly, national and international actors also play an important role in cities. Not all actors have an equal say in the city, and some may exert greater influence on the making of the city than others. Some contributions may have a positive impact; others may not. The challenge is to create effective participation in all city place-making and governance processes through: integrating the needs of multiple social actors; prioritizing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups; embedding participatory and sustainable urban development processes in all governance mechanisms; enabling socially responsible private sector participation; supporting civil society participation (including NGOs, grass-roots groups, community-based organizations, etc.); fostering co-responsibility of participating actors; promoting integrated governance and capacity-building for key government staff, and promoting deliberative urban processes.

### Issue 2.4: enabling participation, transparency, and democratization

30. The government of urban settings is highly complex. Such a complexity requires coordinated efforts across spheres of government and the involvement of different stakeholders including a central role for local or metropolitan governments and networking with local stakeholders. Transparency and accountability in urban processes is the golden thread that binds together actors and structures in the city, and the processes that make and shape the city. Processes should aim to humanize the city and enable its opportunities. The key challenges include: lack of transparency in financial and political processes; lack of inclusive and participatory strategic urban planning and policymaking; lack of an integrated vision among government sectors and actors; a biased policymaking; lack of effective monitoring involving urban residents, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups; weak social demographic evidence-based policymaking; and an inexistent national system of social standards.

### Issue 2.5: recognition of gender, social actors, migration and refugees

31. History demonstrates that diversity is a challenge for sustained inclusion of different groups in the city. Tackling diversity may demand the creation of systems that ensure equity, safety, physical security, economic well-being, and cultural identity of marginalized groups, including migrants and refugees.

32. All decision-making on public service delivery and urban planning — including policymaking and financing — must include women’s participation as full and equal citizens, and recognize that equitable, affordable, accessible, quality gender-responsive public services are central to gender equality and guaranteeing women’s rights in the city — including in ending violence against women in public and urban spaces. Youth inequalities are manifested through discrimination in the access to education, differentiated levels of employment and livelihood opportunities, lack of participation in decision making, and prejudice against sexual preferences.
33. Yet these groups, among some others, continue to suffer from social, cultural, political, and economic anxieties. The key challenges resulting from their status as “other” and weak connection to the city include: lack of opportunities and resources to sufficiently enjoy the benefits of urban life; limited access to basic necessities, including decent housing, education and health care; discrimination, language, and cultural barriers. Yet refugees and migrants, for example, contrary to popular belief, are vectors of opportunities for the hosting society, as they bring new skills and knowledge, new networks of contacts and new workforce, a critical need for some countries with ageing population. They also bring cultural, social, and religious diversity to the city, and greatly contribute to the wealth of the cities and of their regions of origin.

## Pillar 3: social, economic and cultural diversity

### Issue 3.1: livelihoods, well-being, and welfare

34. Urbanization models that privilege economic growth over human well-being undermine the right to the city. Few existing economic development strategies avoid the negative consequences of growth — including displacement, environmental degradation, and social conflict, among others — and few prioritize human dignity, well-being, livelihoods, and solidarity. The importance of social capital (including education, employment, and culture), especially in low-income urban areas, is not fully recognized as an engine for well-being. This well-being should superpose purely economic growth objectives. There are many challenges facing urban populations in developing secure livelihoods: lack of public policies and financial investment in low-income urban areas to foster social capital; lack of acknowledgement of the potential of the solidarity economy and non-financial initiatives; lack of protection for urban jobs; the constant threats of forced evictions from places to work; lack of a secure and safe place to work; and lack of basic services at work, including water, sanitation, electricity, and shelter. The production exploration of the green economy in cities has yet to be fully developed.

### Issue 3.2: poverty risk and employment vulnerabilities

35. The right to the city places well-being as central for overcoming persistent and multidimensional urban poverty in developed and developing countries. Three core dimensions of well-being include: meeting universal human needs; achieving socially meaningful goals in different cultural, social, and economic contexts; and increasing happiness and quality of life. Public policies that define or create neighbourhoods as poor, whether through intent or neglect, prevent the realization of basic rights to dignity and equality. The ghettoization of space is compounded by pervasive employment vulnerabilities among women, migrants, excluded racial and ethnic communities, and others whose voices and contributions to urban life are not well recognized. Deficits in physical safety and security in certain urban areas compound these vulnerabilities. There are many challenges which poor people in cities face: erosion of the urban commons and loss of common assets such as green space; limited access to leisure, sports and recreation facilities for young and old urban populations, especially in poor urban areas; lack of protection to low-income urban dwellers; social inequality and injustice; insecure access to housing, education, cultural and social services; lack of acknowledgement of the economic contributions of the urban informal sector; hazardous sites for housing and work; hostile spaces for people who are disabled or elderly (e.g. public spaces, public transportation, public buildings, etc.).

### Issue 3.3: inclusive economy and solidarity economy

36. Decent work and secure livelihoods are central to the concept of inclusive cities. Yet informal employment — including all workers who do not enjoy social protection through their work — accounts for half or more of total non-agricultural employment in developing regions. Informal livelihoods are devalued in urban planning and policymaking; women, young people, and other vulnerable groups (e.g. migrants, elderly, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and people with disabilities) face significant barriers to entry; and solidarity economy principles are ignored in economic policy. Challenges include: the lack of decent work and secure livelihoods; lack of understanding of residence as a coping strategy; lack of entrepreneurial support programmes; need for housing credit for women-headed households; and lack of government support for grass-roots local housing programmes. There is a critical need to: empower women in labour markets; value informal economies and livelihoods; build government capacity to foster community engagement; support the creation of job opportunities for young people in low-income and marginalized communities; and develop employment programmes for people with disabilities.

### Issue 3.4: embracing identity, cultural practice, diversity, and heritage

37. Cultural heritage, identity, and diversity are the common heritage of humanity, and a source of identity, exchange, innovation and creativity, central to the right to the city, and integral to the richness and quality of modern urban life. Culture is defined through various international conventions to include built heritage and artifacts, and also the intangible heritage of practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, and the associated instruments, objects, artifacts, and cultural spaces communities recognized as part of their cultural heritage. Challenges include: the erosion of heritage and cultural identities; insufficient support for cultural diversity and visibility of ethnic communities in the city; pressures of internal and regional migration; scarce public policies for cultural expression; lack of acknowledgment on the role of public space in fostering art and culture, and in strengthening social diversity and vibrancy; limited accessibility and affordability of cultural amenities and activities, and the neglect of community-based cultural and artistic initiatives.

### Issue 3.5: safer cities

38. The right to safety and security is a key dimension of the right to the city, but is undermined by ongoing crime and violence in cities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. In more extreme fragile or conflict-affected settings, cities may witness failures in local government, and a collapse of local services and economies, resulting in increasing insecurity, poverty, and hunger. The challenges include: lack of safety in cities, the increase of public violence particularly against women and girls; ghettoization and territorial segregation of urban space; lack of policy-defined neighbourhood (re-evaluation of the definition of black neighbourhoods as poor); social isolation and alienation; hostility towards migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people; the impacts of violent conflict and criminality in cities; the exposure of children to violence; unsafe neighbourhoods associated with social problems; unsafe public transport, particularly at night; lack of (sufficient) public lighting in poor areas, and prejudices against the urban poor, migrants or ethnic groups as perpetrators of crime; criminalization of public space occupants, particularly street dwellers; lack of effective access to justice.

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

39. This section presents the transformative actions recommended by the Policy Unit for inclusion in the New Urban Agenda:

#### A. Pillar 1: spatially just resource distribution

##### Transformation 1.1: land for housing and livelihoods, and the de-commodification of urban space

40. Recognizing the human need for access to land for shelter and livelihoods, and through national mechanisms enshrining the right to the city in policy and practice, the social function of property (space, housing and habitat) is valued, and a constitutionally protected right to adequate housing established that, together with a reformed property rights system, will act as a legal barrier against forced evictions.<sup>16</sup>

#### Key actions:

41. The right to the city values the social function of land understood as the use and enjoyment of land by inhabitants to perform all the activities which are necessary to have a full and decent life, thereby prioritizing the human experience of land and habitation. It recognizes a legal form to protect the right of access to adequate housing, which, together with a reformed property rights system, aims to act as a legal barrier against forced evictions.

- (a) To recognize in urban policy the “social function of property (space, housing and habitat)” as meaning “all non-market processes carried out under inhabitants” initiative, management and control, that generate and/or improve adequate living space, housing or other physical urban assets;
- (b) To establish and progressively realize the right to adequate housing in policy and legislative frameworks and ensure it mainstreams availability of needed services, affordability, habitability, and accessibility for all and especially the most poor, vulnerable, and minority groups, while also addressing aspects of participation, non-discrimination, security of tenure, transparency, and accountability;
- (c) To recognize land-use planning principles as essential to the efficient and sustainable utilization and management of land in land-use policies or land policies;
- (d) To recognize housing tenure types other than freehold ownership, reflecting the various needs and preferences of different groups, namely leaseholds, condominiums, cooperatives, shared leaseholds, and especially various forms of rental housing. A continuum of tenure types should be available to all providing adequate security of tenure in order to guarantee the welfare of households and stimulate housing incremental improvements and expansion;
- (e) To recognize the bundle of property rights, hence the need for the continuum of land ownership and occupancy rights in land policies and legislative frameworks;
- (f) To recognize that housing issues are closely related to human rights. Therefore, forced evictions are a violation of human rights principles and ensure that national legal and judicial systems align with human rights treaty obligations to protect against forced evictions from shelter or livelihoods; protection for the vulnerable, especially women; where eviction is completely unavoidable, establish safeguards to ensure: genuine consultation with affected people, including access to legal representation, reasonable notice of eviction, information on the reasons for evictions; and provision of alternative accommodation that continues to facilitate well-being and employment;
- (g) To encourage innovative and more inclusive housing finance systems including through incentives to housing finance providers who lend to low-income groups and alternative financial institutions for low-cost housing;
- (h) To ensure co-responsibility between public and private sector for the provision of social housing;
- (i) To strengthen the nexus between housing and urban planning practice in particular through improving the linkages between housing, accessibility, and livelihood in cities;
- (j) To formulate policies that promote mixed land-use, planned city extensions or urban in-fills combined with better transport infrastructure to improve access to housing in well-located areas and livelihood opportunities for low-income groups, as well as to mitigate urban hazards and health risks;
- (k) To develop new spatial forms for cities to promote decent job creation. Urban areas that are higher in density and well connected; integrate work/livelihood and housing; reduce transport costs; and facilitate job creation;

<sup>16</sup> See in this respect the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement, annex I to the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, A/HRC/4/18 (5 February 2007), available at [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/docs/guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/housing/docs/guidelines_en.pdf).

- (l) To ensure that housing management (in multifamily housing estates) and the utility service provision are appropriate and affordable, with support for community-led and non-profit models of housing management;
- (m) To use urban planning mechanisms to capture increases in land value, redistribute this towards social housing and public space provision, and minimize vacant property rates.

### Transformation 1.2: urban commons, public space, and biodiversity

42. Core domains of the urban commons protected, including public space and biodiverse urban environments, and ecosystems as assets for sustainable and healthy urban environments and livelihoods.

#### Key actions:

- (a) Public space:
  - (i) To provide cities and local governments the capacity to design the network of public space as part of their development plans to ensure form, function, and connectivity of the city as a whole;
  - (ii) To celebrate the diverse role of public space for political representation, social inclusion, recreational enjoyment, economic/livelihoods and well-being, and cultural expression;
  - (iii) To work with communities in urban design to foster social inclusion, celebrate multiculturalism, and enable urban livelihoods, thus creating rich, vibrant spaces in the urban commons at neighbourhood levels;
  - (iv) To implement laws and regulations that establish enabling systems to create, revitalize, manage, and maintain public space, including participatory processes to define their use and manage access to public spaces;
  - (v) To protect the quality and quantity of public space in unplanned areas and informal settlements;
  - (vi) To assure public spaces are free from violence, particularly against women and young people;
  - (vii) To reduce the trend of privatization of public space to ensure that all residents can access amenities and infrastructure in their place of residency;
- (b) Urban environments and ecosystems:
  - (i) To protect green spaces, urban forests, waterfronts and shorelines, and all elements of the urban ecosystem given that they directly contribute to public health and increase the quality of life of inhabitants;
  - (ii) To invest in “green infrastructure” (e.g. parks, greening of pedestrian corridors, and conscious planting of trees) as one of the ways to embrace an ecosystems approach in city management;
  - (iii) To promote development that is embedded in the principle of resource efficiency to combine greater productivity and innovation with lower costs and reduced environmental impact. Through resource efficiency, cities will be able to sustainably manage and use resources throughout their life cycle, from extraction, transport, transformation, consumption to the disposal of waste, in order to avoid scarcity and harmful environmental impacts;
  - (iv) To recognize that cities depend on the flow of ecosystem services and custodianship of ecosystems, outside their boundaries as well as those within them. Therefore, cities need to partner with “upstream” managers of natural resources, hence promoting conservation or restoration of ecosystems as cost-effective options for adaptation to climate change, and reduction of disaster risk;
  - (v) To improve air quality and reduce noise pollution by: providing incentives for people to use clean-energy powered vehicles; promoting non motorized forms of transport; acquiring more clean-energy public-transport vehicles; reducing industrial atmospheric pollution; eliminating ozone-depleting refrigerants; regulating to improve energy efficiency for housing, industry, and transport;
  - (vi) To reduce energy consumption by: eliminating fossil fuel consumption; developing affordable and accessible alternative energy supplies; and promoting green technologies and building codes;
  - (vii) To reduce construction impacts by: promoting policies to reduce construction impacts; developing locally appropriate construction codes; using locally sourced materials; and consulting with communities affected by major construction projects.





### Transformation 1.3: access to basic services and infrastructure, and controlling pollution

43. Cities and urban regions in which all communities — despite location, time of formation, and socioeconomic and gender profile — enjoy good-quality social and utility infrastructure and services systems that are affordable and of appropriate social and environmental standard. These systems ensure that individual and community everyday needs are met within an acceptable distance and at or above the minimum statutory level and include: public transport, water and sewerage, energy sources, and public spaces, as well as essential community services (schools, shops, health care, but also facilities for families and children). These systems are developed based on collaborative infrastructure plans, effective partnership between the relevant public bodies, service providers and community groups, under the leadership of local governments. Cities and urban regions are polycentric, meaning they provide services, job opportunities, amenities, and quality public services throughout the whole urban fabric, including informal settlements, considerably diminishing mobility needs. Non-motorized transportation, clean energy, and a reduction of pollution by private industries are consolidated.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To understand the linkage between availability, accessibility, affordability, and adequacy of basic services for the realization of human rights. Basic services are central to the realization of a wide range of human rights, including water, sanitation, housing, health and education. It is therefore crucial to ensure that these services: are available and physically accessible to all or are affordable to all; are culturally adapted to various groups of the populations; do not discriminate in their access or delivery and are safe to use for all, including for women and children;
- (b) To develop policies and programmes with and for inhabitants; they should prioritize based on those with most need, and be mindful of the gender issues surrounding them;
- (c) To comprehensively reform urban infrastructure policies in cities to improve the enabling environment for investment; to avoid the privatization of public services; to create more effective incentives for greater efficiencies in supply and consumption, as well as the payment of services; to impose more effective methods for infrastructure planning and service delivery by state, regional, and municipal governments and public utilities; to create stronger model regulatory frameworks on the basis of the principles of general interest and sustainability in service provision and infrastructure investments; to remove institutional rigidities and create space to attract and enable the private sector, NGOs, community groups and

households to play a greater role in financing a service provision;

- (d) To implement an effective, well-coordinated and integrated infrastructure planning system that recognizes that new planning approaches and technologies will support progress in reducing the unit costs of infrastructure provision, improving efficiency and quality, ensuring that services are aligned with urban plans, including an optimal expansion of infrastructure to support the urbanization process. Recognize that new coordination mechanisms are emerging: inter-municipal cooperation, legal incentives for cooperation, planning and development agencies, cost-sharing arrangements for metro-wide service delivery, metropolitan development funds, coordinated tax agreements, pool financing, improved linkages between national and local governments' programmes and policies to ensure efficiency and reduce imbalances;
- (e) To develop new business models, technological innovations and strategic partnerships. Rapid urbanization has increased the scope and complexity of service provision. New business models are now needed to integrate the strengths and capacities of the public sector, private companies, NGOs, and community-based organizations.

### Transformation 1.4: unplanned and informal settlements habitation

44. Unplanned and informal settlements are celebrated as vibrant mixed-use areas and recognized as a legitimate part of the city through policies and mapping that confirm the rights of all. These are made possible by an equitable resource allocation.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To recognize the challenge of unplanned and informal settlements through the mainstreaming of human rights-based approaches to addressing the needs and rights of occupants;
- (b) To provide an enabling environment to develop and implement the appropriate policies and plans to trigger change and improvement for, and in partnership with, poor inhabitants in the informal settlements for those states working with regional and municipal governments;
- (c) To recognize the location and categories of unplanned or informal settlements, where: inhabitants have no security of tenure for their land or dwellings; neighbourhoods lack good quality basic services; housing may not comply with planning or building regulations, or may be situated in hazardous areas; and informal management

practices may persist even where tenure has been regularized, perpetuating exclusion;

- (d) To understand the nature of exclusion in unplanned or informal settlements, considering the “five household deprivations” (i.e. lack of clear water, no sanitation, overcrowding, a precarious building, and insecure tenure leading to threat of eviction) with a focus on women and marginalized groups;
- (e) To place housing at the centre: seek to fulfil the right to adequate housing for all through in situ upgrading, provision of basic trunk infrastructure, and enabling community-led development;
- (f) To develop city-wide strategies and programmes to improve the lives of poor inhabitants — this should include efforts to: capitalize on the broader city and regional agglomeration economies; utilize innovative financing options and taxes; ensure equitable land management approaches; recognize the multiple forms (formal and informal) of livelihood and employment generation activities, and facilitate their development especially for marginalized groups; improve and reintegrate informal settlements with trunk infrastructure and basic services via integrative planning and design; clarify the administrative responsibility of peri-urban areas; and address the impact of conflict and undertake risk-sensitive land use planning to avoid exposing the urban poor to environmental hazards;
- (g) To develop local government capacity and integrated institutional arrangements to address the challenges of unplanned/informal settlements, in partnership with poor inhabitants;
- (h) To consider appropriate long-term financial investment and inclusive financing options;
- (i) To support community-led upgrading initiatives, supported by appropriate regulations and technologies;
- (j) To support open-source co-produced knowledge (e.g. cadastral mapping, by gender, age, occupation, etc.).

#### **Transformation 1.5: resilience, climate change, disaster and risk management**

- 45. Urban planning and city infrastructure should incorporate coordination between environmental aspects, risk management, and a landscape approach as a way to improve the resilience of cities. Cities and human settlements ought to be resilient to the effects of climate change, natural disasters or natural phenomena (i.e. rising of sea level). Communities

living in vulnerable or fragile areas should be involved in their relocation to safe and suitable neighbourhoods. National Governments, in coordination with women and local governments as key actors, need to enhance city infrastructures, including green ones, as well as appropriate capacity-building and training.

#### **Key actions:**

- (a) To focus on urban planning and design to create compact, connected, integrated, and inclusive cities that promote efficiency of services, systems, the built environment and resource use that consequently results in transformative, change-enabling, low-carbon, energy-efficient, risk-informed, and resilient urban development pathways;
- (b) To institutionalize an appropriate legislative, policy and regulatory framework, which is crucial in enhancing resiliency, mitigating climate change, resource efficiency, and sustainability;
- (c) To develop a framework that promotes low carbon and resiliency-oriented urban development;
- (d) To recognize the interconnectedness of economic and resilience/ climate benefit from infrastructures (i.e. drainage, sanitation, electricity and transport systems and services that contribute to adaptation), hence promoting an integrated and holistic approach to urban development. Therefore, cities need to develop mechanisms/instruments to promote coherence across systems, sectors, and organizations related to their policies, plans, programmes, processes, and investments in urban resilience;
- (e) To recognize the need to leverage city planning instruments to reduce existing risk and prevent the creation of new risks while preparing for climate and disaster risks. Some of these actions include: strengthening technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge; building the knowledge of government officials at all levels, civil society, communities, and volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices, training and education; developing mechanisms to allow for the monitoring, assessment, and reporting on the progress towards building urban resilience.





## B. Pillar 2: political agency

### Transformation 2.1: inclusive governance

46. Within the legal and judicial systems of each country, the right to the city is established as a legal or policy paradigm that forms the foundation for urban governance, legislation, policy, and practice. Governance processes and structures ensure an equal say of all participating stakeholders, and remain under public leadership.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To include the right to the city in the New Urban Agenda as a new urban paradigm, as outlined above. The main mechanisms for state or city governments to adopt the right to the city, or its elements include: legislation, city charters and political and citizenship compacts;
- (b) To strengthen the capacities and accountability mechanisms of cities through adequate organizational and institutional structures, effective financing systems and procedures to enhance domestic public resource mobilization, promote strategic participatory urban planning, and manage sustainable urban development;
- (c) For central Governments to promote effective decentralized framework to unlock urban and regional governance, with clear distribution of powers, responsibilities, and resources, allowing for stronger multilevel governance and collaborative relations between different levels of government, based on the principle of subsidiarity;
- (d) To enhance policies to support broader partnerships in local governance, including co-production of services and public goods, involving the private sector and local communities, integrating the informal sector in the urban fabric, and collectively bridging institutional and resource gaps;
- (e) To implement territorial approach in governance arrangements for macroregional and regional territories by supporting mid-size cities and urban-rural collaboration: development of strategies and plans, and coordination mechanisms between local governments;
- (f) To promote use of technologies for innovative public management, participation, and accountability to reduce urban environmental impacts, improve data disaggregation at the local level to support local planning and monitoring of urban development, and encourage citizen participation and accountability. The use of data

will be protected from private use and specific judicial remedies are put in place to deal with abuses.

### Transformation 2.2: inclusive urban planning

47. The right to the city is a key cross-cutting planning paradigm in all relevant urban planning legislation, policy, and practice that incorporates participatory co production of all planning interventions, involving public, private and all urban inhabitants, with a specific focus on disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To invest in innovative urban planning solutions that address existing challenges without infringing on the rights of inhabitants;
- (b) To promote integrated urban planning policy across all levels of government with explicit recognition of human rights treaty obligations;
- (c) To promote spatial strategies and national urban policies that ensure a regional and cross-sector approach to human settlement planning, which address the problems of metropolitan regions and of secondary cities, towns and rural communities across the human settlements continuum;
- (d) To adopt participatory co-production of planning interventions involving all urban inhabitants and actors, with specific initiatives to include disadvantaged and marginalized communities;
- (e) To include principles of gender equality in all urban planning and policies;
- (f) To adopt innovative and inclusive planning solutions for unplanned and informal locations;
- (g) To support innovative and community-led initiatives in the upgrading of informal and unplanned settlements;
- (h) To invest in transparent, accessible open-source, and community-driven data and mapping, and integrate this with existing data sources;
- (i) To invest in open-source mapping and innovative planning solutions that encompasses unplanned locations for housing and livelihoods;

- (j) To progressively implement the universal right of access to quality basic services;
- (k) To include strategies of public services with gender perspective to secure the grass-roots women participation in the policies elaboration and assignment of budget processes.

48. The right to mobility should be embedded in all transport planning and provision that prioritize walking and cycling, public and collective transport, especially for the transport-excluded and urban poor.

### Transformation 2.3: citizenship

49. Develop a clear relationship, based on mutual coexistence of all inhabitants, be it permanent, temporary or transitional which are granted equal rights, e.g. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, the differently abled, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence, and indigenous peoples.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To review legal systems to ensure that they establish new status and criteria for citizenship;<sup>17</sup>
- (b) To establish systems and processes that benchmark participation of the reviewed citizenship;
- (c) To develop mechanisms that ensure that disadvantaged inhabitants have an equal say in participatory processes;
- (d) To establish human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as local ombudsmen, non-discrimination offices, or human rights city committees.

### Transformation 2.4: enabling participation, transparency, and democratization

50. Create a space that allows for fair representation and effective participation of all urban actors, especially women, for better decision-making in the city. Specific measures are put in place to ensure equal participation to traditionally marginalized groups. Broader notions of accountability, transparency, and access to information are embedded and integral to the making and shaping of the city.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To create decision-making support tools that ensure the proactive participation of a multiplicity of actors;
- (b) To establish and protect spaces and institutional structures that effectively support negotiation between government and all urban actors;
- (c) To develop mechanisms that ensure that disadvantaged inhabitants have an equal say in participatory processes;
- (d) To enhance inhabitants' participation through training, access to grants in transparent conditions or by strengthening the dialogue between civil society organizations and governments;
- (e) To enable different forms of participation: use of public spaces, online forums, or public and community-based media;
- (f) To work to integrate and build capacity among social actors and the informal sector in local governance through innovations;
- (g) To promote transparency in financial, administrative and political governance processes.

### Transformation 2.5: recognition of gender, social actors — migration and refugees

51. Create systems that ensure equality, safety, physical security, economic well-being, and cultural identity of migrants and refugees.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To develop training programmes for women to increase and improve their participation and leadership;
- (b) To ensure access to public services and justice for all social actors, especially for women and the traditional marginalized groups;
- (c) To implement access to migrant and refugees' areas for diagnosis and monitoring issues such as living conditions, etc.;
- (d) To fight prejudice against marginalized; acknowledge the contribution of migrants to local economy, culture, history, and value their identities as part of the city;

<sup>17</sup> Approach to be participatory and inclusive of all the people in the new criteria.



- (e) To implement better policing of areas where migrants and refugees reside;
- (f) To implement city plans for migrants and refugees in terms of housing, education, as well as economic activities.

### Transformation 3.2: poverty risk and employment vulnerabilities

- 53. Recognize and prioritize the creation of decent employment opportunities in both the formal and informal sector as one of the most fundamental pathways to alleviate poverty.

## C. Pillar 3: social, economic and cultural diversity

### Transformation 3.1: livelihoods, well-being, and welfare

- 52. The creation and production of decent work and secure livelihoods for all with equal access to social protection and full recognition of the positive contributions of all livelihoods and the activities that support livelihoods.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To develop policies and enact legislation that protects and promotes decent work and secure livelihoods for both women and men in the formal and informal economies. To enact locally a living minimum wage; enact basic workplace protections that accommodate the care responsibilities especially of women workers; implement programmes that facilitate the access of all workers to national social protection systems; establish dispute resolution mechanisms for workers to challenge predatory practices;
- (b) To develop policies and enact legislation that protects existing livelihoods. To formally recognize the contributions to jobs and the urban economy of the urban working poor; recognize formalization of enterprises and jobs as a gradual process — earnings and sources of livelihood should not be disrupted;
- (c) To develop legislation and policies that effectively protects all urban workers from evictions, harassment and discrimination at their workplace. To formally recognize workplaces as existing spaces used for work (e.g. public space, natural markets, private homes, and urban settlements); recognize all workers' claims to their right to work; recognize workers' rights to organize and to collective bargaining in the context of employment practices; support the creation of negotiation platforms for both formal and informal workers including the self-employed; build the capacity of local governments to respect basic human rights and to protect the dignity of the urban working poor.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To formulate and implement policies and strategies that are responsive to the needs of the majority of the urban poor, including women and vulnerable groups, enabling them to engage in the formal and informal economies (e.g. through incentives, tax exemptions, access to affordable financial services, setting quotas for youth and women to access government jobs and procurement);
- (b) To prioritize infrastructure development to improve working conditions and enhance growth of both formal and informal sectors (e.g. markets, public spaces, access to basic services), emphasizing proximity and accessibility;
- (c) To establish or strengthen institutions that build capacities among women and the vulnerable with marketable skills to enhance their employability in the formal and informal sectors;
- (d) To formulate, implement and/or enforce labour laws and regulations that protect urban workers from exploitation (allows workers negotiations, ensures dignity of the urban workers, and adheres to basic human rights like social security); and ensure safety standards;
- (e) To promote public-private partnerships for job opportunities addressed to those without decent work or employment;
- (f) To formulate and implement social protection systems (regulations, laws, programmes) to assure universal protection (e.g. health and sickness benefit) particularly for the more vulnerable;
- (g) To formulate and implement policies that allow migrants and refugees access to decent work to support self-sufficiency but without undermining the local jobs market;
- (h) To establish programmes to empower women and young people in accessing decent work and finance.

### Transformation 3.3: inclusive economy and solidarity economy

54. The creation, recognition, and promotion of a broad and diversified set of economic, social and spatial practices, including collective activities in the production of habitat (housing, infrastructure, etc.) and other material and non material goods, services, solidarity credit, exchange, fair trade, and solidarity consumption.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To develop policies and enact legislation that formally recognize the existence, contributions, and potential of the solidarity economy, and other innovative economic practices (e.g. the care economy, sharing economy or circular economy with waste pickers as protagonists of this ladder);
- (b) To support the development of solidarity economy activities including collective credit systems, service provision, and production of goods, exchange, fair trade, and collective consumption;
- (c) To enact programmes that allocate space and resources to: promote collective credit, services, production and consumption; and promote exchange (e.g. time banks) and fair trade;
- (d) To develop policies and enact legislation that prioritize human dignity, well-being, and livelihoods through solidarity economy activities;
- (e) To recognize the potential of movements and initiatives that strive to develop alternative models of housing provision (e.g. cooperatives, co-housing etc.) and management to provide support for advancing these initiatives on a wider scale (institutional, legal, financial, organizational).

### Transformation 3.4: embracing identity, cultural practice, diversity, and heritage

55. Urban cultural policies and practices that recognize values and celebrates diversity in the multicultural city; support cultural practice, creativity, and distinct identities; and protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To enhance local culture, and recognize cultural diversity as an effective way to mitigate urban conflict and violence, foster tolerance, social innovation, preserve social fabrics, and promote pluralism;
- (b) To incorporate new forms of culture promoted by and for specific groups, including women, migrants, the urban poor and new urban groups (urban tribes, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups, and others);
- (c) To foster urban art and culture as a means to develop new collective imaginaries and new urban futures (e.g. graffiti);
- (d) To promote culturally sensitive development processes to protect heritage and build resilient and inclusive cities, particularly in public spaces, neighbourhoods, and contribute to safety;
- (e) To foster civil society empowerment to acknowledge and value tangible and intangible heritage;
- (f) To develop a sense of ownership by all groups of inhabitants in the urban commons, including culture and heritage, as settings for all urban human expressions.

### Transformation 3.5: safer cities

56. Cities exist without violence and without discrimination against women, ethnic or religious minorities, and other identity groups, and with secure transport and public spaces.

#### Key actions:

- (a) To develop knowledge and collect rigorous, consistent data on forms of violence, by sex, age and territories, in cities to support policies and actions;
- (b) To establish “safe city” urban observatories as core centres for knowledge in tackling crime and violence;
- (c) To incorporate violence mitigation measures into all planning and design of the urban commons (public space, etc.);



- (d) To adopt a multilevel and multisectoral approach to address the diverse causes of crime and violence, including violence against women;
- (e) To ensure accessible and safe public space, streets, and public transport as key to building safer cities, provide public lighting and night public transportation;
- (f) To develop community-based approaches to promoting social cohesion, preventing and controlling violence and criminality, including violence against women;
- (g) To build capacities and train police and security forces on human rights approaches, and issues of poverty and gender, in addressing violence and criminality;
- (h) To fight prejudice against the urban poor, ethnic groups, and young people as perpetrators of crime through public policy and the media;
- (i) To incorporate inclusion and non-violence against children, women, and youth in security agendas;
- (j) To provide job opportunities, apprenticeships, education, and cultural activities for young people as a means to fight their incorporation to criminal gangs;
- (k) To promote culturally sensitive actions and processes in public spaces and communities to support inclusion and vitality in the city;
- (l) To combat sectarian, ethnic or political violence through peacebuilding initiatives;
- (m) To combat the creation of gated communities and privatization of public space as symbols of privilege and exclusion.
- (a) Citizens, groups, communities and their representative organizations, including residents associations, NGOs, trade unions, worker organizations, and other interest groups, who have a critical role to express and facilitate their common interests. Particularly important is the support and empowerment of organizations of those normally marginalized in urban groups (e.g. women; the urban poor, ethnic minorities, etc.);
- (b) National, state, and regional governments need to focus on enabling legislative frameworks to consolidate and strengthen relevant elements already in place. Some states have even developed constitutional provisions to provide the highest legal foundation to the right to the city and cities for all. Information sharing on participatory and rights-based practice is an important government role;
- (c) Local governments are central to establishing a strategic vision and operational framework to implement the right to the city. Cities have adopted many different approaches, for example through city charters; participatory budgeting and urban planning; social and spatial inclusion of migrants and ethnic minority communities or sector-based programmes (see annex I). A critical role for local governments is to ensure transparent and participatory programme planning, decision-making, programme implementation, and policy monitoring. Developing co-produced knowledge with local communities is important. Establishing a specialized local government department for the right to the city to promote inclusionary agendas, and foster their implementation is important. Local governments should also ensure that local procurement processes do not exclude the livelihoods of the poor;
- (d) The private sector provides much of the funding on which urban development depends. Working in partnership with all tiers of government, innovative mechanisms are needed to prioritize social investment objectives, so that the wider benefit of ensuring inclusive approaches to development is fully valued in investment projects;
- (e) Academia, including schools, colleges and universities play a key role as centres for innovation and experimentation.

#### IV. Key actors for action: enabling institutions

57. The right to the city entails both rights and responsibilities for all urban actors to participate in the protection of common urban assets. Citizens have a responsibility to participate in the making and shaping of the city, as well as in open governance processes to claim and implement the right to the city; and national, regional and local governments have the responsibility to ensure spatially just and equitable distribution of the resources available, political participation and socioeconomic diversity within locally agreed interpretations of the right to the city. Key actors in this partnership approach include:
  58. Cross-cutting institutions and networks should operate both vertically (e.g. between tiers of government, or national and local associations, across sectors) and across the four core interest groups above. Social media can create new spaces of engagement and mobilization, and are now becoming much more available to many urban residents.

## V. Policy design, implementation and monitoring

### A. Monitoring and indicators

59. This section identifies indicators for each of the three pillars and their elements as stated in this policy paper. These indicators and metrics are suggestions. They are intended to provide the general tone and direction in which cities and their regions should craft metrics specific to their conditions and needs. Many of these metrics should be routinely collected by nations and cities. In such cases it is suggested that these results are consolidated by appropriate right to the city monitoring entities and compiled to understand their collective impact.

#### Pillar 1: spatially just resource distribution

##### Access to essential basic services and infrastructure

60. Metrics indicating access to basic services and infrastructure are broken down into the following infrastructure specific metrics:
- (a) Transportation: number of riders by mode, cost of ridership, travel time, safety indexes, frequency, service levels and number of peak and off-peak riders;
  - (b) Water: service frequency, water quality, wastage, areas and populations covered;
  - (c) Sanitation: areas and populations covered, toilets per capita, cleanliness indexes, bacterial levels, treatment facilities, water management metrics, watershed health (including groundwater and aquifer levels);
  - (d) Electricity: grid and distribution quality, coverage, cost of access and reliability, safety;
  - (e) Communications: coverage, speed of access, bandwidth, access to smart devices, cost of access, Internet security, Internet literacy levels, information penetration metrics.

##### Land, adequate housing, and property development, urban commons, and public space

61. There are many diverse indicators that reveal how well policies that strive for equity, fairness and transparency are performing. These include property reform metrics, homeownership and tenure, audits of vacant urban land, the percentage of social housing, accessibility to housing

and related services, and housing eviction data. Public and open space is best measured through assessments of per capita public space (active and passive) and its accessibility.

#### Informal settlements — habitation

62. It is difficult to obtain reliable and consistent metrics on informal settlements. One measure is the size of municipal budget allocations for unplanned and informal settlement upgrades, but these need to be backed up with metrics that confirm the effective deployment of these allocations. Supporting metrics that spatially map consumption and infrastructure (hard and soft) in informal settlements are also useful. These maps need to be made accessible and comprehensible to all including residents.

#### Climate change, management and protection of risk areas

63. Metrics relating to climate change can be characterized as anticipatory or projected, event-driven and post-event. In each circumstance, the indicators expose various outcomes that impact vulnerable and segments that are often unique to every city. Metrics that identify vulnerability are: at-risk populations (by category of event and risk exposure), environmentally dangerous territories and similar threatened areas. The related and common indicators are the determination of safety zones, evacuation areas, and related protocols.

#### Pillar 2: political agency

##### Inclusive governance structures — inclusive urban planning

64. The best ways to monitor desired outcomes will be the shared involvement of civic institutions, and community organizations together with appropriate implementation and monitoring mechanisms. Examples include the creation of development tools that make complex urban data easy to comprehend and read.

#### Pillar 3: social, economic and cultural diversity

##### Livelihood and well-being

65. Well-being indicators are not standardized or easy to correlate across geographies and social conditions. In general, living wage-related metrics for both the formal and informal sectors are useful. Other metrics include: child and elderly care-related metrics, earnings spent on welfare, as well as social behaviour-related metrics. These may include: social protections like health, pensions, and formal/informal employment, workplace protection metrics, dispute resolution mechanisms and harassment data.



### Poverty risk and employment vulnerabilities

66. Indicators may include: urban youth unemployment profiles, access to financial services for women and young people and the Gini coefficient measuring inequalities within cities, living wage and income security metrics, disaggregated by sex and formal/informal employment and share of women in top and bottom earnings quintiles.

### Inclusive economy and solidarity economy

67. A solidarity economy is one that seeks to increase quality of life through non profit endeavours. Inclusiveness and solidarity are however difficult to measure. New metrics that identify the effectiveness of non-profit institutions will be needed.

### Embracing identity, cultural practice, diversity, and heritage

68. The primary new indicators that will need to be developed to address these concerns will be ways to measure group identity, diversity and cultural variety, and local decision-making and representation metrics.

### Safe cities

69. There are many existing safety indicators currently in use by cities. These include metrics of crime and gender violence, and public space safety metrics. Cities also routinely undertake audits of anti-violence policies and policies for public space, streets, and transport.

## B. Financing the key transformations

70. This section covers suggested mechanisms for financing urban policy initiatives associated with the right to the city and cities for all. They are not exhaustive. Their purpose is to illustrate the kind of financial support mechanisms that are likely to help achieve the desired goals. The financial mechanisms identified are intended to reflect what is possible today. Actual financial mechanisms, means and opportunities will need to be location-specific and derived from the realities of their governance and political systems.
71. Effective implementation of the right to the city requires strong local governments with sufficient financial capacity. In this regard, it is important to enhance decentralization processes that make sure political competences and financial resources are transferred to the local level. Endogenous financial mechanisms also include fiscal redistribution through municipal taxes.
72. Cities and their urban regions need to find ways to collect fair taxes due for municipal services and to retain such revenue. Taxes should not be

regressive (i.e. put an undue burden on the poor). They need to instigate fair pricing strategies for housing to maximize affordability and access in areas where such housing is fully integrated with other basic services.

73. From a social corporate responsibility perspective, the private sector should also engage in this effort. Private-public partnerships, for instance, can be effective financial tools, provided their management and monitoring remain public and allow social control. In contexts of weak local governments, cooperation and aid has provided financial mechanisms to implement the right to the city. Several areas of financing are relevant.
74. National funding: effective national taxation of individuals and businesses which reaches a high proportion of the population will remain a key form of funding.
75. Managing municipal budgets: local government revenue generated through land and property rates, user fees, levies and local taxes are likely to be the best source. Several principles are key: timely central-local transfers based on agreed, transparent funding formulae; transparent and participatory budgeting; gender-sensitive budget analyses; informal economy-budget analyses; and targeting financing instruments based on needs analyses. Effective land and property taxation is likely to remain a central resource. Subsidiarity is an important mechanism to keep the revenue generated in the urban centres in which they are generated.
76. Basics services: funding basic services requires huge and reliable financial outlays. Funding sources need deep pockets and long-term agreements to assure continuity and consistency throughout the investment period. Servicing the debt for such financing also needs to be tailored to the capacity of the beneficiaries to contribute.
77. Several financial means may be considered: targeted location-specific municipal financing (bonds), pension funds, national or regional development banks, new or supplemental development charges, tax-free or discounted investment incentives and tax increment financing (adapted to address new and atypical infrastructure investments) are the usual ways to raise the large capital required. Depending upon the kind of infrastructure being improved, other sources of infrastructure investment capital may come in the form of strategic partnerships with foundations, institutional grants, local, regional, as well as national funding initiatives. These sources may be further supplemented by agreements with cooperatives and public-private partnerships, impact and social investment mechanisms, and to a lesser degree, crowd and social funding and microfinancing for local initiatives. To be successful, all of these investments will require public management and oversight, particularly of innovative financing instruments.



78. Social and impact investment, and innovative financing: there are many well-established and emerging forms of social investment, which prioritize the social return over the investment income. Established mechanisms include cooperatives; microfinance including microloans for housing upgrades and business enterprise development; start-up support financing for enterprises; special programmes and government loans and grants for vulnerable groups; bridge funding for community-led upgrading; crowdfunding and foundations, institutional and charitable grants (noting that grant funding is not a sustainable long-term funding source).
79. Environmental and resilience investment: it will be important to use pricing mechanisms to encourage socially responsible urban processes, e.g. taxing polluting activities, and encouraging development mechanisms to protect natural assets, shorelines, etc. Green funds designed in application of COP21 negotiations and accessible to local and regional governments are also a way of financing the implementation of these issues.
80. Private finance: initiatives include public-private partnerships; bank funding; tax-free or discounted investment incentives; tax increment financing (adapted to address new and atypical infrastructure investments).

### C. Strategic aspects for monitoring the New Urban Agenda post Habitat III

#### Monitoring and follow-up

81. Local governments and their local, national and global association, civil society organizations, and specific United Nations organizations (UNHCR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, OHCHR - the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UN-Habitat) should be the ones in charge for monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat should be further strengthened within the United Nations system and a specific United Nations Commissioner for the Right to the city should be created.
82. Some priority actions to be undertaken could be:
- (a) To build an implementation road map and a global action plan for the right to the city;
  - (b) To develop awareness-raising campaigns;
  - (c) Capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning activities, targeting governments (local, regional, and national), civil society, and the private sector;
  - (d) To undertake dissemination initiatives;
  - (e) To set up an international observatory for the right to the city as a global tool to gather information (i.e. best practices, legal frameworks, case studies) and to foster the right to the city implementation;
  - (f) To design monitoring mechanisms;
  - (g) To create specific indicators or indexes to measure the achievement of right to the city (without prejudice to using existing metrics, such as Sustainable Development Goal indicators or the city prosperity index);
  - (h) To develop indicators of socio-spatial (in)justice in living conditions to provide a good decision-making tool for public policies;
  - (i) To create an international forum on the right to the city aiming at gathering all relevant stakeholders committed to push the right to the city agenda (including global organizations, all levels of government, civil society, and the socially responsible private sector);
  - (j) To entrust United Nations regional commissions with the task of preparing the action plan for the right to the city in their region;
  - (k) To develop a guide with key contacts on available and effective solutions dealing with various aspects of right to the city and their effect on cities around the globe;
  - (l) To have periodic reports on the state of the right to the city at the local, regional, and national levels;
  - (m) For United Nations commissions to also consider the possibility of developing a non-legally binding document to provide further support for Member States that aspire towards inclusive human rights-based settlement development.





## VI. Conclusion

83. The right to the city addresses the challenges of rapid urbanization — especially acute in Asia, Africa, and Latin America — increasing inequality, segregation and poor living conditions, and the effects of environmental pollution and climate change, which reaffirm the necessity to use a new paradigm for sustainable and inclusive urbanization.
84. The right to the city provides an alternative framework to rethink cities and thus should be the linchpin of the New Urban Agenda and is defined as the right of all inhabitants, present and future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to the quality of life. The right to the city further implies responsibilities on governments and people to claim, defend, and promote this right.
85. It is recognized that the term “right to the city” translates well into some languages but is more difficult in others, and that it applies to all metropolis, city, village, or town, including their rural or semi-rural surroundings. The topic allows for a diversity of concepts and disciplinary perspectives, which the expert group itself reflected. However, there is wider consensus on the need to address the challenges contained in this document as a new paradigm that should guide policies and actions implemented by governments in view of building cities for all against the principles of equality, social justice, participation and sustainability.
86. This paper brings forward a new understanding of the city as a common good containing nine components: a city free of discrimination; a city of inclusive citizenship; a city with enhanced political participation; a city fulfilling its social functions; a city with quality public spaces; a city of gender equality; a city with cultural diversity; a city with inclusive economies, and a city of inclusive environments. These nine components are supported by three pillars: spatially just resource distribution, political agency, and social, economic and cultural diversity.
87. States can integrate these components through their own national laws and jurisdiction, consistent with the nature of their treaty obligations, and norms of international law. Many examples of good practice are already found. Recognizing these achievements, the challenge remains to use the right to the city as a paradigm and draw on all its components in order to adopt a holistic approach to its operationalization. This paper aims to provide suggestions to guide policies and actions towards this goal. Considering the challenge that supposes a legal and institutional implementation of the right to the city as a new collective and diffuse right, above all it is important to rescue the substantive recommendations contained in this paper.



POLICY PAPER 1  
**ANNEXES**

## Annex I

### Case studies

1. Annex I gives case studies of initiatives inspired either directly by the right to the city, by a human rights-based approach, or through a strong social inclusion and participation agenda. Best practices may be implemented through a wide range of instruments, including: national constitutions; legislation; urban spatial plans; economic strategies; social compacts, city charters and many other approaches. The list was supplied by Policy Unit members, and is not a comprehensive review. There are many other examples too numerous to list here.
2. For legal definitions explicitly referring to the right to the city see annex II, including the Brazil City Statute, 2001; Constitution of Ecuador, 2008; World Charter for the Right to the City, 2005, and the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, 2011.
3. **Australia:** In Port Phillip, the Community Pulse programme involves community members in setting benchmarks, measuring, and analysing long-term trends to help prevent the aspects that they love about their neighbourhoods from being lost. The indicators stretch across environmental, both natural (penguins) and built (affordable housing), social (smiles per hour), economic (cost of groceries), and cultural (local icons) environments and build evidence to stimulate political and community action.
4. **Brazil:** Brazil's City Statute (2001) enshrines the right to the city and was inspired by the National Urban Reform Movement, a platform gathering civil society organizations and social movements. The Act expands on chapter II of the Constitution and establishes the creation of the Ministry of Cities. Brazil is one of the few countries in the world having explicitly adopted the right to the city (together with Ecuador). The objective of the City Statute is to give municipal governments the power to foster the utilization of underused or vacant lots that are important for city development. In this regard, it requires municipal governments to create specific legislation to apply this tool through their master plans. The law also regulates the use of vacant lots in social interest zones (ZEIS 2 and ZEIS 3) and on the perimeter of the urban centre. Owners are further subject to a progressive tax, and after a five-year period, if the site is not developed and occupied, it can be expropriated.
5. **Brazil:** São Paulo's participatory council, created by Municipal Decree No. 54.156 of 2013, is an autonomous civil society organization recognized by the municipality as an instance of people's representation in each district of the city. Its role is to exercise the right to social control and thus monitors public spending and policies. It also represents the needs of diverse areas of the municipality. There is also a council for immigrants.
6. **Bulgaria:** the city of Blagoevgrad has developed an innovative employment policy that provides jobs to people at the pre-retirement age, consisting of the delivery of social services to the elderly, to people with disabilities and with risk of social exclusion.
7. **Canada:** in January 2006, the city of Montreal adopted a city charter, Charte Montréalaise des droits et des responsabilités, which binds all elected officials and employees of the city and its agencies, to adopt the charter's principles. The charter has seven themes: democratic life, economic and social life, cultural life, leisure and sport, environment and sustainable development, security and municipal services.
8. **Canada:** various cities in Canada have developed and implemented a system of indicators to measure the social inclusion impact of libraries. Although this is not explicitly linked to the right to the city, it serves as a reference point for developing public service indicators.
9. **Chile:** In 2014 the government of Chile enacted a National Policy for Urban Development that considers five pillars to guide the future of Chilean cities: social integration, economic development, identity and heritage, environmental balance, and institutional framework and governance. This policy was the result of a participatory process that lasted two years and is now under implementation. To implement this, the Government created a National Council of Urban Development made up of representatives from the public world, academics, professionals and civil society.
10. **China:** the 2015 report Progress in China's Human Rights 2014, issued by the Information Office of the State Council (the People's Republic of China), sets out a right to development, stating: "In 2014 the Chinese government promoted development concepts and innovation systems, adopted effective measures to guarantee citizens' access to fair development, had more people to share the fruit of reform and development, and better protected the people's economic, social and cultural rights".
11. **China:** Nongmingong are a special group of people in China, termed the "floating population", with household registration in rural areas, but living in urban areas with limited access to State services. The central Government is seeking to address the problem, and the 2014 human



rights report also states, “By the end of 2014 the total number of migrant workers in China was 273.95 million. Governments at all levels endeavoured to stabilize and increase employment as well as business development for migrant workers, thus effectively guaranteeing their legitimate labour rights and interests. The central government formulated the Plan to Raise the Vocational Skills of Migrant Workers... It gave full play to the important role of the trade unions and other rights protection organizations for safeguarding workers’ rights, provided various kinds of employment services to more than 5 million people, and helped 1 million people sign labour contracts with a duration of over one year”.

12. **Colombia:** Bogotá’s Land-Use Plan (2012-2016) seeks to create a city that reduces segregation and discrimination, puts people at the heart of the development process, confronts climate change, and defends and strengthens the public interest. New residential development should reserve a minimum of 20 per cent for social housing, rising to 30 per cent. A nested social, economic and environmental plan should be produced every 4 years.
13. **Colombia:** Medellín’s Integral Urban Programme emphasizes the role of the public sector as facilitator of development.
14. **Ecuador:** Ecuador’s 2008 Constitution includes much-heralded “rights to nature” and, in Articles 30 and 31, a “right to enjoy the city” (see annex II).
15. **Egypt:** the 2014 Constitution guarantees several specific rights, notably in article 78, citizens’ right to adequate, safe and healthy housing in a manner that preserves human dignity and achieves social justice. Article 78 also requires the State to regulate the use of State land and provide basic services within the framework of comprehensive urban planning serving cities and villages.
16. **France:** Le droit au logement opposable (DALO) (enforceable right to housing) is a recognized social right, enshrined in the preamble to the 1946 Constitution, and reaffirmed in a series of laws. The Quilliot Act of June 1982 called housing a “fundamental right”, and the Besson Act of May 1990 provides that, “guaranteeing the right to housing is a duty of solidarity on the whole nation”, and enacts legislation to protect tenants in relation to owners. Although the right is not enforceable in court, defining the possibility for everyone to have decent housing has been strengthened in 2008 with the law on the right to enforceable housing, that created an obligation for the State to provide housing solutions for the most vulnerable, considered as public priority by mediation committees (evicted families, homeless...). The right to housing is also enshrined through the public rental housing programme, and actions to fight substandard housing.
17. **France:** city-level policies include an integrated approach, realignment of urban strategies to focus on economic and social regeneration in declining areas, and developing political and conceptual learning from these experiences, e.g. using legislation to strengthen people’s effective participation in spatial planning. The policies were first put in place after unrest in the 1980s to focus on areas with high indices of deprivation. The cross-cutting approach combines initiatives on employment, literacy, sociocultural activities, and anti-discrimination. The programme covers almost 700 districts in the country and is updated every three years. A recent evaluation recommended strengthened citizen empowerment, and participatory policy definition, now being developed through a citizen’s committee called Coordination Pas Sans Nous (No Coordination Without Us).
18. **France:** the Department of Seine Saint-Denis created observatories on violence against women and on discrimination against young people.
19. **Germany:** the Stadtwerke framework allowed many municipalities to municipalize energy production and consumption, by direct public management or through user cooperatives. In many cases, this way of managing public assets improved quality and access to services, enhanced renewable energy production and created resources for the commons.
20. **India:** in 2011, the UNESCO India New Delhi Office chaired a debate on the value of the right to the city in the Indian context, with the aim of discussing the right to the city approach and evaluating its analytical and pragmatic value for Indian cities.
21. **India:** in 2014, India passed a federal law that seeks to protect the livelihoods of street vendors and to establish a participatory mechanism for regulating street vending. This significant piece of enabling legislation was passed as a result of long-term activism by street vendor organizations and others.
22. **Italy:** the gradual privatization of water services has been resisted through a strong popular movement and local government resistance, which overturned national government initiatives to privatize water utilities. The Forum Italiano dei Movimenti per l’Acqua (Italian Water Movements Forum), set up in March 2006, saw water as a common good. Privatization was rejected in national referendum in 2011, in which 27 million Italians voted.
23. **Kenya:** the principle of participation is enshrined in many places in the 2010 Constitution of Kenya, e.g. in relation to: §.10, national values and principles of governance; §.69, obligations in respect of the environment; §.118, access to parliament; §.174, articles on devolved government;

§.184, which provides for, 'participation by residents in the governance of urban areas and cities'; §.196, relating to public participation and county assembly powers, and many other provisions.

24. **Malawi** has developed a local justice system based on mediation and protection of human rights.
25. **Mexico:** in 2009, the government of the Federal District signed the Carta de la Ciudad de México por el Derecho a la Ciudad (Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City). This was the culmination of a three-year advocacy process led by the Urban Popular Movement (Movimiento Urbano Popular), with support from the Habitat International Coalition-Latin America (HIC-AL), the Mexico City Commission for Human Rights and the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Espacio DESC).
26. **Mexico:** the Community Neighbourhood Improvement Programme of Mexico City has the exercise of the right to the city as one of its main goals. It was initially driven by civil society organizations in Mexico City, and later adopted by the local government.
27. **South Africa:** the 1996 Constitution states under the Bill of Rights on Property, §.25, that the public interest includes the nation's commitment to land reform and to reforms that that bring about equitable access to all South Africa's natural resources; property is not limited to land, and on Housing, §.26, that everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing; the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of this right, and that no legislation may permit arbitrary eviction.
28. **Republic of Korea:** the capital Seoul has developed a complex human rights system, consisting of several municipal ordinances, mechanisms to protect and promote human rights, a Human Rights Action Plan and municipal staff training. Three ordinances have been adopted: on human rights; the rights of persons with disabilities, and protecting the rights of children and youth. Unusually, the Seoul Metropolitan Government has sought to institutionalize rights through creating: a Human Rights Division with a budget of almost \$1 million, a Committee on Human Rights; a local ombudsperson; a Citizen Jury, and the Seoul Action Plan on Human Rights.
29. **Republic of Korea:** Gwangju is known as one of key leading human rights cities in Korea. Following the adoption of the Human Rights Ordinance in 2009, the first of its kind in the Republic of Korea, a human rights office was created with a full-scale municipal human rights action plan accompanied by a set of 100 human rights indicators. In 2012 the city adopted the Gwangju Human Rights Charter, and in 2013 created a human rights ombudsman. In 2014 the municipal government adopted the Gwangju Compact, Guiding Principles for a Human Rights city with 10 core principles (including the right to the city). Since 2011, Gwangju has hosted the World Human Rights Cities Forum.
30. **Russian Federation:** Moscow city charter was adopted in 1995 with recent amendments in 2014. It is the supreme local law, a constitution of Moscow that defines: the legal status and authorities of the city of Moscow; principles of political power and local self-government; the city's administrative-territorial division; property and land relations between the federal Government, the city and its administrative districts; and principles of city budgeting and finance. The charter establishes the legal status and authorities of the Moscow Duma (city legislative body) and the executive body (Moscow government). Direct democracy is performed through referendums, elections, petitions, etc. The Charter also has provisions for the performance of the functions of the capital city and for Moscow's interregional and international relations.
31. **Russian Federation:** Rostov-on-Don Duma adopted the charter of Rostov-on-Don city in 1997 (amended in 2015). The charter affirms the implementation of individual and collective rights of citizens to self-governance of urban life as well as other rights established by the country's Constitution and legal acts and acts of Rostov Oblast (state). It defines membership in urban community based on national citizenship. It reaffirms citizens' rights to a safe and healthy living environment, to local self-governance and political participation, and to free access to sociocultural resources, education, protection of rights of people with disabilities and pensioners, equal rights for different nationalities.
32. **Russian Federation:** several other cities have adopted city charters. The charter of Kazan city was adopted in 2005, amended in 2015. The charter affirms the right of citizens to local self-government realized through the mechanisms of referendums, elections, legislative initiatives, public hearings, public meetings, etc. Other charters include: the charter of the city of Novosibirsk, adopted in 2007 (amended in 2015); Omsk city charter was adopted by the City Council in 1995 (amended in 2015), and Ufa city charter was adopted in 2005 (amended in 2015).
33. **Spain:** the Province of Barcelona (Diputació de Barcelona) has played a key role with its 311 municipalities in fostering the adoption and implementation of the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the city (Saint-Denis, 2000), drafted as part of the preparatory work for the conference on Cities for Human Rights, held in 1998 on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, since 2015, the Region of Catalonia has adopted a law to protect inhabitants against evictions and insecurity, which forbids the cut-off of electricity and gas, and creates a framework for local government to protect people against forced evictions.



34. **United Republic of Tanzania:** in the United Republic of Tanzania land is held in trust for the people by the President. The Ubungo Darajani study is an interesting example of joint action by the national Government, local authority, owners and tenants in the area, and academics, to create a land use plan and policies that guarantee security of tenure for citizens.
35. **Uruguay:** the city of Montevideo's economic development policies see better jobs as the core of social integration, and seek to strengthen inclusion, democracy, and the solidarity economy. The Department of Economic Development and Regional Integration is helping to develop a national road map to support cooperatives and social initiative, supported by the third tier of local government.

### Global compacts

36. World Charter for the Right to the City, 2005: inspired by the European Charter for Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City, the World Charter for the Right to the City was first proposed in Porto Alegre in 2002 at the World Social Forum. The aim was, in the light of increasing urbanization, to establish effective principles and monitoring mechanisms for the fulfilment of human rights in cities. The World Charter was debated at subsequent World Social Forums until 2005, when it was agreed.
37. United Cities and Local Governments: UCLG (CGLU) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage. Its Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CISDP) has developed a position on social inclusion, set out in the document For a World of Inclusive Cities, and the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, adopted by UCLG at the 2011 World Council in Florence, which aims to promote and strengthen the human rights of all the inhabitants of all cities in the world.

## Annex II

### Principal texts on the right to the city

1. Annex II sets out the four of the principles texts from which the framework and definition of the right to the city developed by Policy Unit 1 has been drawn.

#### I. Brazil's City Statute (2001)

2. Brazil's City Statute (2001) was inspired by the National Urban Reform Movement, a broad-based social movement that campaigned for an urban focus in the country's new Constitution adopted in 1988. Chapter II of the Constitution on urban policy was expanded through the Brazil City Statute in 2001 that created the Ministry of Cities. Brazil is one of the few countries in the world with a city statute.
3. Article 2: I and II define the right to the city as a general guideline for the purpose of guiding urban policy to give order to the full development of the social functions of the city and of urban property.
4. Article 2: urban policy is aimed at ordaining the full development of the social functions of the city and urban property, subject to the following general guidelines:
  - (a) The right to sustainable cities is understood as the right to urban land, housing, environmental sanitation, urban infrastructure, transportation and public services, to work and leisure for current and future generations;
  - (b) Democratic administration by means of participation of the population and of the representative associations of the various segments of the community in the formulation, execution and monitoring of urban development projects, plans and programmes.
5. This definition brings understanding of a diffuse right that includes the right of present and future generations, adopting by analogy the definition of sustainable development which includes the right to an environment that must be preserved for present and future generations.

#### II. Ecuador's Constitution (2008)

6. Ecuador's 2008 Constitution includes much-heralded "rights to nature" and, in articles 30 and 31, a "right to enjoy the city".

7. Article 30: persons have the right to a safe and healthy habitat and adequate and decent housing, regardless of their social and economic status.
8. Article 31: persons have the right to fully enjoy the city and its public spaces, on the basis of principles of sustainability, social justice, respect for different urban cultures and a balance between the urban and rural sectors. Exercising the right to the city is based on the democratic management of the city, with respect to the social and environmental function of property and the city and with the full exercise of citizenship.

#### III. World Charter for the Right to the City (2005)

9. The World Charter suggests how city inhabitants may exercise the right to the city, e.g. in article 1, item 1: through a city free of discrimination based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation, and to preserve cultural memory and identity. Thus the city is like a culturally rich and diversified collective space that pertains to all its inhabitants.
10. Article 1, item 2, defines the right to the city as "the equitable usufruct of cities within the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity, and social justice. It is the collective right of the inhabitants of cities, in particular of the vulnerable and marginalized groups, that confers upon them legitimacy of action and organization, based on their uses and customs, with the objective to achieve full exercise of the right to free self-determination and an adequate standard of living."

#### IV. Global charter-agenda for human rights in the city (2011)

11. The Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City adopted by United Cities and Local Governments in 2011 aims to promote and strengthen the human rights of all the inhabitants of all cities in the world.

##### Article 1. The right to the city

- (a) All city inhabitants have the right to a city constituted as a local political community that ensures adequate living conditions for all the people, and provides good coexistence among all its inhabitants, and between them and the local authority;
- (b) Every man and woman benefits from all rights enunciated in the present Charter-Agenda and are fully-fledged actors in the life of the city;





- (c) All city inhabitants have the right to participate in the configuration and coordination of territory as a basic space and foundation for peaceful life and coexistence;
- (d) All city inhabitants have the right to available spaces and resources allowing them to be active citizens. The working and common spaces shall be respectful of everyone's values and of the value of pluralism.

## Annex III

### Summary of relevant issue papers

1. Annex III summarizes key elements from the four issues papers relevant to Policy Unit 1. The full text of issues papers can be found at: <https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/issue-papers>.

#### Issue paper 1: Inclusive cities

2. The issue paper provides a very clear framework on existing challenges of the current urbanization model from the perspective of social inclusion, including the very essential paradox of cities: on the one hand, they are major incubators of opportunities and connections between individuals and groups, which in principle enhances access to services, social bonding, diversity and empowerment processes; and on the other, they are sites undergoing some the most exacerbated conditions of inequalities (i.e. precarious human settlements or socially/economically excluded peripheries). Moreover, the document extensively refers to the multidimensional character of exclusion and the intersection of the various “forms of inequalities in the social, legal, spatial, cultural, political and environmental spheres”. To counteract these problems, it suitably identifies as levers of change: granting equal access to quality basic services, strengthening participation and accountability in policymaking and tackling the impact of spatial exclusion.
3. However, the issue paper also raises a problematic issue from the perspective of the right to the city. While it acknowledges that the current urban development model is problematic, as it is based on competition, business attractiveness and commodification/speculation of land, which is at the origin of severe forms of exclusions, it also brings forward the concept of “inclusive growth”. This term seems to evoke that the present model based on growth is inevitable and that the only room for manoeuvre is to try to make it somehow compatible with social inclusion. Unfortunately, inclusion is not always compatible with development goals. Fostering inclusive cities often entails making political decisions that prioritize urban dwellers’ well-being over profit. Therefore, it is critical to ask whether the current urbanization model is not a key obstacle for the goal of inclusive cities. Against this background, the right to the city brings forward a new paradigm that calls for a sustainable urban pattern on the basis of equity, empowerment and social justice, both for present and future generations. It thus prioritizes urban dweller’s well-being over market interests. This is why it has such a huge potential in building inclusive cities.
4. Some additional aspects worth highlighting from the right to the city perspective are:
  - (a) The need to deal not only with cities, but with human settlements as a whole. The New Habitat Agenda is an opportunity to question whether today’s massive urbanization is sustainable. This implies thinking of urban problems in a holistic way, also paying attention to the link with rural areas;
  - (b) Although spatial exclusion is tackled, some important territorial aspects are missing. First, the fact that spatial exclusion leads to a fragmentation of the urban space. This phenomenon is not only the result of the marginalization and ghettoization of the poor, but also of the enclosure of the wealthiest in gated communities or privatized public spaces. Second, a metropolitan approach to inclusive cities calls for the implementation of metropolitan social inclusion policies and institutional cooperation in order to ensure territorial equity, that is, an adequate level of social inclusion within a same metropolitan area, avoiding the concentration of social exclusion in certain parts of the urban continuum;
  - (c) It is key to go beyond the idea of improving urban spatial connection, as proposed by the issue paper, and actually work to build polycentric cities where services, job opportunities, amenities and quality public services are available throughout the whole urban fabric, including informal settlements. All neighbourhoods and areas of the city should provide all that is needed to have a full and dignified life. Therefore, the primary goal of inclusive cities should be improving urban strategic planning on the basis of polycentrism, rather than spatial connection;
  - (d) Regarding social actors, women and certain marginalized groups are dealt with in the document. These groups should indeed be granted a voice in policymaking, as it is properly evoked. But it is important to bear in mind that enhancing their social inclusion not only entails ensuring they play a role in participation processes, but also — and very importantly — it implies tailoring specific measures and policies to guarantee they have full access to all universally recognized human rights. A further element related to social actors which needs to be addressed is the criminalization of occupants of public spaces, such as street dwellers or informal economy workers, who remain invisible throughout the paper;
  - (e) The link between environmental justice and social inclusion is missing, whereas poor or marginalized communities tend to be located in environmental risk areas;



- (f) Finally, from the perspective of financing inclusive cities, it is important to highlight that public policies and public investments are key, as well as sufficient financial decentralization, consolidated state transfers based on fair criteria to ensure territorial equity and the establishment of a progressive local tax system.

#### **Issue paper 2: Migration and refugees in urban areas**

- 5. The issue paper on migration is well illustrated with facts and data. It also partly deals with the topic from a human-rights based approach, which is essential from the right to the city perspective. However, the cultural dimension underlying the topic is missing. It has to be noted that migration is at the origin of the rich cultural diversity of cities and human settlements, which is both a challenge and an asset. As a challenge, it compels us to learn the values of respect and conviviality. It also calls for an enhanced capacity to fight discrimination and segregation, which from an urban point of view should be translated into mixed-used neighbourhoods and equal access to basic services, among others. As an asset, migration and cultural diversity enhances cross-fertilization, mutual learning and creativity. The right to the city is concerned with these dimensions, and envisions the embracement and valorization of differences, while looking at sociocultural diversity as a component of urban life that plays a key role in unlocking social potential.

#### **Issue paper 3: Safer cities**

- 6. The issue paper on safer cities accurately grasps the complexity of crime and violence in urban settings. It not only refers to policy measures aimed at dealing with existing unsafely, but also pays attention to its roots and causes, and points at several measures to prevent them. Identified key drivers cover a wide range of policy recommendations to be made to governments, including citizens' empowerment and participation, multilevel and multisectoral governance, inclusive urban planning, slum upgrading, the rule of law and human rights mainstreaming. However, from the right to the city perspective, the mapping lacks one important element to be stressed: the problematic relationship between the police and disadvantaged communities, that is, the excessive use of force by personnel involved in law enforcement while performing their official duties, especially in marginalized areas. Without any doubt, this phenomenon reflects the inequalities and discrimination existing in societies towards poor groups, which in some cases State forces reproduce. Hence the importance of prompting governments to ensure policing and security provision on the basis of equity, safety and access to justice for all; to frame policing in human rights standards; and to ensure police officials accountability.

#### **Issue paper 4: Urban culture and heritage**

- 7. In line with recent debates on sustainable development, the issue paper on urban culture and heritage reinforces the idea that culture is one of the key pillars of sustainability, together with environment, society and economy. While there some are references to the role of culture in "rehumanizing" cities and making them more resilient and inclusive, the paper seems to concentrate mainly on the nexus between heritage, urban regeneration and tourism, and between the cultural and creative industries, employment and economic development. However, from the right to the city perspective, it is also important to emphasize the importance of accessible, decentralized and well-resourced cultural infrastructures (not only museums, but also art schools, libraries or theatres); to the relationship between culture and education (i.e. how formal and non-formal education and lifelong learning should embrace cultural diversity and integrate artistic and cultural education); to the relationship between culture and knowledge (i.e. how cultural participation may enhance individual and collective knowledge and social capital); and to the role of culture in fostering social inclusion and cohesion (i.e., how intercultural dialogues provide the basis for mutual understanding and the valorization of differences).

## Annex IV<sup>1</sup>

### Relevant (draft) targets in the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 1.3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 4.4 By 2030, increase by [x] per cent the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- 8.3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 10.1. By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

<sup>1</sup> Annex IV is as of the date of the submission of the Policy Paper on the Right to the City and Cities for All in February 2016.



- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.b By 2020, increase by [x] per cent the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement, in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

## Annex V

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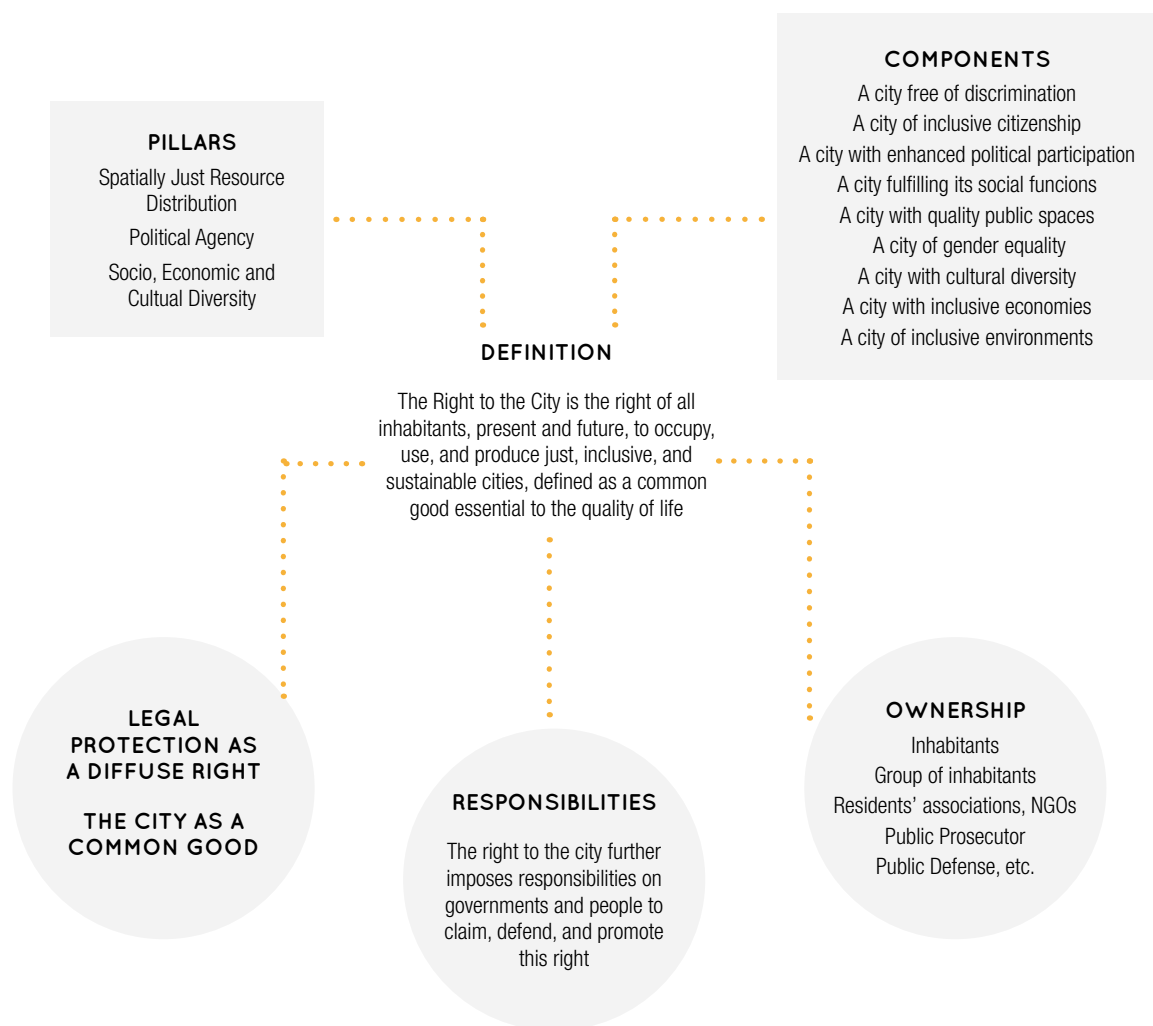
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## Annex VI

### Matrix of the right to the city









POLICY PAPER 1  
**APPENDICES**

## 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 Strategies;
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:

- "# 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 Strategies;
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



|   <b>HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK</b> |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 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 ...<br>Other specificities: type of country (small island, landlocked...), type of city (intermediate, megalopolis...), specific area (tropical zone, subregion...) | <b>Problem definition</b> 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 ...<br>Other specificities: type of country (small island, landlocked...), type of city (intermediate, megalopolis...), specific area (tropical zone, subregion...) | <b>Policy options</b> 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 ...<br>Other specificities: type of country (small island, landlocked...), type of city (intermediate, megalopolis...), specific area (tropical zone, subregion...) | <b>Policy design, implementation and monitoring</b>   |
|   |   | Analyse financial resources required and instruments for their sustainability               |   |   |
|   |   | Establish indicators of successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation                |   |   |
|   |   | Analyse linkages with the Agenda 2030   |   |   |



|   <b>HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK (CHALLENGES)</b> |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | 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              |

|   <b>HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK (PRIORITIES)</b> |  |  |                                  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
|  | 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             |



|   <b>HABITAT III POLICY UNIT - POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK (IMPLEMENTATION)</b> |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | 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<br>c.2. Monitoring mechanisms<br>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 1 background documents

Policy Paper 1 Framework

<http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/PU1-HABITAT-III-POLICY-PAPER-FRAMEWORK.pdf>

Comments received by Member States on the Policy Paper 1 Framework

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

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

Comments received by stakeholders' organizations on the Policy Paper 1 Framework

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

Caritas International  
Habitat International Coalition  
HelpAge International  
Institute for Housing and Urban Studies, Erasmus University of Rotterdam  
International Council for Science  
TECHO  
World Resources Institute







United Nations

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