Commonwealth Association of Planners

The Commonwealth Association represents over 40 000 urban and regional planners working throughout the Commonwealth nations and is pleased to offer assistance in this crucial work program and coming agenda.

Good urban and regional planning practices are fundamental for the development of cities and regions which are productive, safe, fair, and equitable and enriching places to live, work and play and CAP and our members are keen to assist wherever possible.

CAP has reviewed the issues papers and offers comment on papers in the Social Cohesion and Equity and Spatial Development topic groups. CAP strongly supports the inclusive approach being offered by the secretariat and the themes being developed for Habitat III.

Urban and Spatial Planning and Design.

The paper is strongly supported with minor additional suggestions. The concept of urban sprawl and its general character as low density settlement (Page 1) is acknowledged however the term sprawl does have different interpretations throughout the world that may also need to be considered. The term is also used in African and Asian cities to refer to informal settlements - sprawling areas of significant density but lacking planning and structure. The paper refers in later pages to informal urbanisation as a result of the lack of well connected serviceable plots but it is recommended that stronger mention of informal development and related issues be made. The topic of informal settlements is of course dealt with through Issue Paper 22 but should some cross reference to the related topics occur in this paper?

The inclusion of concepts of resilience and public participation are strongly supported.

It is also noted that well planned cities and regions result in better utilisation of the limited infrastructure investments available at all levels of government to maximise the outcomes of funding allocation. Well planned cities and regions also help to maximise food security which is another significant issue throughout the world.

Page 7 Key Drivers for Action includes the concept of Engagement with diverse segments of the population and this is strongly supported. Alternative wording may be effective participation which acknowledges the active involvement of those population segments in the discussions.

Inclusive Cities

This paper draws attention to growing evidence of the differential impacts (both positive and negative) of the urbanisation phenomenon. Negative impacts are increasingly concentrated in some locations, reinforcing sociospatial inequalities. Thus, urban planning solutions need to be 'fit for purpose' (Brown, 2015) so as to effectively respond to the growing urbanisation phenomenon. In doing so, there is a need for recognition that many nations, spanning both the Global North and Global South, have archaic planning systems that fail to adequately respond to the urban planning challenges of our age. Such recognition goes hand in hand with

collaborative place-based solutions, along with pro-poor solutions, built on a philosophy of inclusiveness, allowing people to benefit where they are limited to receive supports and services from mainstream approaches. Collaborative place-based approaches have emerged as a way of addressing wickedly complex issues that have several interacting causes requiring multiple actors to develop a coordinated response (Shugart and Townsend, 2010). Collaborative place-based approaches provide a useful methodological response for an inclusive urbanisation model to address the complexities of the urbanisation phenomenon. Importantly, however, place-based approaches need to be considered within larger spatial units thereby providing a more integrated and holistic response.

The importance of strategic planning and its role in creating inclusive planning and development outcomes demands attention in this paper. Inclusive planning can become a more attainable goal in a neoliberalist environment when it is linked to strategic planning. Without strategic planning, the principle of inclusive planning is defeated. Sustainable urban development – or the balance of social, environmental and economic needs as expressed in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals - cannot be achieved in the absence of 'pro-poor, strategic and inclusive planning' (Hague, 2004).

Page 3 – footnote numbering is inconsistent, and Footnote 3 appears missing.

Safer Cities

Urban planning responses typically embrace spatial manifestations of violence through a narrow focus on design in the public realm (Whitzman, 2011), where, in reality, women experience more violence in the private realm (Sweet and Escalante, 2010). This requires a broadening of urban planning scope beyond spatial concerns to improve impacts of both public and private violence.

Research has shown that there is a link between gender violence and disability violence (Astbury and Walji, 2013; Ferres, 2013). However, the combined notion of disability, discrimination and violence is one of the most under-researched areas, highlighting a broader policy vacuum. This requires a consolidated urban planning response that is premised on principles of social inclusion.

There is a need to assess migrant women's safety to determine how violence affects migrant women and girls differently, as discussed by Sweet and Escalante (2010) and Whitzman et al. (2013) about the situation of migrant women.

In recognition of the growing complexity of crime, violence and insecurity, there is a need to understand and acknowledge the value of intersectionality and multiple layers of disadvantage and discrimination in order to build more inclusive cities.

Housing

The paper is supported

Informal Settlements

The paper is supported

Smart Cities

The paper is supported. The emerging needs section on page 6 is noted as highly important for future development of cities.

Thank you again for the opportunity

Regards

Dyan Currie
President
Commonwealth Association of Planners