HABITAT III POLICY PAPER FRAMEWORK

2 – SOCIO-CULTURAL URBAN FRAMEWORK

31 December 2015

(not edited version)

This Habitat III Policy Paper Framework has been prepared by the Habitat III Policy Unit 2 members and submitted by 31 December 2015. It has followed the Habitat III Policy Paper Framework template provided by the Habitat III Secretariat to all Habitat III Policy Units[1].

Habitat III Policy Units are co-led by two international organizations and composed by a maximum of 20 experts each, bringing together individual experts from a variety of fields, including academia, government, civil society and other regional and international bodies.

The composition of the Policy Unit 2 can be consulted at www.habitat3.org

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[1] Note by the Secretariat: In specific cases slightly changes to the Habitat III Policy Paper Framework template have been accepted such as addition of executive summaries, introductions, bibliography, etc. However all frameworks have been adapted to the three basic expected accomplishments: challenges, priorities and implementation.

In this case, the Policy Paper Framework is a first draft submitted by the members of the Policy Unit 2 by 31 December 2015. The Secretariat will upload a longer version as soon as received.

The Habitat III Policy Paper Framework template can be consulted at: www.habitat3.org

Key messages

1. To increase citizen participation in all levels of planning and implementation leading to more inclusive cities and better urban environments.

2. To promote social justice, inclusion of disadvantaged groups, special mention of urban poor and unskilled migrants. Also making large enterprises more responsible and committed with their communities and decreasing economic disparity between groups and regions. In general stimulate social innovation in planning and management of towns and cities.

3. Allow cultural differences and promote localized systems of sustainable urban development: in terms of city form, social interactions, land use (discussing spatial segregation and gentrification issues and land value), increased attention for the "commons", preservation of cultural heritage, among other elements.

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1. Challenges: Identify challenges, including structural and policy constraints

Summary	- How to enhance peace and conflict resolution between people, groups, nations in a socio-cultural differs world. Assist and welcome refugees and migrants from war-torn and disaster-struck cities and regions. - How to make cities more inclusive, particularly for disadvantaged groups in society. In a world in which disparities between rich and poor are increasing, natural resources are depleted and cities increasingly suffer from climate change effects, the implementation of Sustainable development goals is a major challenge. Emphasis on the interdependency between the "pillars" of sustainable development remains a challenge. - How to develop human settlements of a variety of scales (villages, towns, cities, metropolis)that meet the challenges of the future i.e a more sustainable world, among others to reduce footprints for those whose footprints is far high, to stimulate equity and accept diversity (social, cultural, bio-, …). - How to increase real and perceived safety in towns and cities. - Planning and implementation for such future oriented human settlements should come about in truly participatory processes. - To respect heritage and diversity of cultural values without giving up on basic human rights such as freedom of expression, equal rights to women and men, major role of civil society in decision making, etc…..

Key challenges	• Urban areas have long been centres of diversity and multiculturalism. They are dynamic and constantly evolving, and are built upon the different contributions, over generations, of urban dwellers and new arrivals.
	• Cities are also sites of tension – of contestation over land, over ways of life and over use value versus exchange value. Social and spatial segregation between rich and poor, between different ethnic groups and between citizens and non-citizens increasingly characterises urban areas.
	• There is a growing 'fear of the other' in the towns and cities around the world. Social and spatial marginalisation of migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities, and of the urban poor in general, exacerbates stigma and ghettoization, and can trigger xenophobic violence. This situation is at odds with the goal of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable towns and cities.
	• The overriding challenge is to maintain diversity but to facilitate the harmonious co-existence of different income groups, and of people of different origins and immigration status within the urban environment. In practice, this will mean ensuring that all urban residents, male and female, migrants, refugees or those born in the city, are able to benefit from what urban life has to offer and to fulfil their potential. It means recognising different everyday urban practices and neighbourhood traditions and ensuring that priority is given to creating liveable cities rather than maximising profit from them. This will require balancing the interests of different stakeholders, including those of less powerful groups.
	• A further challenge lies in ensuring that city governments and communities have the capacity to engage in and manage participatory processes that guide urban planning, particularly with regards to land use and administration and housing. These processes must include the voices of women, the urban poor and minorities. The implementation of inclusive urban policies may require alternative governance structures.
	• The social and cultural implications of urban development plans, particularly those for urban 'renewal' or 'transformation' must be recognised. Without this, the quest for profit will be privileged at the expense of liveable cities where difference and diversity are

	celebrated and where lower income groups are able to use public space for their livelihoods. This will require breaking down silos within local governments, so that the implications of particular development plans for the socio-cultural urban fabric are adequately understood.
	• A final challenge is to 'rehumanise' cities. It is important to recognise that cities are places of cultural production. The idea of 'urban culture' encompasses diverse ways of urban living and interactions between different groups, as well as more formal production of art, music, literature, dance or theatre. This is what makes cities so dynamic and appealing to newcomers and existing residents, and what must be protected in the face of the global quest for profit from big business.

2. Priorities: Identify the policy priorities & critical issues for implementation of a new urban agenda

Summary	• Advocate, assist and reward participatory systems of sustainable urban planning and local government development, which respect laws and regulations, listen to the needs of people (including the powerless and disadvantaged)and reduce disparity between rich and poor.
	• Make basic services and facilities more accessible to all, not just to the richer in society. This includes, among others, controlling and regulating larger enterprises (multinationals) to become fair and just elements in society and to make productive cities as all inclusive (not just focussing on economic growth, but equally much on sustainable development, socio-cultural enhancement, and in general on quality of life defined by needs and not by greeds). Particularly stimulate social and innovative initiatives whose objective are not just profit oriented but seek better balances in the nexus **people-planet-prosperity.**
	• Increase real and perceived safety in towns and cities by offering increased job opportunities, capacity building, and access to services and common facilities, particularly for the young and newly arriving into the urban areas.
	• Stimulate cooperation between various agencies (including international agencies) and government levels to develop sustainable

	urban settlements balancing respect for heritage and tradition with future oriented development goals.
a. Establish criteria for identifying policy priorities	• Promote Social inclusion. • Dignified life conditions to all. This should entail economic, social and cultural equity in the enjoyment of resources, wealth, services, common assets, public goods, public spaces and opportunities in the cities • Promotes the role of culture and cultural heritage as a driver and an enabler of sustainable urban development
b. Define key transformations to achieve by policy priorities	• Enhance and develop participation and participation mechanisms in all levels. Citizen participation leading to more inclusive cities and better urban environments. Advocate, assist and reward participatory systems of sustainable urban planning and local government which listen to the needs of people (including the powerless and disadvantaged). Local governments should conduct consultation processes that include vulnerable groups on different problems. Participation and social innovation in planning, implementation and evaluation. The mobilization of excluded groups, to engage with stakeholders through collective action. Special emphasis on gender equality perspectives to increase women's, young people and older person's participation in democratic life and decision making at all levels. A very strong support and action for citizen participation in all areas of city living in order to recognize and respect different cultures and ways of doing things. Enhancing true participation in planning and design of neighborhoods, districts and entire cities. • Make basic services and facilities more accessible to all. Realizing the rights of all to universal access to quality basic services. Promoting universal access to urban basic services, such as sustainable and affordable housing, health including sexual and reproductive health, nutritious food, water and sanitation, education and training facilities, including life-long learning and vocational education for young especially for girls and women. Commitment for developing cities that assures universal access to urban amenities. There should be a group of key urban indicators that should be measured and referred to an agreed standard. • Social justice, inclusion of disadvantaged groups, special mention of urban poor and unskilled migrants. Fair allocation of urban

space and other resources to the livelihoods of the working poor.

- New public space and leadership that includes the participation of local leaders and women and has greater involvement of media. The role of urban planning in legitimizing public space as settings for livelihood: urban planning needs to be supportive of the working poor.

- Make productive cities as all-inclusive not just focussing on economic growth, but equally socio-cultural enhancement, on quality of life defined by needs and not by greeds.

- An agreement for some rights and duties for refugees and migrants in cities in order to look for ways of living together. There should be and acceptance of this reality instead of looking for ways of stopping it.

- Also making large enterprises more responsible and committed with their communities and decreasing economic disparity between groups and regions.

- Develop sustainable urban settlements balancing respect for heritage and tradition with future oriented development goals.

- Promote diversity in terms of city form, social interactions, land use (discussing spatial segregation and gentrification issues and land value), preservation of cultural heritage, among other elements.

- Urban development policies to incorporate an appropriate, area-based understanding of potential migration, displacement and settlement patterns, local hazard exposure and vulnerability factors.

- Housing policy which is aimed at providing affordable human settlements. Government has been enormously challenged with the provision of affordable human settlements.

- Women and young girls' policy education and inclusion.

- Informed understanding of how urban plans, policies, regulations, services and infrastructure affect informal workers and dwellers from informal settlements. It is also important to stress how cities themselves are shaped by the contributions of these workers.

- Ensure accessible decentralized and well-resourced cultural infrastructures that include museums and monuments, but also art schools, libraries or theatres.

- Policies related to the challenges mentioned above, such as citizen participation as a core part of decision processes that lead to city building, new methodologies for social intervention which take into account cultural differences, and as specific policy priorities I think that immigration conflicts and social conflicts in cities linked to different groups sharing city spaces and neighborhoods should be considered.

- Multiculturalism in the context of preserving the multi-cultural tradition of (for example traditional Muslim) cities.

- Respect of urban cultural heritage and be able to learn from the accumulations of this heritage. Preserve and properly maintain valuable cultural-historical heritage in cities, and make it usable for all population groups.

- Integrate new charters and obligatory agreements on the world-wide conservation of heritage (material and immaterial) including a stricter monitoring and evaluation system.

- That an inclusive city is one that delivers services to all its residents, regardless of nationality or immigration status. Part of achieving SDG 11 will involve treating migrants and refugees as urban citizens.

- Cities hosting large numbers of refugees or IDPs should be supported to absorb additional populations in ways that are dignified

and similar to those of longer-term residents. Setting up camps in or near urban centres should be avoided.

- Generating consensus on the need to support municipalities hosting large numbers of refugees and IDPs, so as to ensure a more dignified and hopeful existence for those seeking sanctuary in urban areas.

- Changing the discourse on urban migrants and refugees, to engender recognition of the positive contribution of these populations, and their historic role in building productive, dynamic cities.

- Developing mechanisms that curb property and land speculation, and that incentivise investments for initiatives that generate jobs for a wide range of urban dwellers.

- Collaboration and coordination of city leaders and citizens in establishing safer cities.

- Ensuring cultural rights for all and respecting cultural diversity.

- Create livable, secure and inclusive urban environment for all social groups in cities, including poor and vulnerable.

- Clear and comprehensive City/urban development strategies.

- Implementation of efficient social programs in the frames of urban development.

- Policies, addressing to poor, handicapped and other vulnerable groups, on the one hand, and protection-rehabilitation of valuable cultural heritage, on the other hand.

- See local cultures, heritage, and creativity as resources for urban development that is socially and economically inclusive and for

poverty alleviation.

- Achieve social cohesion and inclusiveness by emphasizing diversity of solutions to most urban problems from housing to employment.

- Establishing institutional, legal, and fiscal mechanisms for integrating culture and creativity into a range of policy actions.

- Encouraging diversity of solutions to most urban problems from housing to employment.

- Establishing cross-sectoral actions in urban development that engage local communities and stakeholders.

- Develop Spatial planning practices that give priorities to inclusion.

- Creation of government institutions and NGO's to develop the resilience of local communities to the problems of violence and security and strengthen to reduce vulnerability to offenders.

- Local governments need to tune their policies and instruments ensuring participatory planning and governance through better designs and functional organization of urban spaces considering efficient mechanisms of public consultation and inclusion policies, plans and programs that will ensure the inclusive city.

- Ensure that local areas should have land use plans to consider the problems of urbanization, population growth, and urban landscape and migratory flows that could support the economic transition of vulnerable groups identified in previous diagnoses.

- Anchor socio cultural urban framework in the narrative of the "Right to the City" and to explicitly include "cultural rights".

	• Identify local governments as key actors in the elaboration and implementation of urban policies. • Conceptually, a more ambitious stance, recognising culture as an important dimension of sustainable development that plays an active role in the success of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.
c. Identify common external factors favourable to the success of the policy priorities	• New public spaces require: emergence of local leaders, and involves greater participation of women in decision-making, distribution of differentiated time for innovation, greater willingness, new ways and increase citizen participation (not party) into a new public space and greater involvement of media. • Leadership, promoter of new public management ideas and projects, promoting business in equipment that allows decentralize tasks and generate critical mass. A leader - as promoting social manager, creates incentives and local image. • Mechanisms of social participation, networking, coordination with, and involvement of the population in public, policy through community organizations, through advice with different legal frameworks. • Constitution of inter-organizational networks in horizontal joint. • Increased knowledge and technical component involves better diagnostics needed for more accurate scenarios, for the social and economic reality surrounding. • Limits and possibilities of strengthening the local. Innovation in local management does not mean encouraging a new parochialism; idealize subnational levels as political or conviviality truly unique, not least, because the economy and local politics are not self-sufficient. Not exclude the responsibilities of the national government of dualism and exclusion and now opt for the neoliberal model, but says local autonomy has margins that can be to take advantage, through this greater managerial, strategic capacity and joint public- private.

	• In traditional local management, social policy is almost non-existent; just some care delivery practices essential materials occupied a residual place. In the previous model, the social policy carried out by the national government and was insert into the replacement model and industrial development in the context of full employment.
	• By decentralizing the new conditions of the municipality is facing various challenges. Thus, new ways of linking civil -societal government, emergence of new roles are observe. The new forms of organization of society emerge along with a municipality that takes up and linked to national social programs and expanding its scope in response to problems such as employment, housing, education and training, the new management model involves higher levels articulation with the productive and social sectors and greater attention to safety and the environment.
	• However, on a par with the changes, the city faces a number of problems and obstacles in social policy, as local governments have no social policy but of distribution, weak capacity of technical intervention against reality and lack of budgetary resources. This may exacerbate regional inequalities and therefore social inequalities and thereby encourage further deterioration of the state system of social services, especially in the poorest municipalities. Another serious problem is the generation of conflict between government civil -societal mainly NGOs concerned for their autonomous and politicians with electoral guidance and patronage. At the same time, municipalities fail to establish interlocutors, as many do not see NGOs as such, tending to work with grassroots organizations, even when they show little management capacity.
3. Implementation: Develop action-oriented recommendations	
a. Identify key actions at all levels of implementation	**a.1 Key actions** • Enable good governance for assuring acceptable balances between different social and population groups. • Increase capacity building to develop future oriented sustainable development planning and implementation processes at local,

regional, national and international level. Particularly focus on improved cooperation between governing structures at different scale levels and areas of competence.

- Enforce participation of relevant stakeholder groups in decision making, in order to secure social justice and appreciation of cultural differences in urban context.

- Acknowledge and protect cultural differences as a heritage of urban development.

- Conditions for the sustainability of the process of change, new roles of the municipality does not mean the elimination of the old but better compliance. This means stimulating dialogue and negotiating policy. Local politics seen more as joint coordination and confrontation (transparency ?) , based on the strategic management capacity and ideological-programmatic; Such strategic planning is more linked to the horizontal and bottom-up coordination and promotion of autonomous social networks and less as only pyramidal and controlled top-down organizations.

- The basic conditions for the sustainability of the innovation process are at least four-fold (at all level of governments) :
  i. Leadership, promoter of new public management ideas and projects, promoting business in equipment that allows decentralize tasks and generate critical mass. A leader - as promoting social manager, creates incentives and local image.
  ii. Mechanisms of social participation, networking, coordination with, and involvement of the population in public policy through community organizations, and through advice with solid legal frameworks.
  iii. Constitution of inter-organizational networks in horizontal coordination
  iv. Increased knowledge and technical component involves better diagnostics needed for more accurate scenarios, within the social and economic reality

- Limits and possibilities of strengthening the local. Innovation in local management does not mean encouraging a new parochialism; to idealize subnational levels as politically correct or uniquely convivial is not automatic but has to elaborated and monitored; , not

	least, because the economy and local politics are not self-sufficient. One cannot exclude the responsibilities of the national government but one has to redirect dualism and exclusion and modify the neoliberal model. Local autonomy, as complement to the national level, offers possibilities that can be advantageous, through greater managerial and strategic capacity and hopefully in well balanced joint public- private cooperation.