



Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings

Panel on Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development

New York, 28 April 2016



Policy Unit 4 - Team

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Propositions

- Urban Governance as the 'rules of the game' that underpin political choices about the development of cities
- Institutional frameworks impact on policy capacities, which in turn impact on policy outcomes
- Intentional institutional change may be motivated by addressing policy problems but in most cases is a result of other factors as well

Habitat 3 Policy Unit 4:

By and large, urban governance frameworks and institutions in most countries need to evolve to face critical challenges



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Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development

CHALLENGES



1 Cities' responsibilities

But they are not enabled to fully deliver



Education



Transport



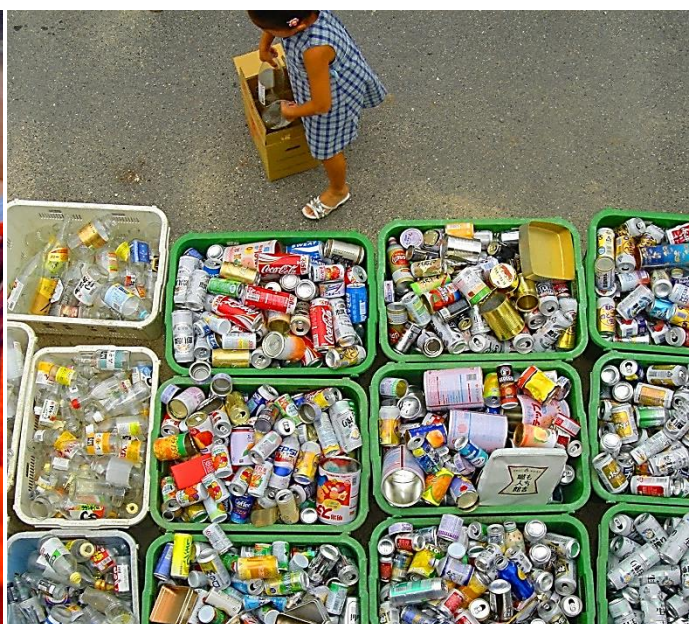
Development



Energy



Health



Resources



Water

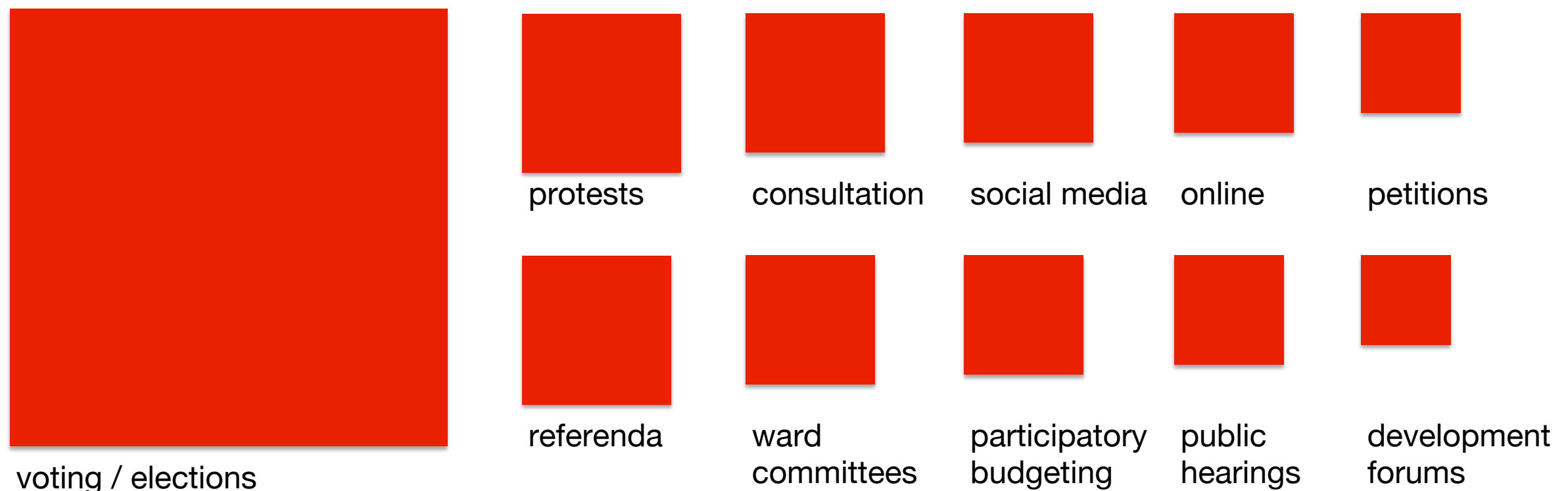


Security



2 Political power

Cities and urban societies continue to suffer from an imbalance of political power and insufficient inclusiveness and participation



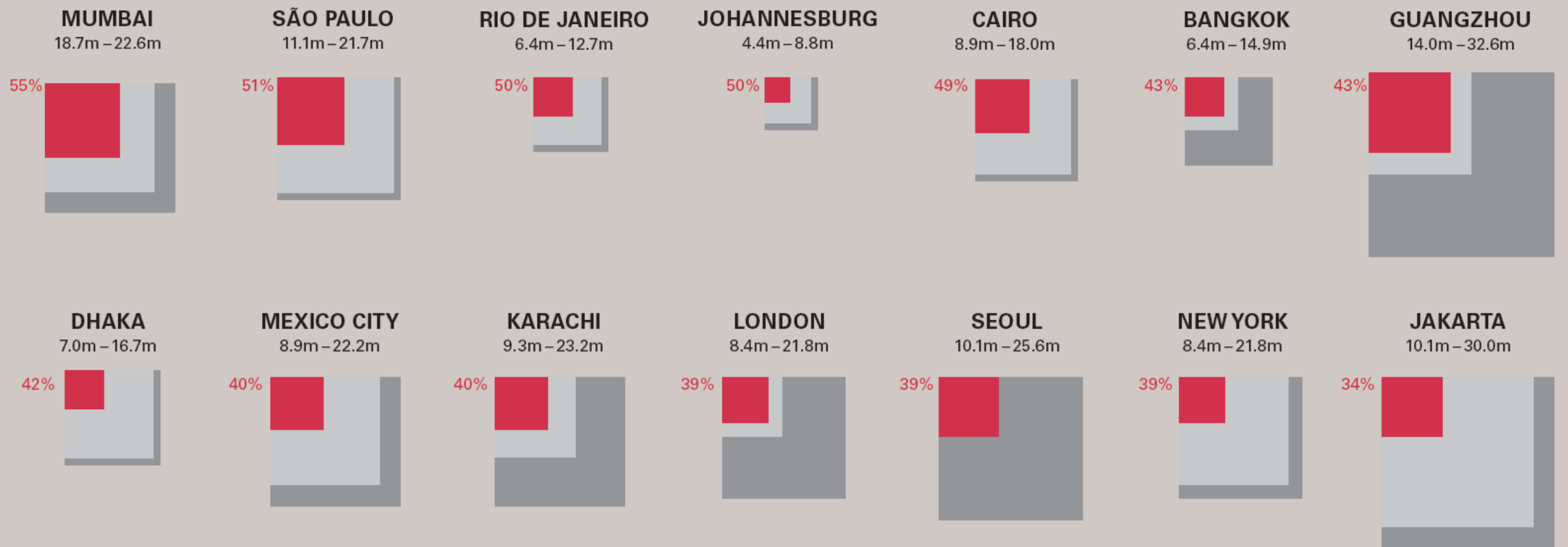
The most significant ways citizens can influence local policies

Source: Urban Governance Survey – LSE Cities, UN Habitat and UCLG 2016



3 The metropolitan challenge

A growing gap between the political city and the metropolitan region



Source: LSE Cities 2014

Comparing the populations of the political city (red) and the metropolitan region (grey)

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NEW URBAN GOVERNANCE



New Urban Governance

- **Democratic and inclusive:** the right to participate in the development of cities and their surroundings for all stakeholders
- **Long-term and integrated:** allow for long-term public policies and foster comprehensive public policies across whole territory in a systemic way
- **Multi-scale and multi-level:** coordination between different levels of government and sectors of society
- **Territorial:** understand cities as a system of relationships between urban and rural areas operating as an urban ecosystem
- **Proficient:** skills to implement relevant public policies in a responsive and realistic way.
- **Conscious of the digital age:** new technology to assist local authorities with more transparent, accountable, participatory and responsive governance systems.



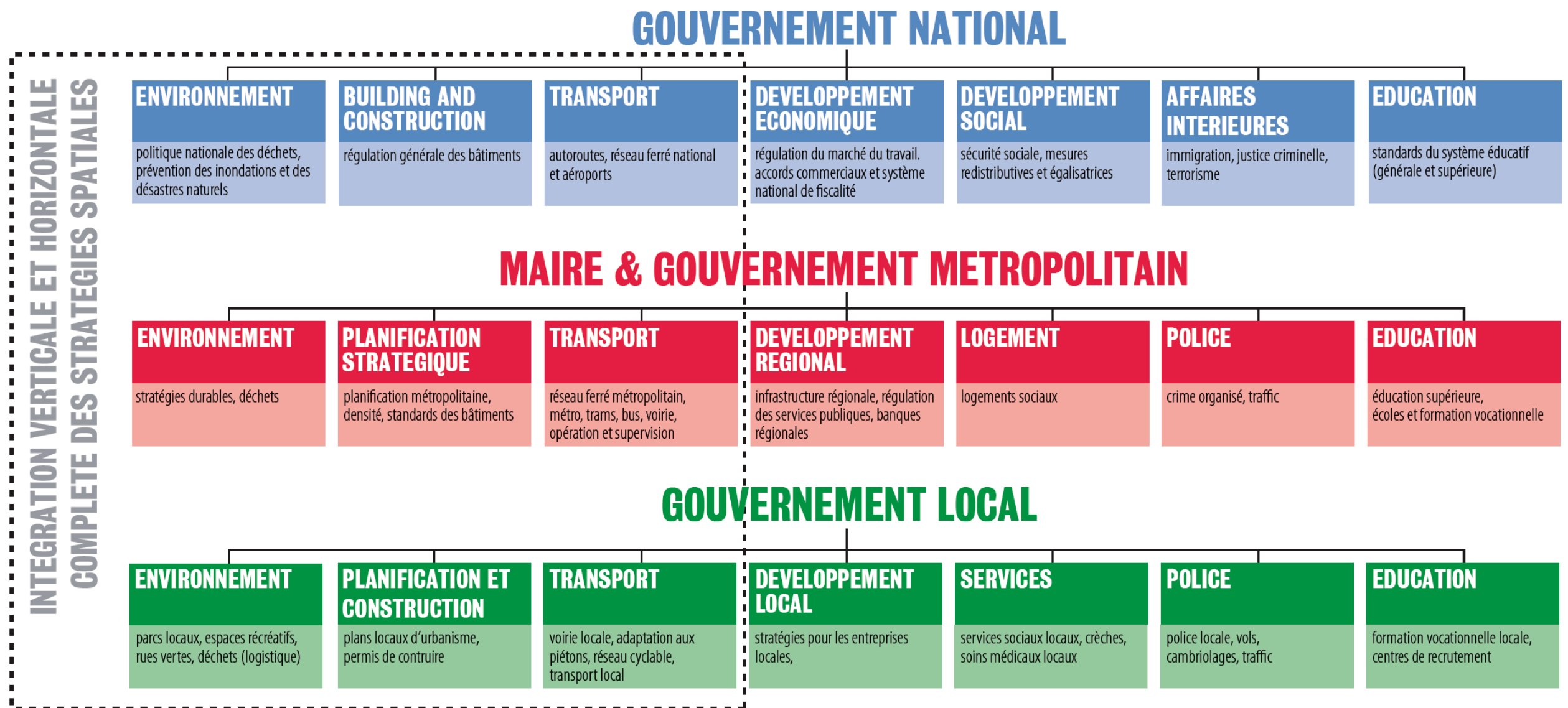
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PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS



Create strong

Multi-level governance frameworks

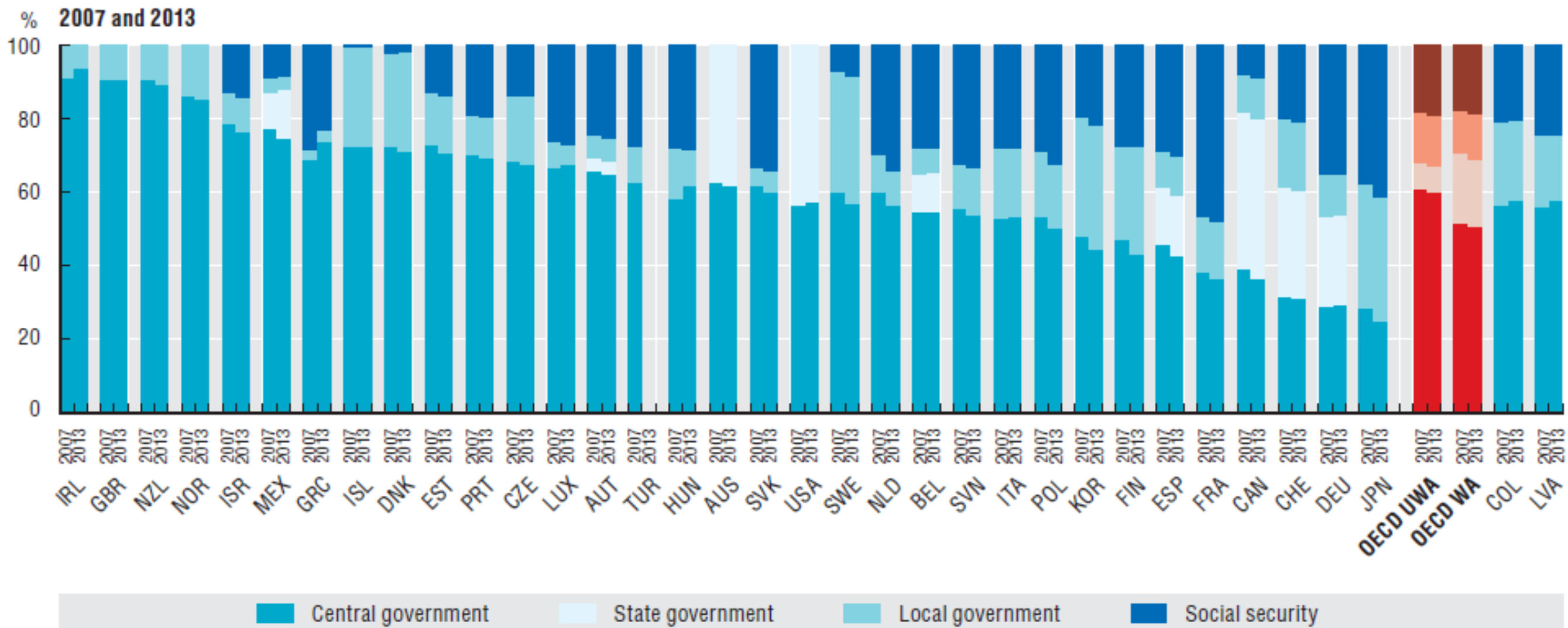


Source: LSE Cities 2008

Idealised, theoretical system of multi-level governance

Strengthen

Decentralisation

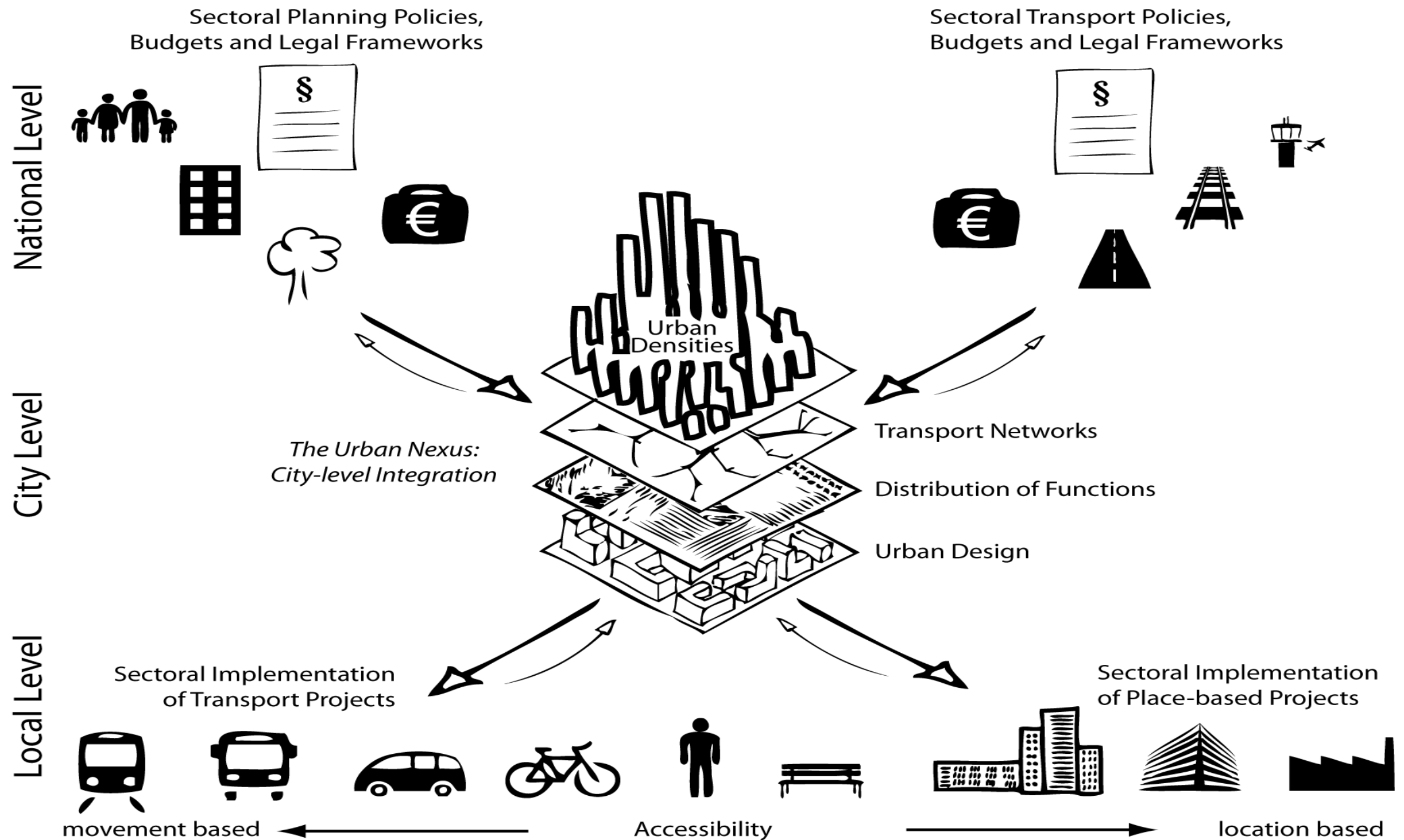


Government revenue distribution across governance levels

Source: OECD 2015

Promote

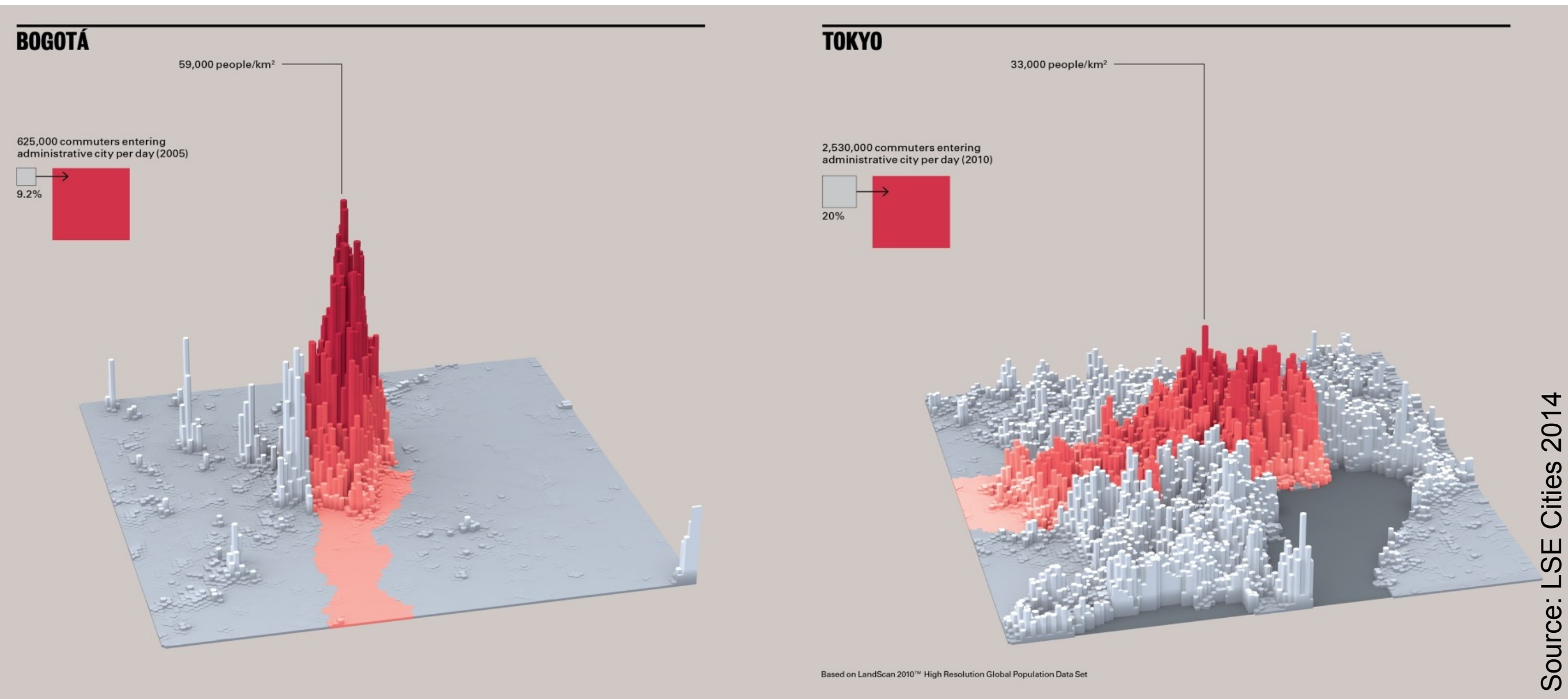
Integrated urban policies



Integrating urban planning and transport policy
Source: Rode 2015

Reinforce

Metropolitan governance



The political city and the distribution of populations across metropolitan regions

Promote

Culture of participation and equity



Strengthen

Capacity building



Enable

Digital era governance & monitoring

- Establish regular monitoring systems of urban and territorial policies at national and local levels
- Governments at all levels to contribute to the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data
- Create reporting mechanisms that form part of a 'national observatory of urban and territorial policies'
- Establish effective evaluation mechanisms
- Ensure the successful development and implementation of a citizen-centric digital era governance that continuously taps into technological innovations.



Questions for the Discussion

- 1. Institutional reform vs. policy change:** Which recommended urban governance reforms should be prioritised over the development of concrete and substantive policies in order to ensure that the latter are effective and efficient? In turn, what are policy priorities that should not be waiting for institutional reform?
- 2. Universality and transferability:** Which of the proposed actions do you consider as particularly universal in character that should, in principle, be applied in diverse contexts independent of specific local conditions? In turn, which proposed actions do you consider primarily an issue of local context?
- 3. Barriers:** Which of the proposed actions is confronted with the most significant barriers to implementation? Which barriers are these? Which proposed actions are less likely to be confronted by major obstacles linked to implementation?





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