



Cape Town, South Africa © Flickr / Ian Wilson

Towards the development of
**INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON
URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING**

"We recognize that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies"

The Future We Want, Rio+20 Outcome Document

Why develop International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning?

Different types and approaches of urban and territorial planning exist and have been tested worldwide without **simple and universally agreed principles** to guide decision makers towards sustainable urban development.

The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) intend to constitute a global framework for improving policies, plans and designs for more **compact**, socially **inclusive**, better **integrated** and **connected** cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are **resilient** to climate change.

The IG-UTP would complement two sets of guidelines previously adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat: the **Guidelines on Decentralization** (2007) and the **Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for All** (2009), which have been used as a reference in a number of countries to catalyze policy and institutional reforms and to leverage partnerships.

From National Experiences to Universal Principles

UN-Habitat established a **Group of Experts** to support and guide the IG-UTP drafting process*. Building on national experiences, this Group aims at capturing universal principles that could **support a diversity of planning approaches adapted to different contexts and scales**.

Experts include nominees from **national governments, local authorities** (eg: UCLG), **development partners** (eg: World Bank and OECD), **associations of planners** (eg: ISOCARP) **research and academia**, and **civil society organizations** from Africa, Asia, Europe and America.

The **Committee of Permanent Representatives** to UN-Habitat as well as other **United Nations bodies** will be consulted throughout the IG-UTP development process, which has the following milestones:

- April 2013: **Resolution 24/3** of UN-Habitat's Governing Council mandating the development of the IG-UTP
- Oct. 2013: First Expert Group Meeting held in **Paris**, France
- April 2014: Second Expert Group Meeting and UN High-level Inter-Agency Meeting (briefing of 27 UN agencies) held in **Medellin**, Colombia, in conjunction with the 7th World Urban Forum
- Nov. 2014: Third Expert Group Meeting in **Fukuoka**, Japan
- April 2015: Submission of the IG-UTP to the 25th Governing Council of UN-Habitat for approval

**with the financial support of France and Japan*

Key Principles of the IG-UTP (Draft, as of May 2014)

Designed as a reference document, the IG-UTP would promote **key urban and territorial planning principles** organized along four main pillars. The IG-UTP will also include recommendations for the stakeholders involved in urban and territorial planning.

A	URBAN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
1	Urban and Territorial Planning is more than a technical tool; it is an integrative decision-making process that must address competing interests and be linked to a shared vision and an overall development strategy as well as national and local urban policies.
2	Planning represents a core component of the renewed urban governance paradigm which aims at promoting local democracy, participation and inclusion, transparency and accountability with a view to ensuring better urbanization and spatial quality, environmental sustainability, social and cultural development and economic prosperity.
B	URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
	Urban and Territorial Planning and Social Development
3	Urban and Territorial Planning must primarily aim at improving the living and working conditions of all segments of present and future society and at promoting equitable distribution of the costs, opportunities and benefits of urban development, as well as social inclusion and cohesion.
4	Placing culture at the heart of urban development policy and planning constitutes an essential investment in the future and a pre-condition to better quality of life and successful globalization processes that take into account the principles of respect and tolerance for cultural diversity and recognition for distinct needs of various groups.
	Urban and Territorial Planning and Sustained Economic Growth
5	Urban and Territorial Planning must support and facilitate sustained and inclusive economic growth through the provision of adequate infrastructure, the development of which should follow rather than precede the adoption of UT plans.
6	UTP could be a powerful political mechanism to ensure that sustained economic growth and social development go hand in hand and to promote equitable and inclusive development at all territorial levels.
	Urban and Territorial Planning and the Environment
7	Urban and Territorial Planning must provide a spatial framework for the protection and management of the natural and built environment and for integrated and sustainable urban and regional development.
8	To increase human security, Urban and Territorial Planning must contribute to strengthening environmental and social resilience and to improving natural and environmental risk prevention and management.
C	URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING COMPONENTS
9	As a mechanism Urban and Territorial Planning must combine several spatial, institutional and financial dimensions over a variety of time horizons and spatial scales. It must be a continuous and iterative process grounded in well-defined and enforceable regulations.
10	Spatial planning constitutes a practical subset of UTP aimed at facilitating and articulating political decisions based on different scenarios and broad consultations, and at translating them into actions that will transform the physical and social space and support the development of sustainable territories.
D	IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING
11	A strengthened institutional framework is indispensable to the implementation of sustainable urban development agendas, policies, plans and programmes that intend to respond coherently and effectively to current and future challenges;
12	Adequate implementation of plans in all their dimensions requires efficient urban management, improved coordination, consensus-building approaches, reduced duplication of efforts, continuous monitoring and periodic adjustments. It requires in particular an appropriate legal framework and sufficient capacities at all levels, as well as sustainable financial mechanisms and technologies.

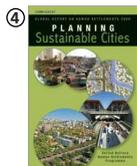
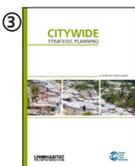
What's Next?

The preparation of the IG-UTP is expected to contribute to the preparatory process of the **Habitat III Conference**, scheduled to take place in June 2016.

Once adopted, UN-Habitat and other development partners may be called upon to support countries and cities which would consider **using the guidelines in their national and local contexts**, draft corresponding regulations and by-laws, and test such normative tools in concrete planning exercises.

A **set of tools** could be designed to support the IG-UTP development process which will have to be monitored and documented. **Case studies** may also be undertaken to illustrate the conditions and benefits of the proposed Urban and Territorial Planning approaches.

UN-Habitat's Key References on Urban and Territorial Planning



- ① **Urban Patterns for a Green Economy**, Set of 4 Guides (2012)
- ② **Urban Planning for City Leaders** (2012)
- ③ **Citywide Strategic Planning**, a Step by Step Guide (2010)
- ④ **Global Report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities** (2009)*
- ⑤ **International Guidelines on Decentralisation and Access to Basic Services for all** (2009)*

**available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish*

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