

COMMENTS TO THE POLICY UNIT DOCUMENTS

1. THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND CITIES FOR ALL.

- i. The concept “The Recognition of the link Human Rights, Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy with the Territory in the New Urban Agenda” is defined as an antonym or the current failures, a vision about this link could better guide the efforts towards the definition of the new urban agenda.
- ii. It is necessary to define the links between urban policy and the right to the city and the right to adequate housing
- iii. The urban and territorial dimension should be included as relevant public policies for this topic
- iv. The link to environmental aspects are not clearly explained, aspects such as waste management, water resources management, energy and biodiversity.
- v. The resilience concept should be included in this document since climate change is only observed as a phenomenon touching the cities, but not much is elaborated on risk management.
- vi. The concept of governance should also include the participation of civil society in decision making processes; additionally metropolitan governance should be mentioned.
- vii. All the governmental levels should be included, to better comprehend the regional and metropolitan approach. It is necessary to understand the linkages of the urban systems and the global economy to define adequate public policies.
- viii. Urban policies should be linked to social and economic policies to reduce disparities between the regions.
- ix. Urban policy should recognize the diversity of the cities: size, functions, physical, cultural and historical heritage, socio-economic level of the population, quality of life, among others.
- x. The urban structure and the linkage to regional, metropolitan and urban mobility cannot be overlooked.
- xi. Housing should be linked to the urban environment, access to land and infrastructure. It is necessary to consider the economic and social aspects of housing, not only access to credit.

- xii. Housing and urban planning should not be disassociated. Vacant houses localized in peri-urban/suburban areas without infrastructure or facilities require strategies to restore these constructions.
- xiii. The format should be reviewed (spaces between words, capital letters, among others)
- xiv. Urban heritage and culture are topics that should be linked to the Right to the city. An adequate management of the heritage might strengthen social cohesion.
- xv. Recognition of the need to create city not only housing to effectively exercise the fundamental rights.
- xvi. Consider gender perspective in urban policies to reduce inequalities in access to goods and services.
- xvii. This paragraph requires a style review.
 - 1. *The New Urban Agenda ~~need to emphasize~~ affirms the necessary link between social inclusion, participatory democracy, and human rights with the territory to make inclusive, fair, democratic and sustainable cities.*

2. SOCIO-CULTURAL URBAN FRAMEWORK

- i. Participation processes should also be included in policy making not only in urban planning
- ii. There is a lack of knowledge of how to apply participation processes: tools, assessment for participation processes
- iii. Challenges:
 - 1. Open data governments with access to information for citizens.
 - 2. Broad participation processes for decision making, policies, development strategies not only urban.
- iv. Priorities:
 - 1. Affordable housing and land in the city; avoiding long distances from economic and labor enters.
 - 2. Policies need to favour the low income sectors with subsidies and facilities for housing and education.
- v. Implementation:
 - 1. Give priority to urban policies and reforms.

2. Open sources to make participation processes easy and with a broad implementation regarding people involved.

3. NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES

i. Challenges:

1. Obsolete urban frameworks.
2. Lack of policies for metro regional planning and governance structures.
3. Land regulation to avoid speculation and sprawl.
4. Policies to reinforce urban plans.
5. Regulations for inter municipal administration, particularly services and infrastructure.
 - a. Example: Mexico created a Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development to work in the Urban Reform, after three years its yet to update its legal framework from the 1970s'.

ii. Priorities:

1. Capacity building for municipal governments as a bottom-top process to consolidate regional frameworks.
2. Work in a new territorial definition that will effectively help manage cities and regions according to their functions.
3. Update national framework and recognise the new magnitude of the city thus facilitating its structure for future adjustments and inclusions.

iii. Implementation:

1. Recognise the scale of territory and apply policies accordingly to scale

4. URBAN GOVERNANCE, CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

i. Challenges:

1. Identify structures that apply to each city or metro region that will facilitate its development.
2. Working in a coordinated way with other cities to achieve governance in service delivery and territorial policy.
3. Understand the importance of coordination and benefits.

ii. Priorities:

1. Promote participation in all sectors and structures that guarantee their legitimacy.
2. Consolidate in each region a structure that will include a decision-making body with a planning institute and a finance organism all enhanced in an observation and monitoring system to guarantee efficiency.

iii. Implementation:

1. In Metro-regions it is important to guarantee equal rights and benefits for all municipalities and the implementation of projects at a regional scale.

5. MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND LOCAL FISCAL SYSTEMS

We would encourage the inclusion of the UN resolution 69/313. Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) that addresses “the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity”.

- i. In the “priorities section” we suggest to include the following aspects:
 1. *Increase the financing sources for elaboration and operation of instruments of territorial planning (Environmental zoning programs, urban development programs, among others) as well as executive projects.*
 2. *Financial instruments for urban consolidation, including financing social housing in the inner city.*
 3. *Participatory planning*
 4. *Modernise cadaster and other tax instruments*
 5. *Transparency and accountability should be included*
 6. *Strengthen international cooperation through official assistance for development.*
 7. *Include innovative financial resources*
- ii. Challenges:
 1. National contributions should be effectively monitored and to guarantee correct implementation and long term effectiveness.
 2. Capacity Building for municipal governments understanding and implementation of local finances (revenues).
- iii. Priorities
 1. Modernizing fiscal systems; open data guarantees transparency in processes.

6. URBAN SPATIAL STRATEGIES: LAND MARKET AND SEGREGATION

- i. Challenges:
 1. Updating of plans should be a priority. Its implementation should be obligatory and sanctioned if not applied.

2. Other planning mechanisms should be designed as alternatives to urban plans.
- ii. Priorities:
 1. A system of indicators should be applied before, developing or updating a plan to identify issues and establish baselines.
- iii. Implementations:
 1. There has to be a clear global strategy that urban plans at all scales should consider to act harmoniously over territory.
 2. Strategies should enhance key issues only to avoid a discrimination of projects that will lack of impact.
 3. Planning should be focused in the well being of citizens as a priority.

7. URBAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- i. Challenges:
 1. Cities need to identify their advocacies first and the strength of regional work.
 2. Governments need to increase their investment in innovation and scientific research,
 3. Governments need to increase their investment in all communication networks - transport, telecom, etc.
 4. Cities need to be safe to promote investment.
- ii. Priorities:
 1. Invest in capacity building in accordance to the advocacy defined in the city.
 2. Promoting social inclusion will make cities safer and more integrated.

8. URBAN ECOLOGY AND RESILIENCE

- i. Among the soft systems it is recommended to include “social capital”
- ii. In the vision section number iii. We suggest adding “and will use natural resources more efficiently, including urban land”
- iii. An additional number should be included in the vision as number: “ix. The city will have to increase food security of urban dwellers”
- iv. In section “1.b.4 Planning”, number iii. Should also include: employment, utilities.
- v. An additional number should state: “viii. Lack of regulation to the underutilization of urban land
- vi. In the section “1.b.7 Culture, Livelihoods and Consumption”, number vii. Should include “income”.

- vii. In the section 2.b.1. Governance, it should be considered that the vision of urban management is widely transformed into binding commitments to the different levels of government
- viii. In the section “b. 1 Financial resources” we encourage an additional number:
 - vii. Tax incentives
- ix. Challenges:
 - 1. Cities must be seen as sources to address and alleviate climate change and environmental degradation.
- x. Priorities:
 - 1. Cities should measure resource consumption to identify changes in its policies and administration.
- xi. Implementation:
 - 1. Design a system of indicators and monitoring to localize efforts in weaknesses regarding resilience awareness.
 - 2. Plans should properly restrict development in higher areas and environmental protected areas and sanctions should be imposed.

9. URBAN SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

- i. Challenges:
 - 1. Technology is a tool that can help manage city services in a very effective way with social participation.
 - 2. The efficiency of the city is determinant for its economic development and the quality of life of its citizens. Therefore, efficient service delivery should be prior.
- ii. Implementation:
 - 1. Cities should think of circular metabolisms when planning service delivery to guarantee reuse, recycling and reduction of natural resources. This includes water consumption, waste management and energy.
 - 2. Promote collaborative solutions between several municipal governments in the region to introduce effective solutions at lower prices.
 - 3. Increase sanctions for car use to promotes public transport.