



The City Iranians Need

Towards a New Urban Agenda



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THE CITY IRANIANS NEED Towards a New Urban Agenda is a joint publication of the National Land & Housing Organization, Ministry of Roads & Urban Development, and UN-Habitat office in Tehran. This first edition has been prepared for presentation to the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. It is subject to further revision.

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The City Iranians Need supports #TheCityWeNeed.

The City We Need is a consensus document outlining a new urban paradigm in time for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which will be held in Quito/Ecuador in October 2016. It has been translated into all United Nations languages, in order to act as a reference document for all stakeholders and governments dealing with housing and sustainable urban development.

Learn more about this manifesto here: <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/city-we-need>
#TheCityWeNeed was developed by the partners of the World Urban Campaign (WUC). The WUC is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned cities. Its goal is to place the Urban Agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is coordinated by UN-Habitat and driven by a large number of committed partners - currently more than 150 partners and networks - from around the world. Learn more: <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org/>



من، شهرم
رامی سازم

I'M A CITY
CHANGER



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
برنامه عمران برای آینده بهتر

Foreword

It is evident that people's aspirations for their cities and urban life are fundamental to good urban management; something that urban planners respect.

Today we have the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in hand, and the New Urban Agenda is forthcoming. These two documents could guide the urban planners. Goal 11 of the SDGs makes "cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and is directly linked to cities; and about 60% of sustainable development targets will be realized in cities and pursued by citizens. Moreover, the New Urban Agenda, which is to be adopted in the Habitat III Conference, could facilitate the implementation of the SDGs, emphasizing people-based definition of cities and people-centered urban development.

During its one-year long grassroots activity, Iran's National Urban Campaign has reminded us that problems would only be resolved if solutions are coming from those who have themselves felt the problems.

Participatory engagement of citizens from all walks of life could lead us to sustainable cities.

I am pleased that with the benevolence of the Almighty this valuable activity has resulted in compilation of *The City Iranians Need*. With this effort, we have made a small contribution in evolving our cities towards our ideal city. This booklet could bring about hope, incentive, and motivation to the Iranians and define a model that makes them believe participation in urban affairs and tackling the problems could improve their quality of life. I hope that all Iranian citizens take a step forward for a better urban future by studying this booklet.



Hamidreza Azimian

Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Roads &
Urban Development



Acknowledgement

The idea of the National Urban Campaign (NUC) was formed when the small booklet ‘the City We Need’ was published in 2014 and preparation of Iran’s National Report for the Habitat III Conference had already been initiated. UN-Habitat Office in Tehran thought that while the National Report would be prepared through the National Habitat Committee and the Government departments formally, it would also be a good idea to form a NUC and, through it, find out what the Iranians think of the city they want. From the start, the fundamental principle we tried to follow was to be positive and seek positive and constructive opinion. Our intention was to depict what ordinary citizens in Iran aspired or desired of their living environment, their cities, in a highly urbanized circumstances.

This idea was shared with the national counterpart at the Land and Housing Organisation (NLHO), Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, who not only welcomed the idea but also agreed to support it. Henceforth, a year-long process, which has been explained elsewhere in this booklet in more detail, was initiated. Throughout the process, the counterpart was kept informed of the progress of work.

The City Iranians Need is the outcome of an intensive period of activity by this office with minimal resources, and great voluntary and outstanding contribution of particularly young Iranian professionals. During the preparatory period right through the completion of the booklet, two young and bright professionals of this office, namely Ahmadreza Shams and Jeiran Kordestani tirelessly and on a full-time basis pursued the route we had planned from the beginning with the NLHO to make the NUC happen. It may be noted that a number of activities, particularly those at the national level, did not materialize due to lack of adequate resources, or we had to modify our approach to some initiatives with innovative solutions; yet, we have had such great response from all corners of Iran through our interactive website and our partners that makes us believe our sample is indeed a representative segment of Iranian society and their desires for the city the Iranians want.

UN-Habitat Tehran Office is indebted to all those individuals or entities that put their efforts in various forms in the preparation of this booklet: we sincerely thank the Urban Dialogue participants; the NUC

partners; the artists, the academics and professionals, the social workers, the multimedia activists, neighbourhoods, organisations and other entities who contributed to the NUC. The academics and professionals who commented on the first draft of this booklet deserve a special thanks. A full list of all these collaborators appears in the Annex.

Further, we are grateful for moral support from the World Urban Campaign and the National Land and Housing Organisation throughout the process. Special gratitude goes to Ahmadreza Shams and Jeiran Kordestani, who selflessly dedicated their time and effort to make us reach where we stand today with *The City Iranians Need*.

Last, but not least, we express our sincere gratitude to those Iranians who were sensitized by our campaign and took time and sent us their comments, videos, photographs, stories, etc. in order to tell us what their vision of the city they want is. We greatly value their opinion, and intend to publish all the comments and documents that we received throughout the campaign in a single e-publication in the near future.

While we have tried to capture by way of the NUC the vision of *the city Iranians need* in a participatory manner, we hope the outcome will also make a contribution to the vision of "Iran Shahr", which is currently being debated among the urban thinkers and experts in Iran ("Iran Shahr" broadly refers to the lands of Persia during the Sassanid period and somewhat epitomizes the Persian identity and its elements including governance.).

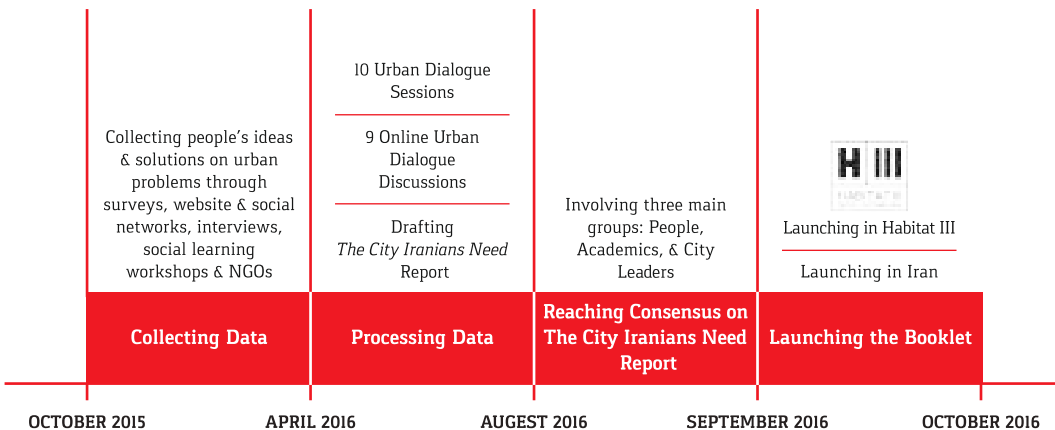
It must be admitted that this publication was rushed for print, in time for distribution during the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, October 2016. It therefore may have some shortcomings in presentation and content. UN-Habitat Tehran Office intends to improve upon this publication after the Habitat III Conference and publish a revised edition before the end of 2016.

UN-Habitat Office in Tehran, October 2016

Iran's National Urban Campaign Towards Habitat III



INUC Launched



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***The City Iranians Need* is prepared based on Iranian citizens' ideas and the processing sessions of Urban Dialogue:**

List of Iranian cities that participated in INUC:

Abadan, Abhar, Ahwaz, Amol, Ardabil, Babol, Bandar Abbas, Bandar Anzali, Badrood, Bam, Beyrom, Brujerd, Bushehr, Damavand, Garmsar, Ghayen, Ghesm, Hamedan, Ilam, Isfahan, Jiroft, Jolfa, Kashmar, Kelardasht, Kerman, Kermanshah, Khansar, Khorramshahr, Kish, Koohdasht, Lahidjan, Langrud, Maragheh, Mashhad, Neka, Qazvin, Ramsar, Rasht, Sanandaj, Sari, Shiraz, Sirjan, Tabriz, Taleqan, Tehran, Urmia, Yazd, Zahedan

Urban Dialogue (UD) sessions:

UD1: 1st preparatory session
UD2: 2nd preparatory session
UD3: "Urban Ecology & Environment" (first meeting)
UD4: "Urban Ecology & Environment" (second meeting)
UD5: "Spatial Development"
UD6: "Urban Economy"
UD7: "Housing & Basic Services"
UD8: "Urban Frameworks"
UD9: "Social Cohesion"
UD10: Wrap Up

Preamble

In 2010, World Urban Campaign (WUC) came as a direct response to the urgent need for an effective partnership among governments and civil society organizations, local authorities, the private sector, the research community, trade unions, parliamentarians, professional organizations, youth and women groups, in order to achieve sustainable urban development. As an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness on positive urban change, WUC contributes to a new urban paradigm planned to be released in the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Ecuador (Quito) in October 2016. WUC advised all countries to join this partnership by launching their National Urban Campaign.

As such, UN-Habitat Iran and Iran's National Habitat Committee jointly launched Iran's National Urban Campaign (INUC) as the fourth NUC of the world on World Habitat Day (5 October 2015) to find a shared vision for *The City Iranians Need*.

The City Iranians Need (TCIN) is a vision prepared through a voluntarily contribution of more than 1000 citizens from 48 cities and 10 organizations representing 12 constituent groups: women and men, youth and children, aging populations, and people with disabilities, research and academia, civil society organizations, grassroots organizations, social activists,

artists, urban professionals, and the media.

This national consultation and consensus building has been made possible through a three-step process: **(i) data gathering** (collecting people's ideas, recommendations and solutions on urban problems through surveys, interactive website and social networks, interviews, people workshops and NGOs) from October 2015 to April 2016; **(ii) processing** the received data through ten sessions of Urban Dialogue organized by UN-Habitat Iran from April to August 2016 (engaging 20 young urban thinkers from various fields such as urbanism, architecture, geography, environment, political science, economics, climatology, sociology, entrepreneurship, and agricultural engineering), and **(iii) reaching consensus** in September 2016 by involving three groups: people, urban decision makers and decision takers.

The solutions suggested by Iranians were discussed in 10 thematic *Urban Dialogues by Urban Thinkers* who formed six major working groups: Spatial Development, Social Cohesion, Urban Economy, Urban Ecology & Environment, Urban Frameworks, and Housing & Basic Services. Each working group prepared an issue paper taking advantage of Urban Dialogue discussions which will be published separately. All issue papers were compiled by a drafting committee which developed the vision of *The City Iranians Need*.

The final version of **TCIN** was then shared with a wide audience among the academia, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and partners for their final comments. This booklet is the outcome of this process.

INUC shares Iranians' vision with the world in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). This vision builds on what INUC, as a national platform for WUC, received from ideas, recommendations and solutions from the Iranians towards the future they want. By preparing **The City Iranians Need**, INUC aimed at sensitizing people to urban issues as well as encouraging urban decision makers and takers to enable citizens' participation in curbing urban problems.

INUC invites all Iranian decision makers/takers and the community at large to consider this common vision driven by principles and drivers of change in order to change their cities for a sustainable future.

The **TCIN** booklet does not aim to express a complete portrayal of what Iranians want of their cities. However, **The City Iranians Need** can be recognized as an initial step towards realizing the future we want.



Introduction

How we plan, build, and manage our cities today will determine the outcome of our efforts to achieve sustainable and balanced development tomorrow. It is globally understood that the way we plan our cities is not separated from the way people think, behave, and live. People are the first and the biggest drivers of change in cities. They have more sense of concern and compassion for their urban life as well as information, innovations and solutions which are necessary to be processed and applied to cities. Decision makers and takers should believe in people's abilities and go beyond predetermined limiting views.

The City Iranians Need is particularly timely. Iran has been rapidly urbanizing and facing a number of

challenges. Nearly 73 percent of Iranians live in cities. During the last 20 years urban population has increased 1.6 times in Iran. In the next decade (2016-2025), Iranian cities are expected to see a 10-million increase in population. This is only about 10 percent of the predicted population growth between 1950 and 2050. Moreover, we are at a time that the global community has tools such as SDGs and New Urban Agenda all of which facilitate Iran in moving towards a better future.

Since achieving a better urban life does not happen by chance, this booklet aims to rally all Iranian city changers to make their cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable for a better quality of life.



Principles for "The City Iranians Need"

The 8 principles of TCIN were defined based on common concepts driven from people's solutions and ideas.
They are interrelated and cannot delineate TCIN separately



I. The City Iranians Need values heritage and welcomes modernity

The City Iranians Need cherishes all cultures, religions, and traditions. It gives people self and collective identity, reminds them of memories, and narrates the stories of old ancient games and ethnicities.

As cultural assimilation is abolished, *TCIN* respects plurality and cultivates sense of belonging.

In *TCIN*, national cultural heritage is well recognized, protected and managed, while modernization is harnessed and monitored. Equipped with modern, smart, and intelligent infrastructures, *TCIN* is interested

in preserving Iranian traditional and vernacular architecture and urbanism as a legacy for its posterity.

TCIN has a special persona. Having a consistent culture with its geographic location, *TCIN* gives a sense of shared identity providing reference clasps rather than sterile stereotypes to which citizens can attach themselves.

Due to its differentiations, *TCIN* has a prominent position in promotional global tourism. With a worldwide reputation, it welcomes newcomers from around the world.



2. The City Iranians Need is safe and secure, well-connected and accessible which promotes compatible mix of uses

The City Iranians Need is walkable and bicycle-friendly. All dwellers have access to public spaces, especially women and children. It has tree-lined accessible and connected sidewalks and pedestrian areas.

TCIN is age and disabled-friendly. In *TCIN*, people with disabilities are empowered with their independence. It is well-designed and safe for all to walk particularly for citizens with eye, ear and walking disabilities, children and elderly people.

TCIN mainstreams people's right in urban plans. It protects public land use and pays special attention to sports and recreational activities. In *TCIN*, cars do not seize public spaces. *TCIN* recognizes "Right to the City".

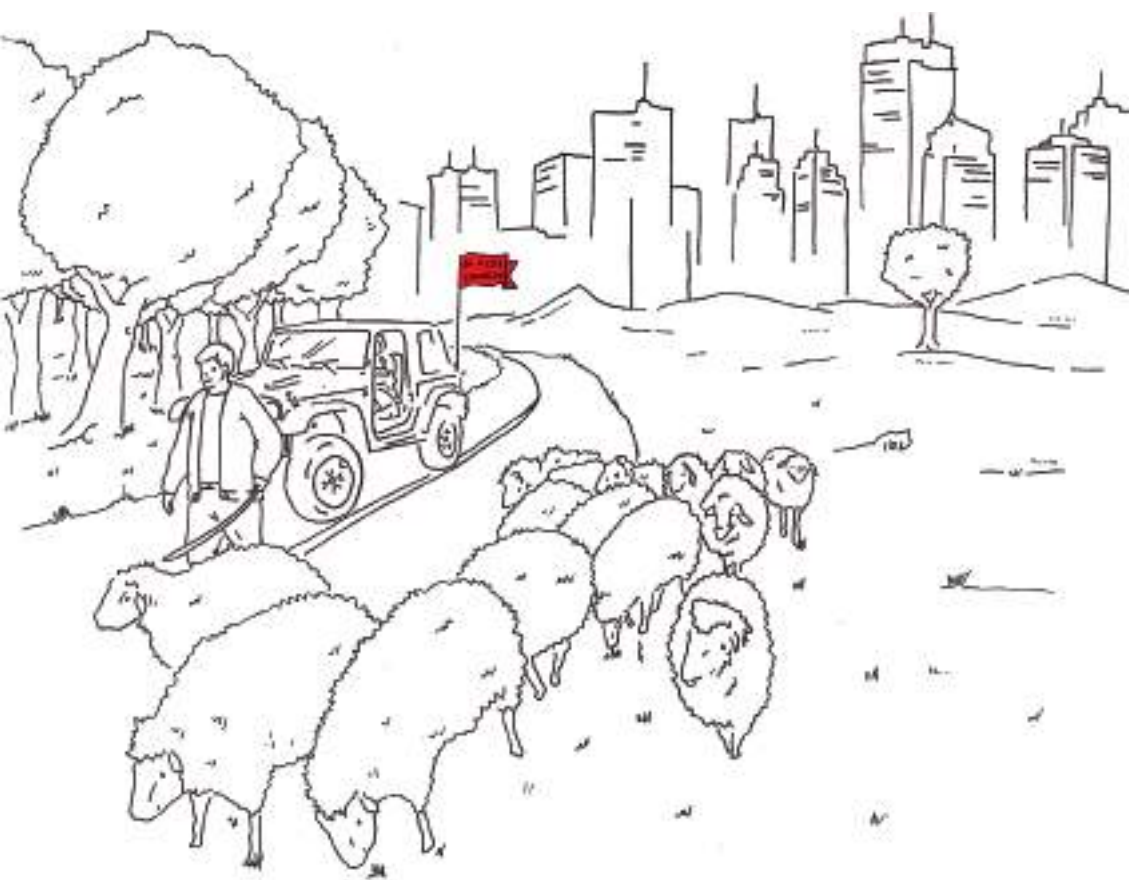
TCIN promotes compatible land uses. It provides citizens with a variety of accessible activities. In *TCIN*, inhabitants are not exposed to car, plane and train noise pollution.

In *TCIN*, private automobile is not a trace of ostentation. All people are eager to use comfortable public transportation including administrators and authorities. In such a city, Iranians are provided with a variety of mobility choices such as walking, biking and public and private transportation.

In *TCIN*, "order" is the main characteristic of the streets. There is no collision between pedestrians, baby strollers, bicycles and wheelchairs, motorcycles, and buses. In *TCIN* drivers respect the important rule of "pedestrians first" whereas motorcycles and vehicles do not interrupt children's play.

Safety is a special blessing in Iranian culture. *TCIN* guarantees residents' safety and creates peace of mind. In *TCIN*, windows are open to fenceless well-lit streets, police officers are readily present, and residents care about their neighbors' well-being.

TCIN is hazard-resistant. The safety of citizens is the prerequisite for urban development actions in that city.



3. The City Iranians Need is efficiently connected to rural areas and keeps regional balance

The City Iranians Need has no superiority over villages. Urban and rural dwellers are equal to **TCIN**. **TCIN** doesn't replace villages. It is organically connected to peri-urban areas. It protects the balance of center and periphery and does not isolate and evacuate rural areas.

In **TCIN**, resources and opportunities are equitably distributed. In **TCIN** nobody is forced to migrate. In that city, migration is optional and not out of desperation. **TCIN** does not devour the natural resources of other regions such as their forests, water, minerals, etc.



4. The City Iranians Need is economically sustainable, just, and attractive with inclusive growth

In *The City Iranians Need*, nobody is poor, hungry, and unemployed. It is impartial and provides all people, whether native or refugee, with equitable and decent job opportunities.

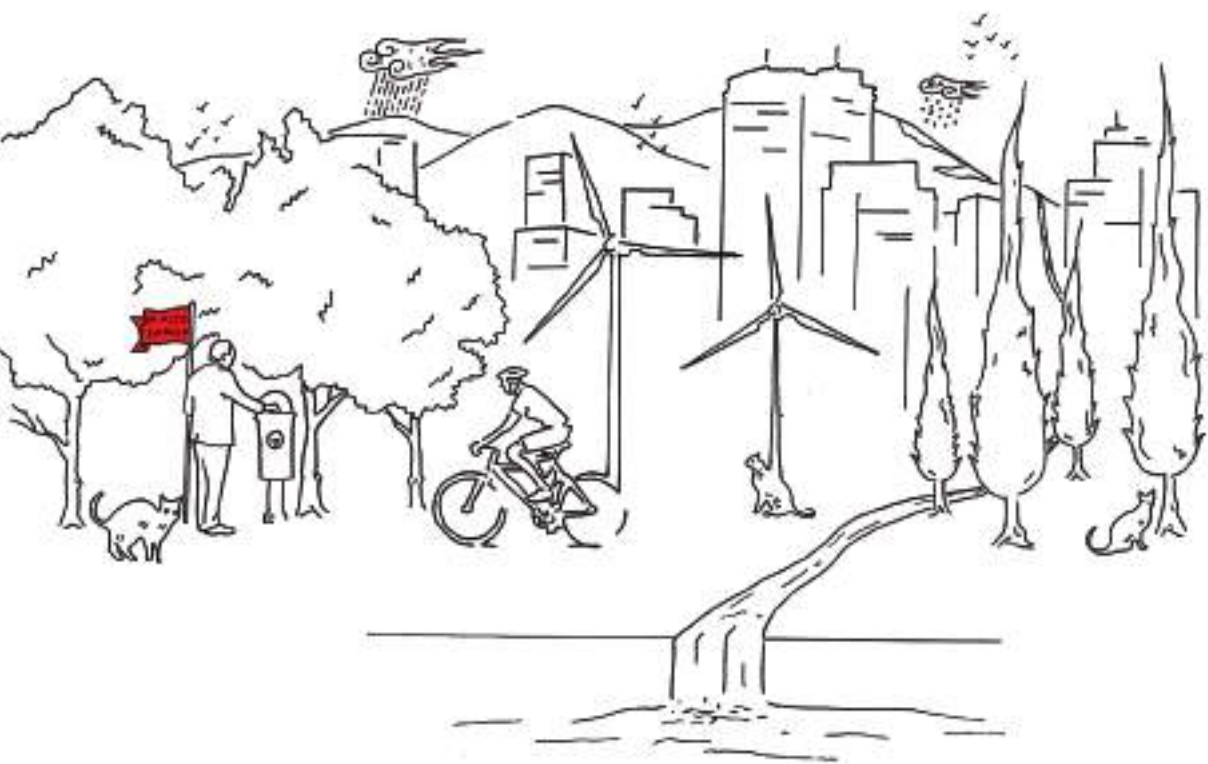
In *TCIN*, all inhabitants enjoy welfare. It is free of intense social inequality. Offering reasonable price of land and property, *TCIN* is affordable.

TCIN fosters a vibrant economy and encourages small local businesses, investment and entrepreneurship. Tourism income has great significance in *TCIN* economy. In *TCIN*, all regions are equipped with equal opportunities towards development. It bears the least negative impacts of industrial development, transportation, and urbanization.

Our future prosperity lies in the hands of the youth. *TCIN* enjoys its young workforce and entrepreneurs on the way towards economic development.

TCIN is not deprived of women's irreplaceable economic capabilities. Widening job opportunities for women, *TCIN* boosts the economy.

TCIN recognizes urban peddlers, and other informal jobs such as junk collection and small cottage industries. It organizes them in an equitable way that benefits citizens and motivates urban economic development as well as increasing urban vitality.



5. The City Iranians Need is green, energy- efficient and sound for all beings

The City Iranians Need is green and lush. It is full of corpulent shady trees. It is covered in green and roof top gardens that share the sense of nature in a friendly space. In **TCIN**, buildings are mostly green and constructed in harmony with the surrounding environment.

TCIN is healthy and clean. In **TCIN**, all people can easily breathe and the pace of urban life does not hinder healthy diets. It is free of smog and sand and dust storms. **TCIN** fosters physical and mental health for all and secures food supply.

TCIN is free of waste and sewage stench. Iranian citizens spearhead the least production of unrecyclable wastes; they separate the waste into wet and dry while

using homemade cloth bags instead of plastic bags. **TCIN** strives to use clean and renewable energies. It efficiently uses natural resources. In **TCIN**, people recognize the right of future generations to benefit from natural resources and do not sacrifice it to economic purposes of specific groups. In **TCIN**, roofs and walls are equipped with solar cells, heaters, and wind turbines.

TCIN blesses the water. It restores water resources such as rain water and enjoys integrated management in protection and allocation of regional water resources. **TCIN** protects diverse species. In that city urban dwellers respect the life of plants and freedom of animals. In **TCIN**, Zoos are not prisons for animals.



6. The City Iranians Need speaks to citizens and hears their voice

The City Iranians Need embraces concerned, accountable and willing inhabitants. It enjoys the knowledge of wise experts as well as citizens' views and desires. Managers are responsive and transparent while people participate in decision making.

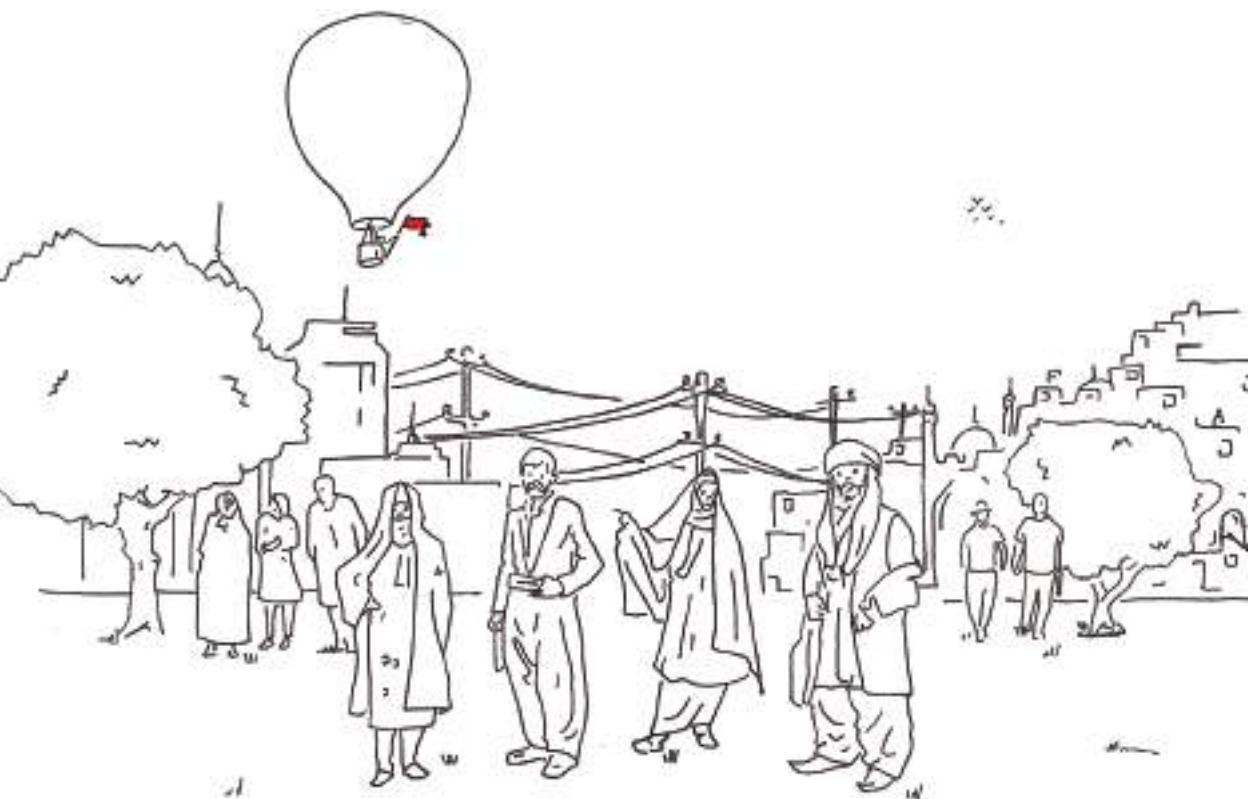
In *TCIN*, each Iranian is member of a community in which all citizens care about urban issues and conflicts similar to family members and share their resources and efforts to reach a common destination. In *TCIN*, people are the city leaders. It contains a variety of public spaces in which people experience and exercise equity and tolerance.

Rules and regulations are the language of *TCIN*. They are sound, socially acceptable, and compatible with the local culture.

In *TCIN*, all citizens whether permanent or transitional are law-abiding. They unanimously respect the mutual right of citizens, environment, and heritage.

Sociopathic and anti-urban behaviors such as violence do not fit with the realities of *TCIN*.

TCIN raises urban awareness and literacy. It is thought-provoking and kindles citizens' imagination, innovation and interests to create attractive spaces and solve urban problems.



7. The City Iranians Need is habitable, equitable and life-giving

In **TCIN** citizens enjoy a safe, affordable and decent house. All inhabitants have equal and permanent access to basic infrastructures such as water and sanitation, gas, electricity, waste collection, etc. and public services including schools, hospitals, green spaces, cinemas, playgrounds, groceries, shops, libraries, etc.

TCIN benefits from its own human, natural, financial and social capital. It's been revitalized after previous natural and man-made disasters like earthquakes, storms, floods, and wars.

TCIN is hopeful and livable for all. Nobody is excluded from **TCIN** due to poverty, geographical and ethnic

differences. It hosts various festivities bringing all groups of people together.

In **TCIN**, there is no difference in citizens' rights between the poor and the rich. In such a city, equitable services and laws contribute to mitigation of social segregation.

In **TCIN**, nobody feels isolated and alienated. It treats all Iranian and non-Iranian migrants and refugees as urban citizens. It provides them with well-resourced lifelines.

In **TCIN**, citizens and city leaders do care about reducing social vulnerabilities. In such a city, access to adequate basic services does not compel anyone to get stuck on beggary, addiction, child labor, and homelessness.



8. The City Iranians Need is emotionally rich and fosters spirituality

The City Iranians Need is hearable and touchable as well as seeable for all. It looks pleasing to the eyes and soft to the hands. It provokes a sense of love, happiness, and tranquility. It is pleasant-sounding and colorful with a distinctive skyline in which people can see and hear the birds. In *TCIN*, visual integrity of landscape is preserved.

In *TCIN*, valuable scenes and landscapes remain unspoiled. It combines natural and built environments and encourages peaceful coexistence of all beings.

TCIN is endowed with a variety of safe and well-equipped public spaces that are kept out of profiteers' reach. Open spaces and public buildings are well-furnished with drinking fountains, seats, and restrooms.

TCIN can't be imagined without art. Music, painting, sculptures, theater as well as architecture form the respectable part of Iranians' public life. In *TCIN* artists spruce up the walls especially in tumbledown settlements.

In *TCIN*, all people including children, youths, aging people, people with disabilities, and even sick people have enough opportunity to look and smile at each other. It is socially cohesive even though the variations in culture, religion, and ethnicity is high.

TCIN would prefer human dignity to materialism. It is an uplifting tool not a buy/sell commodity. In *TCIN*, nobody is allowed to benefit at the expense of others' livelihood; nobody dismantle a heritage or tree replacing lifeless buildings.





Drivers of Change

The five drivers of change presented here, consisting of "public awareness", "governance", "economics", "knowledge & technology", "urban planning/designing" were arrived at through 10 thematic Urban Dialogue sessions. These drivers lead us towards TCIN

Public Awareness

Public awareness is the first line of change that motivates the city changers. All urban changes begin from popular demands which are created by informing public through media, education, social movements, and civic society.

Citizens' awareness of their responsibilities and rights is key to **TCIN**. People pay more attention to the issues that they are aware of. For example, making people aware of the economic value of household waste may spur democratic management of waste and people-centered recycling in the informal sector.

The Right to the City is not merely restricted to human beings. As another example, cities should fuel all awareness efforts to change people's mindsets in confrontation with animals by giving a decent life to them and securing food supply for all beings. Family, media, education, environmental advertising, social movements, and collective learning are means of increasing public awareness especially at the local level.

Family is a sacred institution in Iranians' culture.

Family members, especially mothers and children, are able to act as effective channels for transmitting urban knowledge, creating awareness, and changing bad habits within a society.

Media is one of the most effective tools of community activism. Social media, private TV channels, newspapers, journals, social networks etc. should

be expanded to widely cover urban issues such as social vulnerabilities, environmentally-friendly lifestyles, appropriate use of public transportation spaces and understanding and responding to the risks of crisis; the crisis that natural disasters, fires, or explosions, etc. emblemize.

Education is one of the main premises of public awareness. Conducting inclusive formal and implicit learning mechanisms help strengthen cultural, natural, and spiritual heritage. A public learning environment such as open spaces and public buildings (parks, cinemas, etc.) can be a suitable platform to foster social and urban life in **TCIN**. Cities can provide people with green spaces so that they get more familiar with natural environments. This may change the lifestyle of urban dwellers. Providing such social and ecological contexts relies heavily on cooperation from government, municipalities and civil societies. Moreover, schools have the best environment to educate emerging generations on citizenship rights and responsibilities as well as exercising participatory learning. For example, the "nature school initiative"

introduces environmental culture into citizen's daily life through a participatory method in which children identify and value social, ecological, and physical interactions. Besides having a major effect on physical and mental health, this can act as a driver of change in urban leadership and education system as well.

Social movements such as campaigns can also play a significant role in increasing public awareness. Cities should recognize, promote and regulate popular movements for addressing urban issues.

Collective learning is another way of raising public awareness. "dialogue halls" can provide spaces in which citizens can come to each other to discuss and build dialogues on their urban issues and conflicts. Such synergic halls can breed "learning cities" by creating a collective power and the subsequent collective wisdom.

NGOs are another public awareness asset. They can improve public attentiveness on different urban issues through collective and concerted actions with people, workshops, and training.

Economics

Iranian cities require a package of instruments for economic development. Cities should plan, institutionalize, and legislate the urban and local economy to thrive and bring balanced development as well as fostering participation, competitive advantage, secure employment, environmental economics, and improved business environment.

Good governance is a prerequisite for local economic development. Democratic and transparent decision making, implementation, and monitoring could lead the cities to efficient resource allocation.

Empowering communities to be involved in participatory budgeting facilitates equitable provision of resources, infrastructures, and services, especially for low-income groups of the society. Besides provision of an inclusive banking system, micro

credits also triggers local economic development.

Employment is fundamental to local economic development. Iranian cities should generate a variety of decent work and job opportunities for women and men of all ages and all levels of education. Creating inclusive and equitable opportunities could land a city in full employment. The success is possible through job security regulations for all (including informal workers, pregnant women, the disables, released

prisoners, and drug rehab people), and workforce empowerment via unions and associations to strengthen their bargaining power.

Accurate data collection is fundamental for designing effective economic policies. Creating job opportunities needs reliable data on population geography, age, sex-disaggregation, education, etc. Moreover, recognition of the informal economy requires an updated database which extensively illustrates socio-economic characteristics of informal settlements.

Magnetic infrastructures encourage new investments and entrepreneurship, and give birth to innovation. For instance, a prosperous tourism industry is highly dependent on well-equipped infrastructure. Moreover, local entrepreneurship centers form a common space to share idea, capital and workforce while capacity building, exchange of experiences, skill development programs, and patent also enable business environment.

Cities should conduct spatial policies for jobs and activities. Developing spatial organizations for jobs, innovation centers, and commercial hubs enables a thriving business environment in cities. In such spatial organizations, public transportation should be integrated with residential areas and business centers.

Cities' unique identity makes them more competitive. A historical fabric is more than a showcase object. It can present a business enabling environment especially for sustainable investment in cultural heritage and tourism. Iranian cities should plan

for their competitive identity driven from cultural heritage, local micro-scale businesses, and local identity. To enhance urban assets, it is crucial to identify competitive advantages and priority areas for investment while respecting local values and goals in addition to environmental carrying capacity. This requires adherence to the urban development regulations and plans.

TCIN does not discard micro enterprises and traditional trades. Developing learning and innovation models based on low-tech activities may bring competitive advantage to traditional technologies. Subsequently, this may reduce unemployment rate in rural areas or small cities as well as incentives for migration to large cities.

Women can play an important role in economic growth. Iranian cities should provide women with a safe responsive business environment. A city with 24-hour activities never sleeps and fortifies women's presence in urban areas both as business owners and consumers. Iranian women can become involved in making cities safer by contributing to risk mapping and developing public safety databases and mainstreaming gender issues through civil society networks.

Participatory institutions including public-private sectors (public-private partnerships (PPP)) can be activated to finance and operate urban projects such as housing and disaster risk reduction. For example, PPPs are expected to be able to provide packages of social and affordable housing to fulfill "adequate

housing for all". This can be followed with some financial facilities by the government such as increasing the amount of housing loans while reducing profit rates, increasing subsidies, directed credits, and expanding housing supply services through incentivizing packages. Moreover, cities should encourage the private sector to invest in disaster risk reduction.

The informal sector is an undeniable part of urban economy. As an autonomous capacity, the informal sector has a considerable effect on employment rate which ought to be realized. *TCIN* is to make city leaders aware of the socio-economic opportunities it brings so that they could recognize it.

A complete recognition process lays on proper understanding of the economic effects, legal basis for housing and starting a business, and social acceptance while considering the adverse effects on sustainability of urban-rural linkages plus migration.

The informal economy has a great potential for participation and innovation. Iranian cities should release this potential and take advantage of it to make substantial changes in decision making process. Informal workers should be organized democratically and equitably through guilds, unions, and social discourses among stakeholders and beneficiaries. In addition, the tacit innovation within the informal economy could be analyzed, managed and monitored in "creative enterprises".

Iranian cities should open their gates to the private sector to become involved in an informal economy

through incentive programs and smoothing regulatory permissions. For instance, suitable policy frameworks encourages private sector and foreign investors to involve in informal recycling-oriented businesses.

Females, especially the household heads, form a significant part of the informal economy. Iranian cities should promote their abilities through exhibitions, festivals, and competitions as well as developing their capacity and enabling them in order to tie their experiences and skills with markets.

Removing hunger requires an economic leverage. Cities should pay special attention to economic and knowledge-based planning to secure household food basket using both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Poverty should not be the final destiny of poor people. Cities should identify the abilities of poor including beggars in order to build capacity, enable and empower them through skill development centers, vocational training programs, and mobile training teams. This can improve their job qualifications and employability.

In *TCIN*, there is no room for child labor. Citizens and city leaders should firstly accept the existence of child labor and street children in their urban areas and try to combat it not by forceful actions but through public awareness, women empowerment, identification and flourishing children's talents and geniusity while putting their work in a constructive and educative manner. To do so, an effective

partnership of governmental, non-governmental, and charity organizations, schools, municipalities, cultural institutions, etc. is required.

Environmental Economics is a key driver towards **TCIN**. Building a just relationship between economic benefits and sustainability of natural resources is crucial. A coherent economy removes the contradictions between public and private interests. It mitigates environmental pollutions through prioritizing public transportation, clean and renewable energies and reducing urban wastes in production and consumption patterns. As a green economy, it provides the private sector with executive and preservation mechanisms for investing in green areas and developing tourism plans. This needs a detailed economic and environmental impact assessment of plans.

Environmental Accounting is a main component of environmental economics. It is possible to

precisely calculate the economic loss of environmental degradation in a long period of time as well as profits of public transportation and renewable energies. Taxation may be a smart way to prevent such destructions besides subsidizing the eco-friendly projects.

In **TCIN** water management deserves the greatest attention. Cities should support the system of environmental-economic accounting coupled with participatory regional institutions for water management in agriculture.

In general, it is rarely possible to find an economic policy without negative externalities. For example, although air quality might be improved by increasing taxes on petrol, this is achieved at the expense of commuting workers. The best economic policy offers maximum benefit at minimum cost.



Knowledge & Technology

A smart city, relying on local and global knowledge and technology, talented young workforce, and intelligent infrastructure, is a magnet for long-term investors.

The private sector is a linchpin for making Iranian cities smart. Outsourcing urban services such as ICT to private sectors, could be a sustainable source of income. Public and private sectors can invest to implement great ideas of micro knowledge-based firms and innovative students as well as benefiting from national, regional and international conferences.

A smart city protects talented and young workforce from migration waves. Tech-based applications positioned at the nexus of talented youth, different regional trades, entrepreneurs, and investors create a common space to build links for starting a cooperation or launching a project. Such platforms can promote and develop domestic capabilities and businesses especially of young professionals and those who belong to vulnerable groups or people with disabilities.

Iranians are so active on social networks that it seems **TCIN** requires a “digital mayor”. As such, web-based platforms could offer multiple ways for citizens to report urban problems and express their needs, interests, solutions, and ideas towards a better urban future. For example, these platforms can play an

effective role in making local communities safer. A flexible open-source and community-led application can give people the tools to make communications, collect and disseminate information about unsafe spaces. Such systems can be applied to urban heritage preservation, intelligent transportation system (ITS) and shared-transportation as well. The reliability of open-source systems is closely tied to a real-time well monitoring by people.

A great help can come from technology to revitalize cultures, traditions, and rites. For example, ICT is a crucial instrument in building a locally grown and globally known city. Local identities and cultural heritage can be widely introduced by ICT.

Technology can decant a sustainable flow of resources to cities. IT and startup companies have business enabling capabilities that can help cities make money from urban services such as tourism services, banking, etc.

Tradition and technology are two partners in removing hunger. While organic farming based on local knowledge and more complex technologies such

as System of Crop Intensification (SOI) can increase harvesting productivity, updating traditional eating habits and production models of ethnic subcultures can contribute to recreation of food traditions.

Economic leverages and community monitoring can support these new technologies, whereas public and private sectors can serve a major part in regeneration of food traditions by promoting inclusive arts and cultural plans.

Knowledge is fundamental to adequate infrastructures. Cities should take account of accurate calculations in implementation, problem-based methodology in research, and an integrated team from a feasibility study to monitoring. Successful projects are those which enjoy truly monitoring systems, value engineering, computational economic modelling, financial management, updated accounting system and government support which ensures implementation and maintenance of infrastructures throughout the neighborhoods, districts, and regions.

Sustainable infrastructure is key to *TCIN*. Iranian cities should allocate subsidies for the systems which admirably consume clean and renewable energies. They should promote R&D projects especially in green technology through encouraging young entrepreneurs. Iranian cities should draw attention to national renewable energy sources through cross-sectorial collaborations and disseminating an updated database of accessible energies to local areas and existing infrastructures. Accordingly, Knowledge-based companies would be able to long-term exploitation of local renewable energy sources through new technologies.

Using new techniques is crucially important in constructing resistant structures. Boosting R&D and disaster relief emergency funds and insurances, low cost and creative implementing technologies, strict legal controls, allocating subsidies for retrofitting, and conducting local regulations for hazard prone areas are necessary to make settlements resilient against natural disasters.



Urban Planning & Design: Methods and Regulations

Improved quality of life is the sacred goal of urban planning and designing. Improving health, happiness, social relations, sense of identity, infrastructures, accessibility, safety, participation, land use compatibility, and decent job environment, etc. are some litmus-tests for quality-of-life planning and designing.

Iranian cities should give significance to citizens' physical and mental health. Urban planning and design is not just physical. It should consider diverse aspects of health in different socio-cultural contexts.

Assimilating planning eradicates cultural diversity. Urban planning and design can make **TCIN** a decorated city for global citizens. It should resonate the local identity, local materials, and natural elements. Tangible and intangible heritage needs to be recognized first, placed into an open source database, and promoted through planned and scheduled meaningful and dynamic events. Urban planning and design can uphold a sense of identity and meaning of life through strengthening the monuments, urban symbols and landmarks.

"Social relations" is a principle in designing **TCIN**. A city should be designed in a way that people from different ages, religions, cultures, creeds, and nationalities be motivated to be visible in cities enjoying communicating, multi-age and transcultural activities and spaces.

Iranians deserve to be energetic and happy. Iranian cities should offer citizens a variety of places such as "happy houses" or "art alleys" in which all people can experience collective joy through leisure activities, sports, public festivals and ceremonies.

TCIN is anchored on local knowledge. In Iran's variable climate, the circulatory system of "wind" and "water" has always had a significant role in making cities livable. Urban planning and designing should consider local knowledge in preserving wind proximity and efficient use of water.

Urban rights should be redefined based on the right to the environment, heritage, culture, identity, as well as human being as part of "Right to the City". For instance, cities should safeguard the right to water and recognize environmental petitions. In addition, animals can own right to the city. Cities should equip their regional and local parks to provide different species of animals with safe nests and food supply with citizens' participatory cooperation. These rights can differ from city to city.

Natural landscapes are national wealth. Serious field monitoring and evaluation is needed to ban construction of high rise buildings in the proximity of these sites. Urban plans and projects need strategically environmental impact assessments so that they do not exceed the ecosystem's regenerative carrying capacity and self-purification ability. They should organize built environments in a way that rehabilitates urban natural systems. Good governance is crucial in ensuring that all of these are taken into account and imperative.

Cities should promote participatory plans and programs for protection of ecologically valuable areas and sustainable exploitation of natural resources. This can be possible in light of accurate data and information. Transparent and open access data can help urban planning, designing and management to protect gardens and agricultural lands from destruction and land use change.

Informality is not a good reason for being excluded from human rights. Cities should treat all people including refugees, informal settlers, and migrants, for their intrinsic value as a human being. Urban life should be organized in a way that facilitates, regulates, and establishes the optional citizenship procedure and building sense of belonging for these groups. Taking into account appropriate rights, rules, and regulations for their habitability in cities, lowering barriers for business setups and employment, and providing them with urban infrastructures and services. This should be done

for marginalized groups as well; the people who are disregarded by the rest of society due to cultural differences, financial inability, and physical/mental disability, etc.

Informal settlement should be replaced by a variety of housing options. Deteriorated fabrics can be renewed and renovated to deter their inhabitants from leaving and present an affordable housing option for other low-income groups as well. Participatory budgeting is particularly applicable to this case.

Upgrading informal settlements is impossible without the participation of local communities. As the inefficient use of facilities and resources in these areas is a part of dwellers' lifestyle that hinders sustainability, public awareness and empowering local communities in preserving urban resources can be a driver of change. This also can be applied to protecting natural heritage.

Cities need social relief after natural disasters. "Sociology of disaster" can recover the communities by re-organizing social linkages. Cities should provide appropriate conditions for sociologists to become involved in disaster areas.

Iranian citizens and city leaders should recognize public spaces. A public space provokes sense of belonging and participation. A master-planned and managed city values and promotes public spaces amidst the citizens from neighborhood to a city scale.

There is a correlation between safety and the presence of people in public. On one hand, the more people in public, the safer the city. On the other, safety is a benchmark for people to come outdoors. To bring safety into cities especially for women and children, urban planning, design and regulations should give particular attention to transgender interactions, urban lighting, urban lost spaces, eyes on the streets, transportation spaces, and horizontal/vertical mixed-use development. For instance, public transportation spaces should be designed in such a way that women and people with disabilities feel secure and comfortable. A well-lit, connected, active, and dynamic space gives neither a chance to offenders nor does it bring fear and harassment to people.

Sometimes an activity can make a dead area alive and dynamic. For example, an art performance such as street theater may brighten up a car park.

Diverse transportation modes such as walking, biking, train, etc. can also contribute to more crowded public spaces. Moreover, a well-designed city practices sound, signs, and surface tools in a way that people with eye and ear disability could be visible in **TCIN**.

TCIN has complete streets in which citizens can easily stroll, enjoy ubiquitous bicycles, reliable and well-functioning public transportation, and individual vehicles to reach their work or bazaar. However, to ease congestion, individual vehicles can be seen less in streets by transportation demand

management (TDM) through a range of measures such as car-pooling in which neighbors use shared automobiles or time, distance, and place pricing.

Inclusiveness is key to urban mobility. **TCIN** should provide all modes of transportation which suit people with different levels of physical ability. Good accessibility combats isolation and brings social acceptance and inclusion to **TCIN**. Other than streets and sidewalks, public facilities such as hotels, schools, universities, cinemas, banks, hospitals, subways, bus stations, etc. should be designed in a way to ensure citizens' presence especially people with disabilities, mothers and their children, and those who use wheelchairs, white canes, pushchairs, or walker folding. To do so, cities should put these groups at the center of planning and designing process. Moreover, appropriate construction rules and regulations accompanied with penalties for restrictive facilities may fulfill the notion that "no one left behind".

Furthermore, it is time to see women riding bicycles in cities. To this end, it requires legal frameworks and protection laws being revised and strengthened.

Cities should bring back "Walking Culture" to Iranians' lifestyle. A "champion" can play the leadership role in promoting walking and cycling. A champion can be an individual such as a popular politician or an artist or a group like an organization which is willing to accomplish **TCIN**.

A human settlement is a place of livability not just survivability. Appropriate infrastructures, services, knowledge-based interior and exterior design as well as compatibility planning, should be taken into account in housing construction.

Equitable distribution of infrastructures, opportunities, and facilities among all ethnicities, races, and nationalities at both urban and regional level is a criteria for just planning. This needs a decision making process with a qualitative approach, integrated management, as well as suitable legal frameworks that facilitates civic engagement. Moreover, giving special attention to migration in urban plans, Iranian cities should be ready to welcome migrants and do not host them in disadvantaged areas.

A well-designed urban space gives dignity to careers. It also attracts new investments and helps creating more opportunities for different groups of people to start their business through providing a wide range of land lots. Moreover, monitored and flexible urban space provides safety for both urban peddlers and customers, especially women and children. It also strengthens the reliability of informal economy.

Iranian cities are known for their cultural, ecological, and economic heterogeneity. Urban law should reflect the realities of the Iranian variegated societies and be adapted with local values and needs

such as religion, scarcity of water or employment. It should be conducted and adopted in a way in which roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, local city leaders constantly monitor it, and people are actively involved. Besides, all ways of circumventing the law, whether legal or illegal, must be closed.

Spatial planning is an answer to any problem pertinent to population growth, migration from deprived regions and subsequent informality. Spatial planning can strengthen urban-rural linkages. It should foster rural knowledge clusters through regional plans.

Implementation of urban plans and programmes need to be ensured. In *TCIN* urban plans offer appropriate transparent and practical solutions adhering to the laws. This makes the suggested urban rules and regulations more effective. For instance, urban plans may enhance spatial justice through defining binding regulations for mixed use development. This could be applicable to participatory planning through legal frameworks.

Need-based planning and design results in successful and implementable plans. For example, the correspondence between regeneration plans and programmes with inhabitants' interests and needs encourages civic participation and private sector investment in deteriorated contexts.



Urban Governance

Governance is an invaluable driver of change which comes with recognition, accountability, transparency, subsidiarity, integrated management, and participation.

Good governance prevents commodification and corporatization of **TCIN**. Iranian cities should make decision making process transparent and participatory in which all stakeholders are involved. This requires decentralization, participatory budgeting, and community building while creating and empowering NGOs, FBOs and CBOs as well as social networks.

Religious areas are inseparable parts of Iranian cities which can provide a reliable space for building a community. Such places also can strike a balance between religious and urban discourses, events and ceremonies. Besides, creating and strengthening cultural spaces such as “citizen museums” can encourage citizens’ participation. These museums promote the culture of citizenship and introduce the citizens’ efforts on changing their cities.

Finding solutions tailored to local challenges profoundly depends on hearing citizens’ voice. **TCIN** empowers people to claim their citizenship rights. Cities should provide interactive public spheres in which all groups of people, affluent or disadvantaged, are encouraged to raise their voice and pursue their

interests and needs.

There is a close relationship between subsidiarity and public trust. Iranian cities need to devote more effort to involving inhabitants in governing the city, giving them authority and power in decision making. On the other hand, introducing successful national and global practices of community participation in governing cities can encourage Iranians to participate towards the future they want.

Participation, expertise, innovation, and wisdom are four corner stones of urban management in **TCIN**. Expertise, experience, and sense of belonging are publicly known as the main characteristics of concerned city leaders.

Participation is a foundation to urban governance. Suitable legal and regulatory frameworks should be created to determine people’s roles in solving urban challenges such as old and deteriorated fabrics’ problems. Urban dwellers including children and people with disabilities should be able to express their

views about urban projects both directly (through festivals and public assemblage) and indirectly (cyberspace). This can be a catalyst for cultivating sense of belonging.

To believe in participation, city leaders should be informed of the benefits and the results. Different participation methods are available that should be identified, investigated and applied to the context.

To undertake timely and convenient actions against the specific and exclusive challenges, cities need qualified decision makers and takers with relevant expertise. With mounting urban challenges, there is no time for repetitive trial and error practice.

Urban administration needs a prudent, integrated, transparent, honest, and accountable system. It constantly reports to citizens, and is sensitively judged by them in a truly participatory mechanism.

In addition, the administrators' performance should always be assessed and questioned by the relevant authorities.

Integrated management is one of the main pillars of *TCIN*. It improves efficiency, saves time and money, and removes fragmentations and parallel functioning of organizations especially in emergency occasions like natural disasters. Without integrated management any institutionalized community-based activities are likely to fail.

In integrated management, roles and responsibilities are clear, data and information is organized via information technology, and interface institutions facilitate multidisciplinary discussions.

A seamless management consists interconnected chains of power, authority and knowledge at all levels; local, regional, and national. In respect to the constitution of I.R Iran, Iranian cities should form intermediate-level management such as "local councils" regarding their needs and divisions. Beside local councils, "regenerating offices" at county and provincial levels can bring institutional and operational coordination to slum upgrading. Additionally, a common discourse among different stakeholders is a dire need. For example, "socio-ecological departments" can gather organizations, civil societies, educational institutions, professionals, and consultants from a variety of fields including urban environment and metabolism around a table. These departments play two major roles: first, linking academia to executive sectors so as to share knowledge, and building connections with communities through organizing CBOs. Secondly, creating bottom-bottom and bottom-up relations between communities and executive and legislative organizations is one of the main missions of these departments.

In *TCIN*, people contribute to managing public spaces. Local residents could manage and take advantage of public spaces such as pocket parks, play grounds, libraries, etc., through local councils. They can

constitute local investment funds for organizing urban peddlers in public spaces, holding local events, and housing construction for low-income groups.

Accountability decreases with residents who get frequently displaced. A family who leaves a place for another one after a while loses its sense of belonging. As such, cities should stick the residents with their communities through strengthening local businesses and empowering trustees and elders in urban management. This may lead to more accountability both in dwellers and managers, and subsequently improved urban fabrics and quality of life.

Recognition of informal settlements calls for a good governance approach. City leaders should believe in the 'no one left behind' and prevent informal life not by ignoring and clearance but by redefining urban citizenship and democratizing construction procedures through involving civil society in decision making, implementation and monitoring processes. Cities should smooth the regulations and remove the rigidities which exclude people from urban areas.

Governance can go beyond the national borders. Cities can encounter with globalization by establishing urban diplomacy and glocalize their experiences, knowledge, and heritage.

Transforming The City, Transforming The World

In September 2015 heads of states and governments agreed to set the world on a path towards sustainable development through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Subsequently, On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came into force with 169 targets. Over the next fifteen years, countries will mobilize efforts to achieve these Goals. Following paragraphs depict that SDGs are not far from what Iranian citizens might dream of. Hence, **TCIN** could be considered as an efficient tool for Iranians to take a step toward SDGs in a national movement.



Principle 1 has a strong link to SDG 11: “Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable” especially the target related to strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage. In addition, the principle comes along with SDG 12: “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns” especially when it is addressing develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that promotes local culture and products.



Principle 2 is moving towards SDG 11 on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport and the target that denotes providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. This principle has also a strong linkage to SDG 9: “Building Resilient Infrastructure”, while addressing SDG 3: “Ensuring Healthy Lives and Promoting Well-Being for All at All Ages”.



Principle 3 directly comes along with SDG 11 on the target related to support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning. It also has a touch on ensuring all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, inheritance, and natural resources in SDG 1. Besides, it builds a connection to SDG 10: “Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries”.



Principle 4 is somehow a prerequisite for addressing all other principles. It has a strong link to SDG 8: “Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All Targets” with a touch on SDG 1 upon “End Poverty”. Since, this principle considers youth as the future of the cities, it has a linkage to SDG 4: “Quality Education” on the target substantially increase the number of youth who have relevant skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Moreover, asserting women’s economic capabilities, the principle accentuates the SDG 5: “Gender Equality”.



Principle 5 is a multi-dimensional principle addressing seven Goals simultaneously. It is connected to SDG 11 on the targets: reducing environmental impact of cities and providing access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public space. Further, it gives attention to SDG2: “End Hunger” specially the first target: ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient all year round. Then as well, it points to SDG 7: “Affordable and Clean Energy” on increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy, SDG6: “Clean Water and Sanitation” to implement integrated water resource management, SDG 14: “Life Below Water” and SDG 15: “Life on Land” on protecting biodiversity. SDG13: “Climate Action” is another Goal that this principle is tied to.



Principle 6 revolves around SDG 11 emphasizing participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning along with providing public space for all. Furthermore, the principle refers to SDG 16: “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions” especially the targets on accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all level. It is also tied to the target on reducing all forms of violence. Besides, this principle pursues SDG 9 toward encouraging innovation and SDG 4 ensuring all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieving literacy and numeracy.



Principle 7 is connected to SDG 11 on ensuring access for all, adequate, safe and affordable housing, basic services and upgrade slums. Additionally, addressing equal access to safe house and other amenities, the principle touched base with SDGs 1, 6 and 13 on end poverty, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters respectively. From the aspect of livability and cities for all, it is related to SDG 10: targeting inequity reduction in its all shape.



Principle 8 is related to the SDG 11 especially the target which mostly focuses on providing safe and inclusive public space. Moreover, it has somehow a touch on SDG 12 the target about ensuring people everywhere having the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

As seen above, *The City Iranians Need* supports Sustainable Development Goals. It encourages all Iranians to follow up SDGs specially SDG 11 and transform their cities as well as the world for a better place to live.

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Annex

Annex 1: list of Urban Dialogue participants

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Annex 2: list of *The City Iranians Need Drafting* Committee members

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Annex 3: List of Iran National Urban Campaign Partners

NGOs

1. Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society
2. The Plan for Land Society
3. The Notion of Human City Institute
4. Zhiar Development & Empowerment Institute
5. Kiana Sociocultural Group
6. Raad Rehabilitation Goodwill Complex
7. Rokhdad Tazeh Andisheh Institute
8. Iranian Women's Society Against Environmental Pollution(East Azerbaijan Prov. Branch)

Academic Associations

9. Students' Scientific Association of Urban Planning of University of Tehran
10. Shahidbeheshti University Scientific Association of Urban Planning

11. Art University of Tehran Scientific Association of Urban Planning
12. Urban Design Scientific Student Association of Tarbiat Modares University
13. Kurdistan University Scientific Association of Urbanism
14. University of Tehran Association of Researchers with Eye Disability

Organizations

15. Ministry of Roads & Urban Development
16. Tehran Urban Renewal Organization
17. United Nations Information Center Tehran Office

Our Partners

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The City Iranians Need

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