Urbanization Trends and Challenges, Moving Towards Habitat III

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Vancouver Declaration and Action Plan

64 recommendations for National Action on:

A. Settlements policies and strategies
B. Settlement Planning
C. Shelter, infrastructure and services
D. Land
E. Public participation

- Recognition that shelter and urbanization are global issues to be addressed collectively
- Creation of the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS - Habitat)
THE CITY SUMMIT

1. Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World
2. Shelter for all

Outcomes:
✓ The Istanbul Declaration
  and
✓ THE HABITAT AGENDA

- Cities are the engines of growth
- Urbanization is an opportunity
- Call for a stronger role of local authorities
- Recognition of the power of participation

2001 ISTANBUL +5 the UNCHS is transformed into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Cities today occupy approximately only 0.5% of the total land, however:

**Economy (GDP) 70%**

**Global energy consumption over 60%**

**Green gas emissions 70%**

**Global waste 70%**

“Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost” HLP 2013

It is becoming more and more clear that achievements on Sustainable development will depend on how we will manage and guide the urbanization
Establish the New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years

GA resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, “to convene a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a new urban agenda in 2016, in line with the bi-decennial cycle”.
The current debate calls for a review of the urban agenda and the need of a **New Urban Paradigm** to address the persistence of an unsustainable model of Urbanization.

Taking into consideration:

- The need to **reduce inequalities**, marginalization and the proliferation of Slums
- The need to **oppose urban sprawl** and the unnecessary loss of agricultural land
- The need to **reduce urban vulnerability and risks** to disaster and climate change
- The need to **promote local economic development** based on safeguarded natural and cultural assets
KEY ELEMENTS to be considered at Habitat III
To create a pattern of sustainable urban development fostering a new model of city

✓ **National Urban Policy.** Establishing a connection between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development (20-30 years or more);

✓ **Laws, institutions and systems of governance.** Creating the normative basis of action, operational principles, organizational structures, institutional and societal relationships underlying the process of urbanization;

✓ **Urban economy.** While there is a strong positive correlation between economic growth and urbanization, this potential relationship is not spontaneous and self-generating. Habitat III could be the means to guide a robust urban economic development;

Other operational factors to maximize the advantages of the urbanization process:

a) **Urban Planning,**  b) **Local fiscal systems,**  c) **Investment in urban basic services**
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

Growing recognition of urbanization reflected in global frameworks for sustainable global development

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Habitat I</td>
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<td>1996</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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**MDG**: Poverty eradication and environmental sustainability  
**Target 11**: Improve the lives of slum dwellers

**World Summit on Sustainable Development**: Agenda 21 – Sanitation incorporated within the key priorities

**Rio+20**: “... if well planned and developed incl. through integrated planning and management approaches cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies

**Post-2015 Development Agenda / SDGs**: Possibility of a stand-alone urban goal
Calling for your voices!

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