1. How can transparent urban planning and design help in creating inclusive access to housing, basic services and infrastructure, environmental sustainability, improved air and water quality, and healthier communities?

Urban planning can be described as "a technical and political process concerned with the welfare of people, control of the use of land, design of the urban environment including transportation and communication networks, and protection and enhancement of the natural environment"[1]. Over half of the world's population lives in cities or urban areas today. Poor urban planning continues to contribute to widening socio-economic inequality among urban populations. According to UN figures, only 13 percent of world's cities have affordable housing[2]. Around 23.5 percent of the world urban population still live in slum condition[3]. Access to basic services and infrastructure that are safely managed remains lacking in many informal urban sectors.

Transparency can enhance urban planning by improving three key elements; accountability, trust and participation[4]. Together, these three elements can drive inclusivity in cities and communities, improve access to adequate housing and other basic services, and improve environmental sustainability and performance in urban areas. Transparent urban planning can enhance accountability by ensuring that urban policies are implemented with the best interests of all population groups in mind. Through transparency, the intentions and methods for implementation and evaluation of public goods as well as services will be shared to all. Demonstrable accountability ensures that urban planners are taking into consideration inclusive policies in the decision-making process, including access to adequate and affordable housing, provide clean water and sanitation, improving local environmental sustainability and more.

Demonstrable accountability also builds trust among citizens and enable active participation. Social and political trust are the foundation for legitimacy, sustainability and participation in cities. By taking transparency into consideration during urban planning, cities would be able to provide basic services and provisional infrastructures more effectively. Trusted interactions between citizens and local government also enable urban planners to recognize the need of every population group and more likely to deliver desired policy outcomes. Trust in urban planning also helps to implement structural reforms and achieve long-term commitments. Improving environmental sustainability, building sustainable infrastructure, and driving inclusive growth are goals that require years, if not decades, of commitment from both urban planners and the private sector. Transparency and trust provide the necessary foundation to achieve these goals. In addition, digital tools that are driven by data are also increasing prevalence in cities. In addition, topics related to data ethics stemming from data collection and ownership have already created mistrust in new technologies among citizens. Transparency is also essential for building digital trust and facilitating digital solutions to drive sustainability in cities. In short, transparent urban planning gives urban planners the tools to practice good urban governance and inclusive urban development characterized by enhanced accountability, active citizen engagement, and sustainability.

[1] https://mcgill.ca/urbanplanning/planning
[2] http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Making_Affordable_Housing_A_Reality_In_Cities_report.pdf
[3] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/goal-11/
[4] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/04/transparency-is-key-to-inclusive-employment-and-government-integrity/

2. How can transparent urban and territorial planning and development support economic growth, which is diverse, balanced, inclusive, safe, green and sustainable?

Transparent urban planning can drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth by enhancing cities and government's accountability. An open, transparent and predictable system instills investor confidence in businesses. Businesses are more likely to invest when government is held accountable for its action and has ability to enforce the rule of laws. Openness in cities is also built on inclusive and robust engagement between citizens and urban planners. The needs and priorities of citizens, from sustainability concerns, environmental performance to accessibility to public services, would be highlighted in the political agenda. City officials would be compelled address challenges that citizens are facing and deliver better services to all. City governments can also benefit from transparency and openness by allowing them to communicate their long-term strategies and commitments to citizens such as the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement. Open resource is also emerging as one of the key components for driving innovation for sustainable development. Citizens can leverage key data made available by city government to develop innovative applications that support cities to become safer, more inclusive and sustainable.

3. Which kinds of policies, plans, governance, investments and partnerships can help create transparent, inclusive, healthier and safer cities and communities that are able to withstand destabilizing effects of negative social phenomena, such as corruption, drug and illicit firearms trafficking and terrorism, unregulated migration, lack of access to public goods, widespread public protests etc.?

Innovative public-private partnerships (PPPs) can drive inclusivity and sustainability in cities and communities. PPPs are powerful tools to bridge developmental gaps, from tackling inequality, developing adequate housing to improving access to basic services, creating sustainable patterns of production and consumption and more. Through PPPs, urban planners, policymakers, city think tanks, international corporation, small and medium sized enterprises, NGOs and civil society members can come together to set priorities, generate consensus on divided issues and better allocate resources. By leveraging the technical expertise and financial resources of the private sector, PPPs can deliver infrastructure changes and public services more efficiently than traditional methods. An open and participatory PPP also provide greater accountability and efficiency in policies and development projects, reducing the chance of receiving negative outcomes[5][6].

Investing in information and communication and technologies (ICTs) can help improving access to public goods and creating a more open and transparent city. ICTs facilitate inclusive urban planning by giving citizens the tools for active participation in the decision-making process, particularly from the historically marginalized population groups. ICTs enable information to be disseminated among citizens, the private sector and government, which enable greater efficiency and effectiveness in implementing inclusive policies.

Policies that are aimed to reduce inequality can also help to create safer and more resilient communities. Negative social phenomena can be attributed to overlapping forms of inequality, from

[5]http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GAC/2014/WEF_GAC_LatinAmerica_InnovativePublicPrivatePartnerships_Report_2014.pdf
[6] https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/PPP%20and%20SDGs%20Draft%2020%20December.pdf

income inequality to educational opportunities. As described by multiple studies, crime and corruption hotspots are predictable[789]. People living with high level of socio-economic inequality and social mistrust tend to be more likely to expose to violence crime and other negative social phenomena. Open, transparent, and integrated urban planning can bring the much lacking basic infrastructure and public services to hotspots, strengthen community engagement with local government and build trust and social cohesion that would become the foundation of a healthy, safe and resilient community.

International standards can also provide valuable guidance to city stakeholders in leveraging ICTs and digital technologies for sustainable urban development. Developed based on best practices and expertise from around the world, international standards provide policy recommendations and technical guidance that enable cities to overcome existing obstacles and allow for technological leapfrogging in the developing world. International standards, such as those developed by ITU[1011], can also provide useful tools for aligning urban development strategies with global commitments as such the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

4. What is the role of science, technology, communication and innovation in the transformation to sustainable and equitable urban systems, which also incorporate and address informality and help overcome the digital divide?

Digital technologies have immense potential in transforming the way cities manage resources and deliver basic services. Artificial intelligence enables cities to turn data into actionable insights that would improve operational efficiency and resource allocation. For one, an AI-enabled traffic control system is able to analyze traffic patterns and provide drivers with optimal route option and information that would help reducing idling time on the road. Public healthcare systems can also be improved by digital technologies in terms of accessibility and efficiency. ICTs also enable patient to connect with doctors remotely, who would then be able to carry out diagnostics through a connected device. This is particularly useful in developing regions where formal healthcare system is often lacking[12].

Digital technology also provides cities with the tool to response more swiftly in health emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital communication channels can effectively disseminate information on critical assets to first respondents, enabling them to make better informed decision. ICTs and digital infrastructure are important tools for monitoring disease progression, contact tracing and gathering the necessary data to deliver early warning and develop containment strategies accordingly. AI and Big Data analysis related to citizen movements and disease transmission patterns are also helping to develop preventative measures from developing testing kits to improve diagnosis efficiency and more[1314].

7 https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/what-are-the-causes-of-urban-violence-inequality/
8 https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2018/06/07/the-stark-relationship-between-income-inequality-and-crime
9 https://wp.nyu.edu/dispatch/2018/05/23/how-big-is-income-inequality-as-a-determinant-of-crime-rates/
10 https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/05/Pages/default.aspx
11 https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/studygroups/2017-2020/20/Pages/default.aspx
12 https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Documents/frontier-technologies-to-protect-the-environment-and-tackle-climate-change.pdf
13 https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/digital-infrastructure-public-health-crisis-covid-19/
14 https://news.itu.int/covid-19-how-korea-is-using-innovative-technology-and-ai-to-flatten-the-curve/

Digital tools can also enhance transparency and inclusivity in cities. Data visualization is able to translate complex idea into easy to understand concepts that would improve citizen engagement with complex public services while enhancing their legitimacy. Big data solutions can also be used to coordinate responses to disaster, improve healthcare and financial inclusion [15][16][17].

However, the persistence of digital divide will worsen inequalities if not properly addressed. The success of digital transformation depends on people's ability to access digital devices and information. while statistics show that half of the world population is online, the other half remains offline[18]. Bridging the digital divide remains a priority for building digital transformation that benefits all and leaves no one behind. Global partnerships can play a key role in bridging this digital divide. For one, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda and expanding broadband access in every country as key to accelerating progress towards national and international development targets. The Commissions has launched Target 2025, committing to bring the other half of the population online and providing training to youth and adults on sustainable digital skills[19].

5. How can local and national governments work together to ensure adequate resources are available for sustainable, inclusive, safe and transparent urban development? How can local government financing be made more predictable and robust?

The global community can play a key role in coordinating local and national government in driving sustainable urban development. For one, the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) is a United Nations initiative supported by 17 UN bodies that provides a global platform for supporting the transition to smart sustainable cities using ICTs[20]. The U4SSC has also developed the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities to provide cities with the tool to assess their smartness and sustainability based on the parameters and targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals[21]. Global platforms such as the U4SSC enable local best practices to be elevated to the national and international level. Urban planners and local government can look to the work of these global platforms for policy recommendations and guidance to drive urban development with a set of shared values.

[15] https://futurecities.catapult.org.uk/2017/02/08/digital-tools-can-make-planning-transparent/
[16] https://www.gsma.com/betterfuture/news/transparency-inclusivity
[17] https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/industry/public-sector/inclusive-smart-cities.html
[18] https://news.itu.int/itu-statistics-leaving-no-one-offline/
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[21] https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ssc/Pages/KPIs-on-SSC.aspx