



Leaving no one and no place behind – a people-centred urban policy for Bolivia  
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## A driver for inclusivity and prosperity in cities: the Bolivia cities policy

Bolivia is facing a unique opportunity to harness the benefits of urbanization with 80 per cent of its population expected to live in cities by 2030. As one of the last countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to urbanize, Bolivia's rapid pace of transformation requires timely action to address the challenges and opportunities that come with it.

Rapid urban expansion of cities has led to shortages in adequate housing and public services such as transportation and health, waste management infrastructures and employment opportunities. It also causes socio-spatial inequalities, environmental pollution, low productivity and other issues.

UN-Habitat is working with the Government of Bolivia to develop the National Policy for the Integral Development of Cities (NPIDC), its equivalent to National Urban Policy, as the strategic instrument to guide urban development in the country for the next 15 years. The NPIDC combines a systemic approach and the reinforcement of urban governance to promote balanced development across three levels: city, territorial and national. It identifies the challenges of urbanization in Bolivia and proposes policy action to foster inclusive, sustainable and productive cities in line with the principle of Living Well.



The Bolivia National Policy for Integral Development of Cities promotes inclusive, sustainable and productive urban development  
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### Prosperous cities in Bolivia: a priority agenda

Stakeholder participation was at the forefront of this process, with more than 250 consultation workshops and two National Urban Forums held throughout the country and participation of more than 7,000 stakeholders from all levels of government, civil society, academia and the private sector.

The NPIDC aims to enhance shared prosperity of Bolivian cities and territories. It has entered its approval process and is now being incorporated in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2021–2025 for implementation at the local level which will in turn contribute to creating better quality of life and more prosperous, sustainable and resilient cities.

### A people-centred policy

Well-designed city policy frameworks can help countries and cities achieve economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

The case of Bolivia demonstrates that:

- Policy formulation consultations across different sectors are essential for the viability of the National Urban Policy development process and ensure the buy-in required for its implementation, and this necessitates national leadership.
- A coherent approach between national and city-level policymaking institutions is critical for city reform efforts that can safeguard against fragmented, narrow sectoral actions.

**80%** of Bolivia's population is expected to live in cities by 2030: the country faces a unique opportunity to harness the benefits of urbanization.

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