



Football Pitch Make-over through Design Thinking

compact cities

A lot was happening in Mlango Kubwa's football pitch last week. Mlango Kubwa is a ward in the Mathare informal [...]

Planning, Finance and legal aspects of urbanisation and policy [...]



UN-Habitat & New Urban Agenda

Scene Setter

UN-Habitat, in preparation of the Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA) is doing a revision of the content of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), in order to facilitate the conversion of the NUA into a pragmatic and efficient framework of implementation. For this purpose, the contents of the NUA have been analyzed in eleven categories plus the four cross cutting principles of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat.

The eleven pillars constitute an ordered framework which begins with a dedicated pillar on **UN Principles and Values**. The NUA refers in many occasions to the principles and values of the United Nations seen not only on the general framework of the human rights, as one of the three pillars of the UN, altogether with peace and security and development, but also in the agreed language within the UN family, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Humanitarian Summit, the Migration Conference and of course, the Habitat I, II and III conferences.

The second column of the concepts and ideas of the NUA refers to the linkages between **urbanization and sustainable development**. This concept was strongly framed in the Rio + 20 outcome document, and has been further developed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where urbanization has been recognized in goal 11 as a definitive contributor and a driver for development and prosperity. Although urbanization has been in the past linked to development in a generic and unspecific manner, we are currently going through a renewed theoretical recognition of urbanization as a much more powerful tool for development as reflected in publications such as the World Bank Development Report 2009, and the 2017 Africa Cities Report. It is by now not simply considered an associated factor but it has much deeper and stronger links than previously recognized.

The third column refers to the **National Urban Policy -NUP-**. This is to underline a new approach to the role of National Governments as determinants of the final quality of urbanization. This role has been forgotten in many aspects from the theory of urbanization and is currently accepted from a new point of view, underlining the hugely important role of the National Government in the outcomes of urbanization. The National Government is the level that holds the sovereignty of the nation, and it establishes the rules and functions of the subnational and local governments. In that sense, urbanization cannot escape the very comprehensive influence of the modern Central State. Furthermore, the Modern state is enlarging its scope of action in the day by day life of citizens as a provider of many daily life services such as **safety and security, health, education, social benefits, unemployment subsidies** and many others. Therefore, the inter-linkage between the Central Government deliverables vis-à-vis the Local Government functions of basic urban services (urban planning, water, sanitation, solid waste management etc), are jointly contributing to the quality of the urbanization.

Columns number:

PILLARS

- ☆ 1. Principles and Values (PV)
- ☆ 2. Urbanization and Sustainable Development (USD)
- ☆ 3. National Urban Policies (NUP)
- ☆ 4. Rules and Regulations (RR)
- ☆ 5. Urban Planning and Design (UPD)
- ☆ 6. Financing Urbanization (FI)
- ☆ 7. Urban Basic Services (UBS)
- ☆ 8. Housing and Slum upgrading (HSU)
- ☆ 9. Risk Reduction (RiR)
- ☆ 10. Research and Capacity Development (RCD)
- ☆ 11. Local Implementation (LI)

UN-HABITAT & NEW URBAN AGENDA

Scene Setter

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1. Principles and values (PV)

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2. Urbanization and Sustainable Development (USD)

The NUA consolidates the linkages between urbanization and sustainable development. This concept was strongly framed in the Rio + 20 outcome document, and has been further developed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where urbanization has been recognized in goal 11 as a definitive contributor and a driver for development and prosperity. Although urbanization has been in the past linked to development in a generic and unspecific manner, we are currently going through a renewed theoretical recognition of urbanization as a much more powerful tool for development.

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3. National Urban Policies (NUP)

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4. Rules and Regulations (RR)

The NUA highlights urban legislation as a priority area for sustainable urban development. Good urbanization cannot be conceived without a good regulatory framework. Urbanization should be based in the rule of law. Urbanization without rules and regulations tends to be spontaneous and ad-hoc. As world population grows more and more urban, we have no choice but to become more efficient in our urbanization, by establishing rules and regulations and implementing them.

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5. Urban Planning and Design (UPD)

Urban planning and design is an essential technical part of the urbanization process and it refers to the physical layout of buildable plots, public space, and their relationship to one another. In line with the NUA, UN-Habitat believes that urban planning of design is a fundamental priority to achieving sustainable urban development.

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6. Financing Urbanization (FI)

One of the novelties of the urban paradigm shift of the NUA is the contribution of urbanization to the national economy. Urbanization should be approached not as a cost, but as an investment, because the cost of urbanization is minimal compared to the value that it can generate. The key issue is to guarantee that the urban value generated is properly shared among the various actors, and not just kept by a few.

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7. Urban Basic Services (UBS)

The access to urban basic services is an integral part of the NUA. Millions of people around the world still lack access to clean drinking water, basic sanitation, modern forms of energy, sustainable mobility and proper waste management.

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8. Housing and Slum upgrading (HSU)

The NUA refers on many occasions to Housing and Slum Upgrading. UN-Habitat works at improving access to housing in general and the living conditions of slum dwellers in particular. We assist member States in working towards the realization of the right to adequate housing.

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9. Risk Reduction (RiR)

In recent years, the world has witnessed an increasing series of disasters which have resulted in the dramatic loss of human life, the destruction of homes, property, infrastructure, services and indeed the displacement of entire communities.

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10. Research and Capacity Development (RCD)

Good urban policy and planning requires accurate information. The NUA refers to the relevance of research and capacity development.

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11. Local Implementation (LI)

The General Assembly requested an action oriented New Urban Agenda in order to provide a tool to guide the necessary change for the substantive improvement of urbanization for the next twenty years. The NUA insists in the local implementation of the general theories of development and urbanization.

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UN-Habitat & New Urban Agenda

SCENE SETTER

1. Principles and values (PV)

Article 6. We take full account of the milestone achievements of the year 2015, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2015–2030, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. We also take account of the Rio Declaration on **Environment and Development**, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the follow-up to these conferences.

Article 7. While recognizing that it did not have an intergovernmental agreed outcome, we take note of the **World Humanitarian Summit** held in May 2016 in Istanbul.

Article 8. We acknowledge the contributions of national governments, as well as the contributions of subnational and local governments, in the definition of the New Urban Agenda, and take note of the **second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**.

Article 11. We share a vision of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, **without discrimination** of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all. We note the efforts of some national and local governments to enshrine this vision, referred to as “right to the city”, in their legislation, political declarations and charters.

Article 12. We aim to achieve cities and human settlements where all persons are able to **enjoy equal rights and opportunities**, as well as their **fundamental freedoms**, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. In this regard, the New Urban Agenda is grounded in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, international **human rights** treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

Article 13. We envisage cities and human settlements that:

(a) Fulfill their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the **right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation**, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, **air quality** and livelihoods;

(b) Are participatory; promote civic engagement; engender a sense of belonging and ownership among all their inhabitants; prioritize safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces friendly for families; enhance social and intergenerational interactions, cultural expressions and political participation, as appropriate; and foster social cohesion, inclusion and safety in peaceful and pluralistic societies, where the needs of all inhabitants are met, recognizing the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations;

(c) Achieve **gender equality** and empower all women and girls by **ensuring women's** full and effective participation and **equal rights** in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making; by ensuring decent work and equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, for all women; and by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces;

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UN-Habitat & New Urban Agenda

3. National Urban Policies (NUP)

Article 15(b). Recognize the leading role of national governments, as appropriate, in the definition and implementation of inclusive and effective urban policies and legislation for sustainable urban development, and the equally important contributions of subnational and local governments, as well as civil society and other relevant stakeholders, in a transparent and accountable manner.

Article 15(c)i. Developing and implementing urban policies at the appropriate level, including in local–national and multi-stakeholder partnerships, building integrated systems of cities and human settlements, and promoting cooperation among all levels of government to enable them to achieve sustainable integrated urban development;

Article 21. (Also RR) We urge all national, subnational and local governments, as well as all relevant stakeholders, in line with national policies and legislation, to revitalize, strengthen and create partnerships, enhancing coordination and cooperation to effectively implement the New Urban Agenda and realize our shared vision.

Article 26. (Also USD) We commit ourselves to urban and rural development that is people-centred, protects the planet, and is age- and gender-responsive, and to the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, facilitating living together, ending all forms of discrimination and violence, and empowering all individuals and communities while enabling their full and meaningful participation. We further commit ourselves to promoting culture and respect for diversity and equality as key elements in the humanization of our cities and human settlements.

Article 29. (Also UBS, RiR) We commit ourselves to strengthening the coordination role of national, subnational and local governments, as appropriate, and their collaboration with other public entities and non-governmental organizations in the provision of social and basic services for all, including generating investments in communities that are most vulnerable to disasters and those affected by recurrent and protracted humanitarian crises. We further commit ourselves to promoting adequate services, accommodation and opportunities for decent and productive work for crisis-affected persons in urban settings, and to working with local communities and local governments to identify opportunities for engaging and developing local, durable and dignified solutions while ensuring that aid also flows to affected persons and host communities to prevent regression of their development.

Article 35. (Also RR) We commit ourselves to promoting, at the appropriate level of government, including subnational and local government, increased security of tenure for all, recognizing the plurality of tenure types, and to developing fit-for-purpose and age-, gender- and environment-responsive solutions within the continuum of land and property rights, with particular attention to security of land tenure for women as key to their empowerment, including through effective administrative systems.