



**66<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES  
TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME**

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**Briefing Note on National Urban Policies with focus on Latin America and the  
Caribbean**

## I. Selected key facts:

- Active NUP global portfolio in 32 countries, 10 of which started their National Urban Policy (NUP) process in 2017, with the support of UN Habitat (in LAC: Argentina and Cuba on going and Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala expected to start in 2018. There is also a project for subnational urban policy in Sinaloa, Mexico)
  - Normative tools had been developed to guide and operationalize NUP in many countries: some global instruments are: the NUP Guiding Framework, NUP Diagnostic Framework and NUP Database. Various thematic guides have also been developed to mainstreamed key issues in NUP processes. These guides include slum upgrading, gender, climate change, public space, and SDGs.
  - A budget portfolio of more than USD 6 million (in LAC approx.: 1 million in 2017)
  - One Global National Urban Programme (in partnership with OECD and Cities Alliance), providing direct technical support in four countries
  - One Regional Programme for Arab States, providing technical support to four countries in the region (in LAC MINURVI is promoting a regional initiative to develop NUP with support from UN/Habitat and ECLAC)
  - Four regional reports released (one for Latin America and the Caribbean), one global National Urban Policy database launched
  - One Global State of National Urban Policy report to be released in Q4 2017 (in collaboration with OECD)
  - Support for NUP in LAC include one country which is receiving support through SIDA cooperation and two through triangular articulation with Central American Economic Integration Bank - BCIE
- Two International Conferences on National Urban Policy: 2015 in Incheon (Korea) and 2017 in Paris (France). The Second Conference witnessed more than 350 participants representing 30+ international organizations, 14 Ministers, 9 Mayors and regional representatives, 141 speakers, and representatives from more than 80 countries (high-level LAC participants from many countries including Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Haiti)

## II. Background: Why National Urban Policy?

UN-Habitat considers a National Urban Policy (NUP) as a tool that can be used by government to provide an urban vision which can guide urbanization. With input from the regional and local levels, a coordinated effort from the national level government through a NUP provides an opportunity for the development of a coordinating and thorough nation-wide urban development plan.

The experience of countries which have a NUP has shown that it can promote horizontal linkages between sectorial policies; strengthen urban, peri-urban, and rural links through more integrated national level territorial development; and support a stronger vertical connection between national, regional and local governments, while defining closely the roles and responsibilities of each.

In Latin American and the Caribbean, the recognition of the role of urban policy in advancing wider social, economic and environmental goals is now widely appreciated at the metropolitan scale in many countries and the contributions of national governments to urban objectives has opportunities to be developed.

Countries like Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador have established national level urban perspectives. In the case of Ecuador the 'right to the city' has been included in the national constitution.

Existent national level urban policy efforts in LAC have been organized around a common priority of ensuring adequate and affordable housing, within a wider context of integrated urban development. In many countries housing has been specified as a constitutional right typically supported by instruments oriented to support this right. Urban policy and planning is less directly supported in constitutional arrangements, except in Ecuador and Bolivia, and responsibilities are typically divided between national agencies with planning responsibility and mid-level agencies in charge of housing and urban development. Ecuador, for example, is distinctive given that this has established the 'right to the city' as a major constitutional objective, namely "the right to a safe and healthy habitat, and adequate and decent housing, regardless of the social and economic status" (Article. 30).

A major feature of urban policy in the region is the management and coordination of land management policies with urban planning and housing policies. In El Salvador the Law 338 on land management also covers territorial development. Many national urban policies in the region are comprehensive, such as the recent case of Mexico, which seeks six national-level urban planning objectives, including controlling urban expansion, consolidating urban development, governing land-use effectively, ensuring sustainable mobility, limiting settlement near in natural risk zones and supporting the national regional development policy. A major goal underpinning these objectives is to reduce the costs of urban infrastructure provision through better coordination, as well as improving governance to ensure better coordination.

Many countries operate a national level spatial framework that seeks to guide the distribution of urban development within the country. This typically sets out the national goals around territorial development and identifies the preferred pattern of urban growth within particular metropolitan regions. There is however a high level of variability within the region in terms of the specification of a national territorial strategy and its complementing by urban policy objectives. Colombia, for example, has been working on the implementation of a "national system of cities" policy which sets out the anticipated pattern of metropolitan development according to a regional vision. Colombia is also pursuing a national scale decentralization process that seeks to distribute various responsibilities and resources to municipalities. In contrast Mexico, which is one of the most populous countries in the region, has a less developed national spatial framework. Mexico's constitution confers levels of autonomy on municipalities, in terms of urban development and national level initiatives such as the National Urban Programme of 2014-2018 and accompanying National Housing Programme are in place to strengthen the national perspective.

Most countries in the region operate a number of policy instruments at the national scale which coincide with the national framework of policy and institutional arrangements. Perhaps the highest order national level instrument is a national Constitution, which in the case of Brazil included the right to housing in its 2000 Constitutional Amendment No. National level legislation typically sets out a country's statutory, institutional and policy framework for national level urban policy. In the case of Brazil this comprises the City Statute which might indeed constitute a National Urban Policy.

In general in the region, it is considered that elements of national urban policies might be part of, or complimentary to, National Development Plans set for a specific government's period, or similarly dedicated instruments. Mexico for example, operates a National Urban Development Programme that incorporates

urban policy instruments, as well as a National Housing Programme. This has been applied in a comprehensive way, by linking the Programmes with resourcing and a housing investment strategy but making these funding sources contingent on the application of an urban containment strategy by the relevant municipalities.

### **UN Habitat and National Urban Policy:**

The work of UN Habitat on NUP is rooted in the Governing Council resolution HSP/GC/24/L.6 which “*requests the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support member states when developing and improving their urban policies*” and Governing Council resolution HSP/GC/25/L.12 which “*requests the Executive Director to further strengthen partnerships, peer learning and a community of practice approach on national urban policies as means of supporting national and local governments as they develop and implement such policies.*”

UN Habitat is supporting the development and implementation of NUPs globally, regionally, nationally and at sub-national level. Over the years, and in consultation with partners and member states, UN Habitat has consolidated normative knowledge and developed tools that support countries to undertake the NUP process, namely, the feasibility, diagnostic, formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases.

### **Implementation of global agreements, regional commitments and National Urban Policy:**

With the adoption of global frameworks such as Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, National Urban Policies have been identified as a key tool to support the implementation and monitoring of the global urban agenda. A National Urban Policy touches on and is relevant to many of the SDGs, and work is ongoing to support the definition of metadata and the collection of data for Target 11.a:

*Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.*

UN Habitat and UNFPA have proposed the following replacement indicator, to be presented to the Statistical Commission in 2018:

*Indicator 11.a.1: Number of countries that have a National Urban Policy or Regional Development Plans that (a) respond to population dynamics, (b) ensure balanced territorial development, and (c) increase local fiscal space.*

The New Urban Agenda has given explicit emphasis to the importance of National Urban Policies for sustainable urbanisation, and commits to taking measures to enhance the ability of governments to develop and implement such over-arching policies. Subsequently, UN Habitat has elaborated the Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA), providing a non-exhaustive list of the foundational elements required for urbanisation including a central role for National Urban Policies.

The AFINUA highlights that, *“it is crucial that governments ensure the development—and adaptation, where required—of national urban policies so that they form the basis for the implementation of the NUA. Without adequate NUPs, cities face multiple risks: inadequate, overloaded infrastructure, which can result in overcrowding and delays; vacancy, which can lead to vandalism and exacerbate maintenance costs; and competition between metropolitan areas, which can aggravate inequalities.”* NUP, therefore, has been identified as one of the strategic entry points for the implementation of the NUA.

### **The MINURVI commitment to develop a new post-Habitat III generation of national urban policies:**

The regional panorama would be incomplete without a sense of the availability of fully updated National Urban Policies in all countries, and this was a key part of the discussion in 2017’s General Assembly of MINURVI (Assembly of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers and High Authorities of Urban Development and Housing ), with participation of the following countries: **Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Uruguay.**

In this June’s 2017 Assembly in Buenos Aires, countries of the region considered, among other points, the following:

*“2. That Latin America and the Caribbean is a highly urbanized, diverse and unequal region, thus representing an outstanding case, at the global level, regarding its potential in urban issues and economic, social environmental and territorial challenges concerning urbanization to achieve sustainable development, in harmony with nature.*

*“7. That studies and international evidence gathered by UN-Habitat have allowed to record that **cities and territories presenting high prosperity indexed usually count on a national institutional and public policy environment enabling synergies between different government levels and among cities**”.*

Giving their analysis, MINURVI has affirmed the relevance of National Urban Policies as they recognize the *“importance that **countries count on a national framework on legal, institutional and financial issues enabling their guidance on the urban, territorial and social development, in a participative manner, to improve existing habitat conditions for all the population, promoting links with sub-national and local governments and other stakeholders, to advance inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements**”.*

And as a result LAC countries have committed to *“working towards the effective materialization of the right to the city, as defined in the Toluca’s Declaration, and **fostering the development of urban policies aimed at social inclusion, the development of opportunities and the integral development of their inhabitants, with a gender perspective, recognizing the central role played by national governments in sustainable urban development, territorial planning policy and housing**”.*

The Declaration also recognizes the support of UN-Habitat and ECLAC through joint effort and invites to continue developing efforts in the implementation of the NUA and the Declaration.

### **Funds mobilization and major donors**

UN-Habitat has mobilized funds and currently has an active portfolio for NUP development with budget over USD 6 million. These funds come from diverse sources including:

- **Contributions from countries:** Cameroon (\$417,800), Egypt (\$300,000), Saudi Arabia, Zambia (\$300,000), Angola (\$683,000); Argentina (\$590,000). Also, contribution to be materialized from Sinaloa State, México (\$250,000).
- **Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Government of South Korea:** \$2.63 million between 2017-2019 for NUP and smart city strategies in Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State (Nigeria)
- **Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Government of South Korea:** \$42,000 per year for four years to support Expert Group Meetings and workshops on National Urban Policy
- **Government of Sweden:** \$190,000 soft earmarked funds to support activities on National Urban Policy
- **UN Development Account:** National Urban Policy Regional Programme for the Arab States (\$451,000)
- **Cities Alliance:** NUP in Liberia (\$75,000, Phase One), (\$200,000, Phase Two, forthcoming), NUP in Tunisia (\$100,000), Support for the National Urban Policy Programme (\$75,000)
- **Italian Development Corporation:** NUP in Lebanon (\$100,000)
- **Booyoung:** NUP in Liberia (\$75,000), NUP in Burkina Faso (\$50,000), Sub-national Urban Policy in Zanzibar, Tanzania (\$50,000), Cameroon Feasibility (\$75,000)
- **Andalucía (Spain) Development Cooperation Agency-AACID:** Technical advisory services to Institut of Physical Planning in Cuba on New Urban Agenda elements (Euros 300,000)

#### **Selected key 2017 National Urban Policy Activities:**

Following the Habitat III conference, UN Habitat has been undertaking a variety of activities to support the development of National Urban Policy globally and within the ROLAC region. **Normative work, advocacy efforts and partnership development form the underpinning foundation for country level activities.** Country level activities are undertaken in partnership with UN Habitat regional and country offices, other UN agencies and with other partners who are engaged in operational activities. **The UN Habitat National Urban Policy Task Team** is the main tool which is used to ensure the internal connection between normative and advocacy work and operational activities. Through the NUP Task Team, the thematic branches and regional offices have the opportunity to give input to the portfolio of work on NUP and have the information they need to engage, when appropriate. The NUP Task Team meets once every quarter. The following are selected key activities from 2017:

##### **a. Country level technical support**

#### **NUP Country-level projects**

Globally, UN Habitat is working in 32 countries providing technical support or advisory services on National Urban Policies. This global portfolio has grown substantially in 2017 with 10 out of the 32 countries beginning their National Urban Policy process, with the support of UN Habitat. Technical support in each country varies depending on the request. For example:

- Some countries have thematic entry points, for example, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines are being supported by UN Habitat and UNESCAP to mainstream climate change into their National Urban Policies, supported by the normative guide developed by UN Habitat, *Mainstreaming Climate Change into National Urban Policies*
- Other countries have requested support in data collection and analysis to ensure evidence based policy. For example, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Liberia, and Cameroon are currently undertaking their Diagnosis reviews, supported by the normative tool developed by UN Habitat, *National Urban Policy: Framework for A Rapid Diagnostic*
- As part of the global initiative on NUP, UN-Habitat is advancing work in LAC. The next table shows the status of present engagement in LAC countries on processes related to NUP. The table shows work in **Argentina** (supporting the National Urban and Habitat Plan) and in **Cuba** (providing technical advice to Institute of Physical Planning on key policy issues), also the evolution and scope of forthcoming NUP related processes with **Bolivia**, **El Salvador** and **Guatemala**. Additionally, it is important for this report to feature achievements supported by UN-Habitat on NUP in **Colombia** and **Ecuador**.

	Argentina	Bolivia	Colombia	Cuba	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala
<b>Project Status</b>	On-going	In design	Finalised	On-going	Finalised	Foreseen (formal request)	Foreseen
<b>Scope</b>	National Urban and Habitat Plan	National Urban Plan	National Policy for consolidation of System of Cities	Technical Assistance to revision of physical planning system	National Land Management Law	National Urban Policy	National Urban Policy
<b>Amount</b>	590kUSD	2M USD (estimated)	600kUSD	300kEuros	Part of global project	1.5M USD (estimated)	1.5M USD (estimated)
<b>Financed by</b>	Gob of Argentina	SIDA	Spain/Gob of Colombia/National Dev Banks	AACID (Spain)	SIDA	BCIE (Central American Bank Economic Integration) et al	BCIE (Central American Bank Economic Integration) et al
<b>Main institutional partner</b>	Ministry of Interior, Public Works & Housing / Secretariat Housing & Habitat	Ministry of Public Works / Viceministry Housing	National Planning Department	Institute of Physical Planning	Ministry of Housing (MIDUVI)	Viceministry of Housing	Viceministry of Housing / Commission of competitiveness
<b>Main Drivers</b>	Housing deficit / territorial imbalances/neighborhood development	Urbanisation dividend / demographic dividend / intermediary cities / three main metropolitan areas	Post-conflict	Economic evolution / demographic dynamics / Housing-land system	Decentralisation / Reintroduction of planning practices / earthquake 2016	Housing deficit / local community development / sustaining peace (non conventional violence prevention)	Local competitiveness policy / Urban Agenda GT / Sustaining peace (non conventional violence prevention)
<b>Main demand/opportunities for NUP</b>	Urban legislation / participatory approach / financial strategy	Urban law / framework for value generation / capacity development / models for financing urban development	Cities as drivers of economic development / increased ownership of cities	Good system of cities; framework for housing/land development; systems for value generation; institutional strengthening	Land use planning renovated instruments / municipal capacities / vertical governance	National urban law / sustainable and productive human settlements model / NUA / non conventional violence prevention	National urban law / intermediary cities development / local capacity development / urban competitiveness / non conventional violence prevention
<b>Opportunities</b>	Neighborhood development exemples / institutional coordination / Economic impact of urban investments	Economic growth / ONE UN action / model for urban integrated operations / connection with sectoral investments	System of cities with emerging intermediate cities / agglomerations	Economic evolution; touristic sector development; territorial approach; three pronged approach	Recovery post 2016 earthquake / innovation on urban integrated projects / PPP developments	Competitiveness Strategy / BCIE support to housing development / Non conventional violence prevention efforts	Housing policy strategy / BCIE support to housing policy / Non conventional violence prevention efforts
<b>Components NUP UN-Habitat supports (or would support)</b>	National Urban Law / National Urban Planning process / National Urban Plan / Financing urban policy / impacting urban prosperity	Urban Law / model for financing urban integrated projects / urban prosperity / local implementation / ONE-UN coordination on urban areas	Local components/discussions for Mission of Cities	Territorial policy, planning, legislation, economy + sectoral analysis	Urban Law / Capacity development / structuring local implementation	National Urban law / local implementation / neighborhood development / urban prosperity / financial strategy / ONE-UN coordination	National Urban planning system / urban integrated projects / urban prosperity / financial strategy / ONE-UN coordination
<b>Main UN-Habitat areas to involve</b>	NUP / Urban Legislation / urban planning / urban economy / CPI	NUP / Urban Planning / Urban law / urban economy / capacity building / CPI	NUP / CPI	NUP / Urban economy, urban planning, urban legislation, capacity development	Urban legislation / urban planning / urban economy	NUP/Housing/Urban planning/CPI	NUP/ Urban economy/urban planning / CPI
<b>Main expected (actual) results</b>	National Urban and Habitat Plan	National Urban Development Plan / Mechanism for structuring urban integrated projects/ Strategy Capacity development / ONE-UN urban action	National Policy for Strengthening System of Cities (done)	Technical advise for IPF to lead urban policy and introduce evolutions	Organic Law for land use and management	National urban policy / pilots for local implementation	NUP / Mechanism for structuring urban integrated projects in intermediary cities / capacity development

### Detailed examples of country-level work on NUP in LAC:

- **Contribution to National Policy for consolidation of System of Cities in Colombia:** This project allowed UN Habitat to join efforts with the World Bank to support the work of the “Mission of Cities,” a task force established by the national government to identify key issues and opportunities related to the System of Cities of the country. UN-Habitat played a role in giving a place to local authorities in this collective effort. The outcome of the UN Habitat contribution served as input for a formal Policy Document CONPES-3819 adopted formally by the CONPES (National Council for Social and Economic Policy) in 2015. This policy is presently being implemented,
- **Contribution to Land Use and management organic Law in Ecuador:** The bill is the result of a long process started in 2011 under the leadership of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Ecuador (MIDUVI) with support from UN-Habitat, the Municipality of Quito, GIZ, SIDA and the European Union amongst other partners. It allowed Ecuador to finally have a toolbox of national regulations to support urban planning and urban investments. The law, approved in 2016, provides municipalities legal tools to support their actions on sustainable urban development. It has provided a clear normative framework for land tenure, land value, land use and land development. It guides municipalities to optimize land use, fostering urban compactness and mixed-use development while easing regulations for private investments for new developments or redevelopments. In addition, municipalities will be able to secure and transfer the rights on land. UN-Habitat was involved in the preparation of the bill since its inception in 2011, offering technical, financial and organizational support, and facilitating international exchanges. Based on the law, UN-Habitat is now supporting process towards building institutional capacity to assure proper implementation of the regulations at local level.
- **Support to National Urban and Habitat Plan in Argentina.** UN-Habitat responded to a demand from Argentina Government to support their process towards a National Plan based on UN-Habitat’s NUP strategy. UN-Habitat is advancing and a road map has been established to support the development of a National Urban Plan and a National Urban Law including with strengthening of National Urban Planning process and a strategy providing options for financing of the urban policy. The process aims also at producing a positive impact on urban prosperity in selected cities. In that sense, the City Prosperity Index will be proposed as a tool for monitoring. The road map already included the successful organization of a National Urban Forum in the city of Mendoza in June, 2017.
- **Advisory technical cooperation services to Institute of Physical Planning in Cuba.** The Institute of Physical Planning (IPF, acronym in Spanish) directs territorial and urban policy and has received the mandate from the State to prepare the *Política de Ordenamiento Territorial, Urbanismo y Suelo* (Territorial Planning, Urbanism and Land Policy). This is in a context of emerging non-state economic activity and incipient real estate investment although there is no existing land law and the state has ownership of almost all land. UN-Habitat is providing technical advisory in the identification of key urban issues to address; conducting



analytical work on policy options; and preparing a road map which is expected to strengthen the IPF in fulfilling its mandate of revising national territorial policy in a way that is aligned with the principles of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat has carried out diagnostics and will be conducting workshops on planning, legislation and economy on key thematic areas identified jointly with the counterpart – housing, economic activity, basic services, mobility and risk and climate change. A road map comprising activities, responsibilities and timeline will be developed as final deliverable (completion expected February 2018).

- **Support to National Urban Development Plan in Bolivia.** The Ministry of Public Works/Viceministry of Housing, in liaison with Ministry of Planning has requested UN-Habitat to provide technical expertise in the development of the Plan. With the support from SIDA, UN-Habitat has undertaken needs identification missions and is advancing a programme that supports the formulation of a National Urban Plan including the components of assessment of the urban planning system, financial strategy, urban law and capacity development. The programme under design includes a component on local implementation and structuring of high impact urban integrated projects, articulated to main national investments on economic infrastructure in the main cities and in intermediary cities. Finally, the programme also will integrate a ONE-UN component allowing UN-Habitat to have a coordinating role supporting the UN-Resident Coordinator of Bolivia to lead a number of specific interagency initiatives to that will be developed upon demand of national/local institutions. With this programme the Government of Bolivia aims at strengthening the Patriotic Agenda in the urban areas.

- **Support to National Urban Policies in El Salvador and Guatemala.** As part of a strategy to adapt to the context found in Middle Income Countries, UN-Habitat is advancing a new model to work with regional development banks. In this regard a MoU has been signed with the Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE), the most important in the sub-region. With this MoU, UN Habitat can now play an active role in the BCIE programme VIDHAS, which supports initiatives that aim at having measurable positive impact on urban prosperity in the areas where Bank loans are applied by beneficiary countries.

To these aims, UN-Habitat is providing technical expertise and establishing a base line on urban prosperity in the region utilizing the City Prosperity Initiative, which will be very important for initial diagnosis assessments for NUP in the region. For housing operations, based on the normative “Housing at the center” perspective UN-Habitat is asked to deploy policy instruments based on NUP and other normative global developments and regional adaptations, in order to help the impact on urban prosperity. UN-Habitat has already received a formal request from Viceministry of Housing of El Salvador to provide support on National Urban Policy, among other topics. An exchange has already been established with Viceministry of Housing-Guatemala, in order to utilize normative instruments of UN-Habitat in the implementation of VIDHAS programme and looking for additional impact on urban competitiveness. Both loan operations are under consideration in both Congress and are expected to be operational in 2018.

#### **b. Consolidating normative knowledge and tools on urban policies**

**Launch of the National Urban Policy Database:** the UN Habitat National Urban Policy Database is an important tool that provides a global overview of the state of urban policy at the national level. The aim of the database is to gather pertinent information in a central location and therefore make available a broad overview of the state of NUP globally which, along with other NUP tools provided by UN Habitat, can assist in encouraging cross-country learning.

**Release of UN Habitat National Urban Policy Regional Reports:** UN Habitat National Urban Policy regional reports were released prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Habitat Governing Council. Reports are available for the North American and European, Latin American, African, and Arab States regions, with the report for the Asia and the Pacific to be released in the coming months. The regional reports provide a foundation for understanding how and in what forms NUPs have emerged globally, and to highlight and cross-reference country-level experiences in undertaking the NUP process. These tools are applicable, therefore, to providing key insights that can inform both academic analysis and the approaches of practitioners and to facilitate inter-country learning.

### **c. Promoting global advocacy and partnership efforts on National Urban Policy**

**Rallying policy makers and other stakeholders during the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy (ICNUP2):** ICNUP2 was co-hosted by UN Habitat and Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and supported by Cities Alliance, the Global Green Growth Institute, The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, UCLG, the Government of France and the Government of South Korea and was held May 15-18 2017 in Paris, France, promoted discussion regarding to what extent progress is being made on developing and implementing National Urban Policies to support the New Urban Agenda, the SDGs and other global agreements. The Conference attracted more than **350 participants representing 30+ international organizations, 14 Ministers, 9 Mayors and regional representatives, 141 speakers, and representatives from more than 80 countries.** Through plenary discussions, peer-to-peer exchanges and presentations, capacity development seminars and workshops sessions, participants gained global insights on how to develop, implement and monitor National Urban Policies.

The Second International Conference on National Urban Policy follows from the first Conference, held during the National Urban Policy Week, from December 14-18 2015.

#### **Global partnerships: ongoing work of the Global National Urban Policy Programme**

During the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, **UN-Habitat, OECD, and Cities Alliance launched the National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP).** The **joint initiative** aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and to achieving sustainable and prosperous human settlements for all, leaving no one behind, through the development of National Urban Policies (NUP). Since the launch of the Programme partners have been undertaking a variety of activities, including: **Collaborative country work in Liberia and Tunisia; The National Urban Policy Review (NUPR) of Viet Nam; National Urban Policy Dialogues; Implementation review of the Ghana National Urban Policy and National Urban Policy Regional Programme for the Arab States.**

#### **Future Plans and Opportunities**

2017 has been a year of substantial growth of the portfolio on National Urban Policy, including the overall growth in the financial size of the portfolio in Latin America and the Caribbean and the number of country level projects, the concretization of partnerships, increased advocacy efforts and consolidation of normative knowledge and tools as well as integration with other normative developments of UN-Habitat.

Future opportunities include:

- Establishment of further regional programmes on National Urban Policy including one with MINURVI for increased impact on NUP in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Possibility for Regional Conferences on National Urban Policy, including a Regional Conference on National Urban Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean with regional partners (ex. MINURVI, ECLAC, development banks)
- Ongoing discussion to advance and support other countries on NUP including Kuwait and Guinea Conakry. For LAC it is expected a concretization of NUP operations in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala as well as continued efforts to support Haiti as the only LDC in LAC and other MIC countries making the demand.
- Scaling up of the Global National Urban Policy Programme, especially in Latin American and the Caribbean, where two countries, Chile, which already has a NUP, and Argentina, have confirmed their interest in being partners of the National Urban Policy Programme
- Scaling up of tools on National Urban Policy, including capacity development tools for National Urban Policy and tools to support the drafting of National Urban Policies including contextualization to LAC and translation to working languages in the region.
- Forthcoming release of additional Thematic Guides on National Urban Policy, including guides on National Urban Policy and Gender, Youth and Human Rights and National Urban Policy and Public Space, including translation and adaptation to MIC context and audiences in LAC
- Continued work on SDG Indicator 11.a.1, including presentation of the proposed revised indicator to the Statistical Commission and articulation with CPI so that countries/cities utilizing CPI can also report on this indicator (and other urban related SDGs).