



GLOBAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING SUB-NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES

“Towards effective implementation of
the New Urban Agenda: discussions
from the subnational level”

concept note

JULY 13TH, 15TH & 17TH

ONLINE

with the collaboration of:



Junta de Andalucía

Consejería de Igualdad, Políticas Sociales
y Conciliación

AGENCIA ANDALUZA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL
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The relevance of Sub-National Urban Policies

With the adoption of SDG 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, there has been clear international recognition of the need for sustainable urban growth. Moreover, the Paris Agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21), has brought to the fore the need to combat climate change and strive towards a sustainable and resilient future. Through the selection of National Urban Policies¹ as one of ten thematic areas for the Policy Units for Habitat III, the importance of National Urban Policy as a tool for government and as an indicator for positive urban development has been recognized.

Paragraph 15 of the New Urban Agenda recognizes at the time the importance of national urban policies and sub-national urban policies as a key mean to its implementation:

15. We commit ourselves to working towards an urban paradigm shift for a New Urban Agenda that will:

(...)

(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;

(c) Adopt sustainable, people-centred, age-and gender-responsive and integrated approaches to urban and territorial development by implementing policies, strategies, capacity development and actions at all levels, based on fundamental drivers of change, including:

(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 the achievement of sustainable integrated urban development.

In fact, many national governments are striving to tackle urban issues by enacting national urban policies, setting national targets and developing urban actions. Out of the 150 countries examined by UN-Habitat and OECD², half (76) have adopted explicit National Urban Policies (NUP), and half (74) have partial NUPs which shows the increasing role central governments are playing in ensuring

¹ A National Urban Policy (NUP) is: "A coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term. (UN-Habitat, 2014)".

² UN-Habitat and OECD (2018), Global State of National Urban Policy, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264290747-en>.

sustainable urban development, although there remains a dearth of implementation at the sub-national level in many countries.

NUP- or National Urban Agendas- is not a sole responsibility of national governments. Ample evidence exists to buttress the fact that sub-national governments- including regional and local level- can make significant contributions to sustainable urban development, not only in meeting local needs but also helping to support national objectives. For this to occur, governments are encouraged to develop and adopt coordination frameworks that adequately empower, incentivize and support subnational governments and residents.

Thus, the engagement and/or leadership of sub-national governments in urban policy, strategies and agendas, is a necessity as the battle for wholesale socio-economic development will be won or lost in territories and cities. Leadership at the national level, often through a National Urban Policy or Agenda, is often needed in order to define the goals and vision for urbanization for the country. However, due to the complex nature of urban problems, the development and implementation of urban policy at the national level alone would, in most cases, prove unsuccessful for achieving a country's broad urbanization goals. The cooperation with and empowerment of sub-national governments, therefore, is essential.

Sub-national governments – regions, provinces and/or local authorities – should have an instrumental part in the development of a country's urban development, both through active participation during the development and implementation of a NUP and through the development of complimentary sub-national urban policies (SUP).

However, there are marked differences between countries in relation to the powers granted to various levels of government. **The old “matryoska doll” system of governance, according to which cities fit in regions that fit in nations, each with their own judicial spheres, is no longer a good representation of reality in many parts of the globe³.** The lack of a consolidated tradition in relation to the development of SUP in most of the world means that there are several questions about the role that these tools must fulfil, or the administrative form that they should adopt.

Should sub-national urban policies be focused on implementing national level directives or can they have its orientation and objectives? Can SUP be formulated in the absence of NUP or will they only make sense to contextualise NUP? Could SUP constitute an advantage or handicap for proper implementation of NUP?

Benefits of Sub-National Urban Policies

Sub-national governments, may it be regions, provinces, and/or local authorities, also struggle with the demands of managing urbanization and similarly, also have the access to opportunities that are associated with sustainable urbanization.

³ (Hajer, 2003).

In order to mitigate the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities, sub-national governments can also benefit from a tool, such as a SUP, that allows government and other stakeholders to develop and validate urbanization goals and urban policy priorities at the sub-national level which should include urban areas and the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas.

Countries have a responsibility to “get cities right”. Getting cities right requires NUP that harness, develop and manage the socio-economic potential of cities. NUP being the responsibility of national governments means there is a potential of national level decisions negatively affecting municipalities especially in a federal setting. Municipalities are unique in their urban development, taking Brazil as an example, Sao Paulo is most populated state in the country and it faces unique challenges that come with rapid urban growth, the same policies applicable in Sao Paulo cannot be applicable in a different state due to differences in urban challenges. In parallel, the municipal level of government remains fundamentally dependent on higher levels of government for both resources and regulation. In terms of urban action, both things have a significant effect on the ability of municipalities to find innovative solutions (Potjer& Hajer, 2017). This is where the role of a SUP is important.

A SUP also gives sub-national governments the ability to shape the goals and vision for urbanization in their region, in addition to and in conjunction with national level advice on urbanization, such as a NUP. Inclusive policy development is important in all areas of urban policy. It is particularly pertinent for sub-national governments to be actively involved in policy areas such as infrastructure development and spatial planning, where national level priorities can have physical impacts on sub-national regions (OECD, 2013). It is in the interest of sub-national governments, therefore, to invest in the development of a tool, such as a SUP, which will allow the assessment of capacity at the sub-national level, have provision for the improvement of governance and fiscal systems at the sub-national level and broadly allow sub-national governments to define a vision for urbanization that is beneficial for their region or city.

Other additional key considerations related to the possibilities opened by SUP are:

1. Sub-National Governments have influence that can be leveraged to ensure sustainable urbanization. Sub-national governments can influence public awareness and collaboration. The sub-national government is better placed to bring stakeholders together, build relationships and trust through collaborative efforts at the local level (UN-Habitat, 2012).
2. Sub-national government capacity and devolution. While the assessment and development of capacity is always of concern when development a NUP, the development of a SUP also provides an excellent opportunity to assess the capacity of sub-national governments and consider how capacities can be augmented. Furthermore, it provides the opportunity to assess whether sub-national governments have the adequate governance and fiscal powers to develop, implement, and monitor and evaluate a SUP. If they do not, it is necessary to consider how sub-national governments can work with the national government to further devolve the necessary power and responsibility to enable the successful development of SUP.

3. Differences between a NUP and SUP. A NUP is a national-level responsibility developing a vision guiding the growth and management of cities while a SUP can be described as a customized NUP mirroring the vision and path of a NUP but localized to fit local needs. A NUP identifies issues on a national level which will not take consideration of local priorities unlike a SUP which has the potential to identify local, common objectives in a proactive and coordinated way through extensive stakeholder participation. States and sub-national governments are uniquely placed to address urban challenges. They play a key role in implementing the national urban policy but implementation requires a framework of action which can be developed under a SUP and can take many different forms depending on the governance structure – federal vs centralized vs decentralized. The sub-national government has greater opportunities for policy innovation in developing tailored solutions and identifying policy overlaps (LEDS, 2014; GGBP, 2014)
4. Alignment of SUP and NUP. A SUP offers an opportunity for the integration of efforts between the national and sub-national government. The national government depends on sub-national government to deliver on directly implementing urban policies hence a SUP can be a tool to foster the relationship with the National government. Sub-national governments can strengthen and reinforce national policies to help reach higher ambitions (World Bank, 2013). While the development of SUP gives sub-national government the opportunity to develop their own goals and visions for urbanization, and therefore have a stronger voice at the national level, it is paramount that a SUP is not developed in isolation. It is necessary that the alignment of SUP with national level policies is ensured so that urban goals, visions, projects, and programmes at the sub-national level do not contradict or undermine those at the national level. The alignment of SUP with NUP can occur in a variety of ways. Firstly, a SUP can be developed in parallel with a NUP, therefore allowing priorities, goals, and visions to be aligned. Secondly, in cases where a NUP has been developed prior to a SUP, it is important that the NUP is thoroughly reviewed by those developing the SUP and that an effort is made to involve policy makers at the national level in the development of the SUP.
5. Coordination between different Sub-national Urban Policies. If the sub-national policy is being developed in parallel with the urban policies for other sub-national governments, there is an opportunity to align or coordinate priorities so that the sub-national policies work together rather than compete. How sub-national governments do or do not coordinate can have a large impact on the economic competitiveness of the sub-national region and the country as a whole. Overall, a lack of coordination between sub-national governments can also have serious implications for the effectiveness of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, of transport strategies and the successful delivery of these strategies, of service delivery of basic services, such as water and sanitation, and of the coordination of land-use planning and urban expansion (Ahrend et al 2014, World Bank, 2010). The development of SUP that are cognizant of the urban policies and plans of neighbouring regions can produce valuable opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and reduce the risk of contradictory policies/plans and duplication of efforts, etc.

6. Urban-rural Linkages (URL) and Sub-National Policies: sub-national policies offer a better opportunity to strengthen the linkages between urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Recently after over 2 years on engagement UN-Habitat and over 130 stakeholders from 40 international institutions proposed 10 guiding principles of strengthening URL providing 11 fields of actions for implementation through policies, strategies among others. **URL Guiding principle 1 on locally grounded interventions states that** local context matters a lot in making urban-rural linkages work and should inform and guide the translation of global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including the SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and others. National and subnational commitments should have policy coherence and integrated actions across the territory. Such translation should mainstream urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development; it should help local authorities and subnational actors to take the lead in overcoming social, economic and environmental inequalities while also leveraging the comparative advantages of the flows of people, goods and services across the urban-rural continuum.

The approach to Sub-National Urban Policies

The global agendas do not indicate which level of government should be responsible for achieving its objectives. They neither include guidelines establishing the type, scale or level of legal binding of the sub-national and supra-municipal policies.

However, there are differences between the documents according to each planning tradition⁴. The planning tradition of countries such as Finland or the Netherlands has a more global and integral character. This impacts on the approved urban policies having a more strategic character.

Spatial planning in Italy or Spain is traditionally based on urban codes and applied in specific territorial areas. While countries, such as the Czech Republic or Portugal, identify spatial planning with regional economic development, the United Kingdom or France use spatial planning, mainly, to regulate land uses under a highly centralized governance scheme in the national government. Nowadays, France is transforming into a decentralised planning scheme induced, paradoxically, by its top-down governance system.

Each sub-national urban policy, influenced by its spatial planning tradition, have its different, approach, level of legal binding and type. Even in this early stage of SUP formulation, there are no conclusive evidences if these different approaches influence or not the implementation capacity or the impact of the SUP.

The SUP can be of different types: strategic, spatial or sectoral. Those strategic SUP give general guidelines for the overall development of a territory. The spatial type Sub-national urban policies, however, are focused on land organisation and management in a specific territory which should

⁴ The EU compendium of spatial planning systems and policies; Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (European Commission) , European Commission (1997)

incorporate urban-rural linkages and planning across urban and rural contexts. Finally, those of a sectorial nature organise the activities or characteristics of a given theme in a specific territory.

Issues raised:

- Shaping urban SUP according to territorial context and aligning it with the local capacity for successful implementation.
- Supporting systems that enable evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of SUP, from formulation to impact.
- The varying challenges and solutions in developing SUP in centralised territories.
- Considering soft means governance structures as opportunities to balance the political realities in territories under existing top-down governance structures.

In this context, UN-Habitat, with the support of the Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AACID), will celebrate a virtual Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Sub-National Urban Policies” that will take place next July 13, 15 and 17.

This EGM will also be an opportunity to discuss the content of the *Guide on Sub-national Urban Policies* that the Policy, Legislation and Governance section of UN-Habitat is carrying out, and that will eventually be presented in late 2020, which is framed within the set of publications on urban policies of UN-Habitat.

2. OBJECTIVE

This EGM would gather around 25 experts on urban policies, including representatives from multilateral, national and subnational levels, as well as public sector, global institutions, academy and civil society.

It will bring together cases and expertise to share and assess existing subnational experiences, and to discuss and help **UN-Habitat to propose principles and policy recommendations for the facilitation of international dialogue on the need for, and creation of, the implementation of global agendas throughout the sub-national level.**

The general objective is therefore to critically review the role of the Sub-national Urban Policies (including strategies and agendas) to design a practical orientation to achieve the goals of global urban agendas, debating the challenge to overcome from the general and abstract principles of global agendas to delivering tailored and evolving solutions, from good intentions to measurable impacts, from narrative to political action, from political visions to resources (financing) and regulations (laws), etc...

At the end of this EGM, a communique on conclusions of the EGM will be elaborated and it is expected the UN Habitat collect all inputs to elaborate and **internal report on proposed a sub-national urban policy guide with key recommendations.**

Relevant questions:

- To evaluate the relevance of Sub-national urban policies. Are Sub-national urban policies necessary for the implementation of global agendas? How do the SUP fit between local and national agendas? Are the subsidiarity and proportionality principles between agendas and policies being met?
- To analyse whether the SUP particular approach do condition or constrain the implementation of urban agendas. How does type, scope or legal binding of the policies condition/constrain the implementation of urban agendas?
- To exchange international experiences and consolidate implementation methodologies of urban agendas at sub-national scale. How does the governance framework influence in the policies' implementation? Are the policies' implementation enough and well monitored and evaluated?
- To agree on the core elements of a Guide on Sub-national Urban Policy.

3. STRUCTURE

The EGM will be structured in different sessions, each one focused in specific issues related to SUP. Each session will include one framework presentation, where the issue raised would be portrayed, followed by a discussion in three levels of participation: several appointed respondents among the participants to activate the debate, short interventions open to all participants and comments along the session on the chat. Along the meeting the moderator would invite the participants to take part in several short surveys and questions shared on the screen, in order to facilitate and to engage all the participants in the different sessions.

Theme 1: The role of Subnational governments in the fulfilment of global agendas.

The global agreements signed by the states recognize the growing importance of cities in addressing the world's problems. However, recognition of the role of cities does not dilute the responsibility of higher or previous levels of government in achieving the objectives set. In fact, cities by themselves cannot solve the challenges, both because of their magnitude, and because of the resources and competences available to them.

In this context, sub-national urban policies seem to be located halfway between the national and local levels, from which to formulate “intermediate” policies that contribute to finding concrete solutions and responses on this path from the global and general to the local and concrete.

- *What are the advantages or contributions that can be identified from SUP to achieving the objectives set? For what, what is the objective that a sub-national government is pursuing or setting in the drafting of sub-national urban policies?*
- *What shared objectives should a SUP proposal include, in contexts of federal, centralized, or decentralized governance structures? Should these objectives vary depending on the government structure?*
- *How are SNU articulated with respect to NUP, if they exist? In their absence, can they be a substitute? Or should they promote them? And how is it articulated with respect to local urban agendas?*

Theme 2 – Governance tools by hard and soft means

The coherence and concordance between the agendas and the different urban policies that are being promoted by the different levels of government are fundamental for the achievement of global agreements. Those conditions – of coherence and concordance among policies – involve proposing and testing governance mechanisms that underpin cooperation, collaboration, mutual learning, and feedback, without having to give up the autonomy that each level of government aspires to maintain.

The processes of defining SUP are an opportunity from the public leadership and from subnational governments to promote mechanisms for inter-institutional collaboration and with other private

agents. Governance both in the drafting processes, as well as in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, opens a field of experimentation for new institutional architectures that could be classified as soft or hard. A unique opportunity to raise “experimentalist governance” (Potjer & Hajer, 2017).

- *Which form of governance is conducive for the development of SUP and can facilitate their implementation?*
- *Do sub-national urban policies reinforce existing government architectures or can they open new multilevel scenarios hitherto unknown? Are they one more level in the assimilable cascade scheme of territorial planning? Or could they have a life of their own?*
- *How can SUP contribute to better coordination between the three levels of government (national, regional and local) and at the same time to reduce the limitations that cities face to carry on effective projects and solutions for real change?*

Theme 3: The scale and the scope of SUP.

There is a certain consensus in attributing the global scale to countries and the local scale to cities. However, straddling the two previous scales, the sub-national scale can in fact adopt multiple geometries and we can hardly attribute a single geographical scope to it. Subnational can be a region, a metropolitan area, or even a transnational space, thus overcoming a classic or strict vision of administrative boundaries.

In fact, the examples of SUP present a wide range of situations that demonstrate once again the difficulty of reconciling the “jure” space with the “facto” space, in which people transit their daily lives.

SUP, sheltered from global agreements and the challenges posed, offer an ideal laboratory to innovate in increasingly tailored-made and territorial-based public policies and to overcome with new approaches the dichotomies of rural- urban, centre-periphery, already surpassed by reality.

- *Is the intermediate scale imperative in the implementation of global agendas? Are there specific challenges that are their own of sub-national urban policies?*
- *How can SUP help build a new approach and articulate a new relationship between the urban and the natural and the rural?*
- *What specific policies can build new alliances between territorial areas - between urban centres of different sizes, between cross-border territories - with the common objective of tackling the challenges posed in global agendas?*
- *Can SUP contribute to bring together different territories and to strengthen cooperation between states?*

Theme 4 – The legal binding and resources allocation in SUP

Parallel to the drafting of national urban policies, subnational urban policy proposals are growing throughout the world as well as the definition of local urban agendas. Different approaches, at different scales with the common goal of moving from principles to particular solutions, projects and actions. All levels of government feel challenged, in the first person, by global agendas and agreements adopted by national states. However, not all levels of government have the same resources, nor regulations or the capacity to define them, to put into practice the solutions that should be adopted.

Sub-national urban policies appear in different formats depending on their level of legal binding and available resources. This variety of situations poses a series of limitations or opportunities that should be explored; there would seem to be no single formula.

- *To what extent will the success of SUP depend upon that there are articulated as a strategic document or a mandatory plan? Do economic resources and legal ties necessarily go hand by hand? Can SUP articulate relationships between those levels of government that have the resources and legislative capacity and those that do not?*
- *What type of financing tools can be promoted from SUP to mobilize resources from not only the public sector, but also the private sector or multilateral banks? Can SUP serve to channel and articulate cooperation between states?*
- *What are the indicators and metrics to consider in monitoring and evaluating SUP? Should they be the same as those of national urban policies? Or is it possible to introduce some different measurements? What role can open data platforms play here by means of direct participation of people on the ground?*

Open dialogue

This last session would be divided into two parts to open the floor to all the participants in the conclusions writing process:

During the first part, a brief presentation on the current state and proposed structure of the *Guide on Sub-national Urban Policies* will be presented and discussed.

During the second part, those who have been or are directly involved in the definition of SUP would be asked to share their own experience and lessons learned along the process.

- *What has been the most difficult part of the SUP definition process? What has been the most challenging decision?*
- *According to you, which has been the greatest achievement along the definition of SUP in which you have been involved?*

- *According to you, which is the greatest risk a SUP faces on its way to implementation?*
- *Do you think that Covid19 forces a review of approved SUP? If yes, in what way or in what specific aspects?*

Next, we will ask all the participants to take the floor and briefly share her/his thoughts on the topics discussed along the seminar:

- *If you had to summarize in one sentence a message to synthesize what has been discussed in the seminar on SUP, what would it be?*
- *Could you point to a topic or issue that you consider important regarding SUP and has been left out of the debate?*
- *A “wish” that would be fulfilled in the implementation of a SUP.*

4. TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

DAY 1 Monday 13 July 2020 15:30 – 17:45 (GMT+2)		
15:30 – 15:45	Welcoming and introduction remarks (15')	
15:45 – 16:40	Theme 1: Defining the challenge: SUP and the effective of implementation of global agendas.	i. Introduction (5 min) ii. Responses from panelists (30 min) iii. Open discussion (~15 min) iv.. Summary (2 min)
16:40 – 17:35	Theme 2: Governance tools by hard and soft means.	i. Introduction (5 min) ii. Responses from panelists (30 min) iii. Open discussion (~15 min) iv. Summary (2 min)
17:35 - 17:45	Wrap up day's discussions	
DAY 2 Wednesday, 15 July 2020 15:30 – 17:45 (GMT+2)		
15:30 – 15:35	Welcoming and recap from Day 1 (5')	
15:35 – 16:35	Theme 3: The scope and boundaries of SUP.	i. Introduction (5 min) ii. Responses from panelists (35 min) iii. Open discussion (~15 min) iv.. Summary (2 min)
16:35 – 17:35	Theme 4: The legal binding and resources allocation in SUP.	i. Presentation by theme authors (5 min) ii. Responses from panelists (35 min) iii. Open discussion (15 min) iv. Summary (2 min)
17:35 - 17:45	Wrap up day's discussions	

DAY 3 Friday, 17 July 2020 15:30 – 17:15 (GMT+2)		
15:30 – 15:35	Welcoming and recap from Day 1 and 2 (5')	
15:35 – 16:35	Theme 5: Guide on SUP Structure, content and key messages	i. Presentation Drafted Guide (10 min) ii. Responses from panelists (30 min) iii. Open discussion (15 min) iv. Summary (2 min)
16:35 – 17:05	Open Dialogue	
17:05 - 17:15	EGM Recap and Closing Remarks	

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Habitat III Policy Papers; Urban governance, capacity and institutional development (2016)
- Habitat III; New Urban Agenda (2016)
- Development and Sustainability Agenda for Åland, Finland (2017)
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1523development_and_sustainability_agenda_for_aland.pdf
- Vision 2050: a long-term strategy for Flanders (2016)
<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/regional-innovation-monitor/policy-document/belgique-belgi%C3%AB/vision-2050-long-term-strategy-flanders>
- Blue Urban Agenda in the coastal cities of Caribbean and Pacific Small Island Developing States (IADB) (2017)
- SRADDET. Regional Planning, Sustainable Development and Territorial Equality Scheme (Schéma Régional d'Aménagement, de Développement Durable et d'Egalité des Territoires). Région Sud. Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur (2017)
http://www.cgedd.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/190220_-_sraddet_paca_-_delibere_cle78618d.pdf
- Kiambu County Integrated Development Plan (2018-2022) (2018)
- Carta di Bologna per l'Ambiente. Sustainable Development in the Italian metropolitan areas. (2017)
- Urban Agenda for Extremadura. Urban and territorial Act fit with the Spanish Urban Agenda (2018)
- Spanish Subnational Urban Agendas: Andalucía 2030; Euskadi; Catalonia (2019)
- Urban Agenda for the Eixo Atlântico (2018)
- A NATIONAL URBAN POLICY FOR LIBERIA: DISCUSSION PAPER; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017.
- New Generation of National Urban Policies; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2014.
- The Evolution of National Urban Policies. A Global Overview; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2014.
- 20+ Reasons why NUP matters; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2019
- La Evolución de las Políticas Urbanas Nacionales Un Panorama Global; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2014 (Revised 2016).
- GLOBAL STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY; United Nations Human Settlements Programme/OECD, 2018.
- The Role of Transport and Transit Corridors in Fostering International Cooperation for Sustainable Development: Issues and Recommendations; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2014.

- Engendering National Urban Policies for Successful Implementation of the New Urban Agenda Report on the Post Habitat III Cross-cutting Expert Group Meeting; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017.
- Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy: A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2016.
- How to formulate a National Urban Policy: A practical guide; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2019.
- Guidelines: National Urban Forum; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2015.
- National Urban Policy Framework for a Rapid Diagnostic; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2015.
- NATIONAL URBAN POLICY: ARAB STATES report; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017.
- NATIONAL URBAN POLICY: Asia and Pacific Report; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2015.
- NATIONAL URBAN POLICY: SUB SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017.
- NATIONAL URBAN POLICY: A Guiding Framework; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2015.
- The National Urban Policy Programme: Implementing the New Urban Agenda; UN-Habitat, OECD, Cities Alliance
- National Urban Policy Feasibility Guide; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2014.
- National Urban Policy: Europe and North America Report; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017.
- National Urban Policy Database; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2018.
- National Urban Policy: Latin America and the Caribbean Report; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2017.
- Supporting national and city-wide slum upgrading and prevention through national urban policy; United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2015.
- Pemán I., La Agenda Urbana en el marco europeo. Experiencias internacionales de políticas urbanas. Ciudad y Territorio, Estudios territoriales. Vol LI, nº 202, invierno 2019. Ministerio de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana.
- Portjer S. & Hajer M, Learning with cities, learning for cities The Golden Opportunity of the Urban Agenda for the EU: Urban Futures Studio. Utrecht University. The Netherlands (2017). <https://www.uu.nl/sites/default/files/essay-urbanfuturesstudio-12juli-web.pdf>