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I. What are Urban-Rural Linkages? Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP)

Urban and rural spaces are inextricably linked economically, socially and environmentally and cannot be adequately dealt with in isolation from one another. The spatial and functional interconnections of territories entail conceiving urban-peri-urban and rural as continuous space, in which processes, opportunities, and challenges are not constrained by urban, rural or administrative boundaries. Urban-rural interactions and linkages across space include not only flows of people, goods, capital and information but also between sectors and activities such as agriculture, services and manufacturing. This urban-rural interaction is increasingly a focus of attention for national, regional and local governments, planners and development agencies.

There is also a general agreement that territorial approaches and people- and place-based development along the urban-rural continuum are critical in managing a comprehensive, interlinked and truly participatory approach to sustainable development. This approach is aligned with the localization and realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

To support these integrated territorial approaches, UN-Habitat started a process beginning in 2015 that culminated in 2019 with numerous stakeholders agreeing to ten Guiding Principles and eleven entry points in a Framework for Action to strengthening urban-linkages.

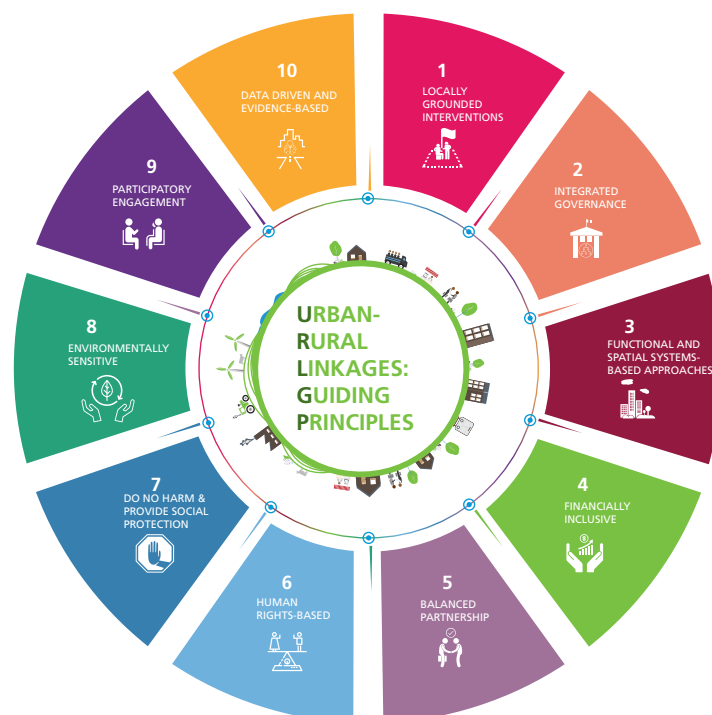
The Guiding Principles and Framework for Action build on a growing understanding of how urbanization is reshaping the world's urban and rural landscapes. In May 2019, after a participatory process, the publication [Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development \(URL-GP\)](#) was launched by the UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya.

The publication can be found in [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#), [Chinese](#) and [Arabic](#) on the Urban Policy Platform (<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/>)



The 10 Guiding Principles are:

1. **Locally grounded interventions:** 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. Such translation should mainstream urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development.
2. **Integrated governance:** Strengthen governance mechanisms by incorporating urban-rural linkages into multisectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance. To deliver the SDGs requires policies, strategies and action plans that are horizontally integrated across spatial scales, sectorally integrated, and vertically integrated across different levels of engagement and official decision making.
3. **Functionally and spatial systems-based approaches:** Use system-based approaches to promote integrative and inclusive urban, territorial and rural policy and planning to support the analysis of the flow of resources such as people, water, biodiversity and food.
4. **Financially inclusive:** Secure and prioritize sustainable public and private investment to balance and strengthen urban-rural linkages. Adjust funding to meet objectives for integrated rural and urban economic, social and environmental development.
5. **Balanced partnership:** Foster partnerships, alliances and networks that link urban and rural actors and different sectors. Develop and harness capacities and skills across a wide range of stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector and academic institutions.
6. **Human rights based:** Embed human rights-based approaches in all policy instruments and actions to ensure that development initiatives and processes do not negatively affect anyone's human rights across the urban-rural continuum.
7. **Do not harm and provide social protection:** Strengthen urban-rural linkages to overcome conflict, recognize cultural diversity and reduce inequalities. This can be done through the promotion of wellbeing, health, food security and nutrition, and the protection of water, energy, mobility and shelter, biodiversity and land tenure.
8. **Environmentally sensitive:** With the key principles of Rio and Rio+20 in mind, principles that will strengthen integrated territorial development and investments along the urban-rural continuum should prioritize protecting, sustaining and expanding areas that are important to biodiversity and ecosystem services.
9. **Participatory engagement:** Ensure meaningful participation by people, local institutions and communities across the urban-rural continuum. Create spaces and mechanisms as needed to engage in political dialogue and planning processes for women, Indigenous Peoples, children, youth, elders, persons with disabilities, slum dwellers, smallholders and the forcibly displaced and others at risk of being left behind.
10. **Data driven and evidence-based:** Establish or improve knowledge systems and fill data gaps so that there is evidence to support planning methods that will reinforce the urban-rural continuum and improve territorial cohesion.



Application of the principles are made concrete through the Framework for Action. Sections of the framework identify institutional and planning actions to create an enabling environment in selected sectoral and thematic entry points to foster inclusive economic, social and environmental sustainability across the urban-rural continuum.

Planning and Institutional actions to build an enabling environment for strengthened urban-rural linkages:

- A. **Governance, legislation and capacity development:** Assess capacity and needs for policy tools; enhance dialogue and cooperation across sectors and planning levels and convene new multi-level, multi-sector and multi-actor governance mechanisms and support inclusion of affected urban and rural populations.
- B. **Integrated planning across the urban-rural continuum:** Support localization of national planning; integrate urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development in National Urban Policies and promote networks and associations of planners in different jurisdictions.
- C. **Investment and finance for inclusive urban-rural development:** Address and improve public and private finance and access to credit across the urban-rural continuum, focusing on small and intermediate towns and cities and integrated urban-rural territories. Strengthen financial intermediation services and enable ecosystem service provision in peri-urban and rural areas.
- D. **Empower people and communities:** Assess and support inclusive multi-actor participatory processes and partnerships; directly address and compensate for inequities across the urban-rural continuum in order to create balance and inclusion from informal and formal sectors.
- E. **Knowledge/data management for dynamic spatial flows of people, products, services and information:** Improve collection and management of spatially and gender disaggregated data and knowledge, including ensuring a balance between inclusion of the formal and informal sectors.

Sectorial and thematic entry points to promote integrated territorial development:

- F. **Territorial economic development and employment:** Coordinate urban and rural economic development to enhance synergies; harness the potential of small and medium size towns and apply innovations in participatory credit, finance and enterprise incubation schemes to create new jobs that improve territorial flows of products, services and information.

- G. **Coherent approaches to social service provision:** Identify needs and opportunities where stronger urban-rural linkages can impact more spatially and socially equitable service provision; pilot new urban-rural partnerships for health and social services outside cities.
- H. **Infrastructure and communications:** Perform integrated and inclusive urban-rural infrastructure needs analysis; jointly plan, finance and construct infrastructure for water, sanitation, roads and public transport, electrification and communication, etc.
- I. **Integrated approaches for food security, nutrition, and public health:** Mainstream health and well-being by building coherent and linked urban-rural approaches to food, water, energy and health systems with attention to the multiple benefits of the circular economy of the urban-rural nexus, especially when coupled with capacity development and inclusion.
- J. **Environmental impact and natural resource and land management:** Conduct strategic environmental assessments to reduce environmental risk from severe flooding, drought, storms, etc.; address land and water tenure and sustainable use of natural resources, protect biodiversity, promote ecosystem-based production systems and build resilient landscapes.
- K. **Conflict and disaster:** Assess risks, gaps and vulnerable populations in relation to potential hazards in urban, peri-urban and rural areas; jointly plan for resilience measures and invest across jurisdictions to protect transport, energy, information, health, education, food and water systems, etc.



II. The Development of Urban-Rural Linkages in the Context of the SDGs and Habitat III

In **2015** UN-Habitat Governing Council enacted resolution HSP/GC/25/L.9, seeking to strengthen the capacity of small and intermediate towns. This resolution invited governments to reduce the disparities along the urban-rural continuum with the assistance of UN-Habitat. The resolution also gave the mandate to UN-Habitat to develop tools and disseminate good practices to promote urban-rural linkages. In response, UN-Habitat organized a first Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on [The Role of Intermediate Cities in Strengthening Urban-](#)

[Rural Linkages towards the New Urban Agenda](#) in Monteria, Colombia on 27-28 October 2015. This meeting concluded with the [Monteria Communiqué](#), in which experts stressed the need to promote urban-rural linkages and develop tools, approaches, and indicators to support the role of small and intermediate cities in enhancing the development of both urban and rural areas.



Participants of the Expert Group Meeting, 27-29 October 2015, Monteria, Colombia

In **February 2018**, a “zero draft” was presented in a working session held parallel to the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur (WUF 9) to address the content and process of developing the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP). Drawing on inputs received from

this working session a first draft of the Guiding Principles and Framework for Action was elaborated and shared in April and May 2018 with over 125 stakeholders in a global online consultation process. This global online review period lasted until the end of May 2018.



Participants of the work session in the WUF9, February 2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



On **19-20 June 2018**, a second [Expert Group Meeting](#), hosted by the Bolivian Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing (MOPSV) and supported by the Government of Sweden and GIZ, was held in La Paz, Bolivia. This meeting, organized by UN-Habitat's Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit (RMPU) with strong support of UN-Habitat offices in Bolivia and Colombia, led to the preparation a second draft of the URL-GP. This draft incorporated inputs from over 60 participants representing subnational and national governments, international and UN agencies,

academic experts and institutions from different countries, civil society and private sector organizations. As a result of the La Paz meeting, an action plan for implementation of Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages was prepared, titled the [La Paz Communiqué](#). Second and final drafts were finalized over the fall and in early 2019. Publication and launch of Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP) occurred during the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019 in Nairobi.



Participants of the Expert Group Meeting on the Guiding Principles, 19-20 June 2018, La Paz, Bolivia

III. The URL-GP within the NUA and SDGs

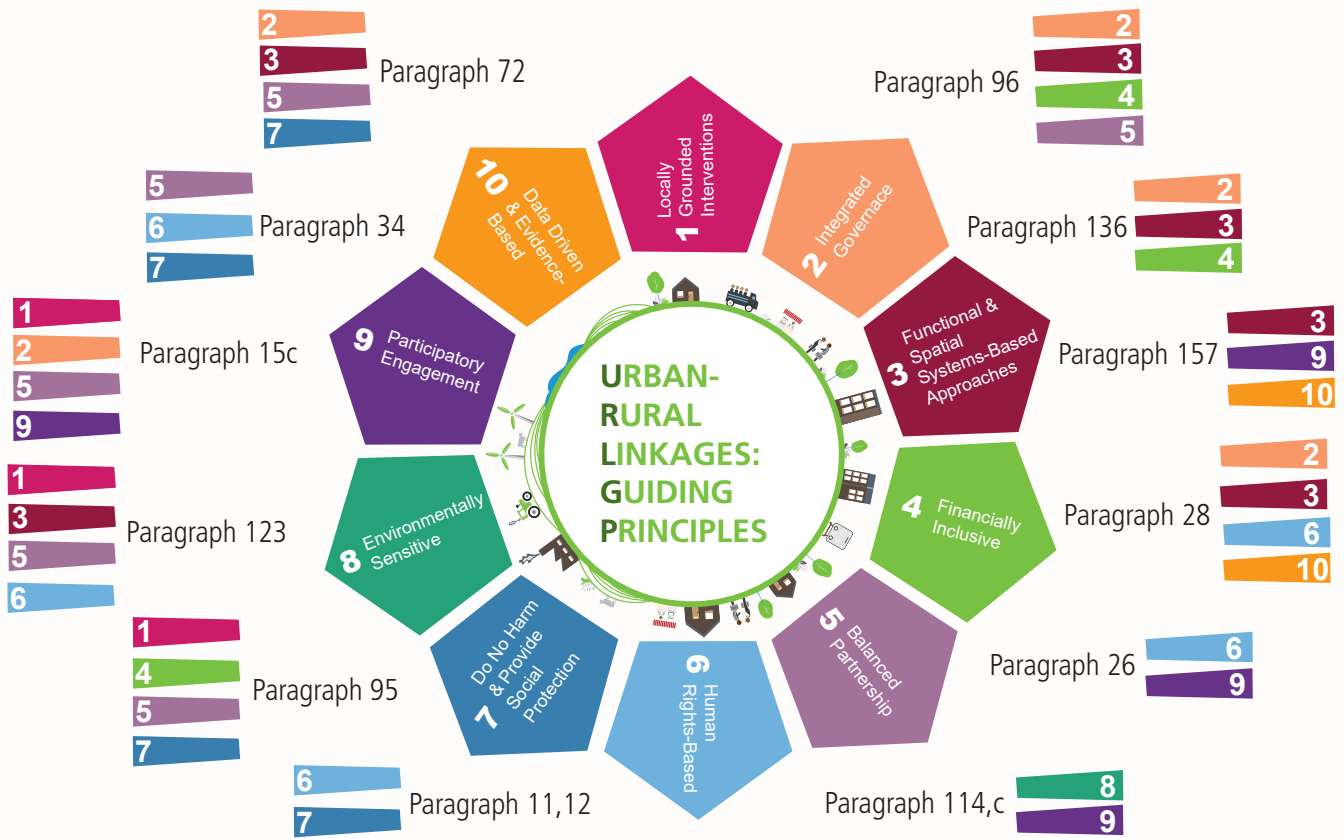
The Guiding Principles and Framework for Action connect priority needs and goals related to urban-rural linkages as determined by stakeholders at local, subnational and national levels to the global sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) and other global agendas.

While Urban-Rural Linkages were already part of the Habitat II Agenda (Turkey, 1996), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted by Member States in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, carries forward and deepens articulation

of policies and strategies addressing the urban-rural continuum. Strengthening urban-rural linkages is one way of implementing the New Urban Agenda and making sure no-one is left behind. The formulation of the URL-GP provides policymakers and practitioners with tools to meet the goals and targets of the New Urban Agenda, implementing sustainable urban and territorial planning, including city-region and metropolitan plans, to encourage synergies and interactions among urban areas of all sizes, and their peri-urban, and rural surroundings. The following figure is indicative the relationships of the URL-GP and selected paragraphs of the New Urban Agenda.



LINKING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO SELECTED NEW URBAN AGENDA PARAGRAPHS



URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Locally Grounded Interventions | 5 Balanced Partnership | 9 Participatory Engagement |
| 2 Integrated Governance | 6 Human Rights-Based | 10 Data Driven and Evidence-Based |
| 3 Functional and Spatial Systems-Based Approach | 7 Do Not Harm and Provide Social Protection | |
| 4 Financially Inclusive | 8 Environmentally Sensitive | |

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015 have clearly identified the need to renew work on urban-rural linkages as one of the transformative interventions. The adoption of a global goal for urbanization Goal 11 seeks to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, and Target 11.a seeks to “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”.

The interconnected and interdependent nature of the SDGs entails the need to consider the realization of other SDGs to achieve Goal 11. The URL-GP are aimed at guiding implementation of both goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The following figure is indicative of the relationship between the URL-GP and the SDGs.

LINKING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Locally Grounded Interventions | 5 Balanced Partnership | 9 Participatory Engagement |
| 2 Integrated Governance | 6 Human Rights-Based | 10 Data Driven and Evidence-Based |
| 3 Functional and Spatial Systems-Based Approach | 7 Do Not Harm and Provide Social Protection | |
| 4 Financially Inclusive | 8 Environmentally Sensitive | |

To find out more about the URL-GP and the NUA and SDG, please check out our publication [Implementing the New Urban Agenda by Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages - Leave No One And No Space Behind.](#)



IV. URL-GP Key Milestones

Over the past two years, the continuous support of our partners and different organizations has been vital for the formulation, recognition and dissemination of the URL-GP. This continuous collaboration and endorsement process has involved a wide range of UN agencies and regional commissions, intergovernmental and national development partners, research institutions and academia, government

authorities, private sector, donor and finance communities and independent experts. Our partners have taken a leading role in continuing this process of firming up synergies acknowledging the URL-GP and recognizing the importance of strengthened urban-rural linkages for sustainable and integrated territorial development.

• The 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments at COP 14

On **23-24 November 2018**, the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, parallel to the 14th Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14). The summit concluded with an official communique, the [Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People](#),

which was subsequently adopted by the COP 14. This communique welcomed the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development. Participants in the summit committed as well to expand, strengthen and raise awareness about urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development.



• PCCB Capacity Building Hub Event hosted by UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD at COP24

On **12 December 2018**, the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) – the body created by the United Nations in 2015 to follow-up the Paris Agreement on climate change – offered a platform to present the URL-GP in Katowice, Poland as part of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24). The event was hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

• Urban-Rural Linkages Brownbag at UN-Habitat

The brown bag session organized by UN-Habitat Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit served as a brainstorming session and an opportunity to share with UN-Habitat colleagues the progress and work plan to advance integrated territorial development through strengthened urban-rural linkages.

Participants learned more about the importance of integrated territorial approaches through enhancing urban-rural interactions in the recently launched Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP). Similarly, participants shared their work experiences and knowledge on urban-rural linkages.



URL Guiding Principles and Framework for Action



• **First UN-Habitat Assembly: Urban-Rural Linkages Side Event**



On **27-31 May 2019**, during the first UN-Habitat Assembly, and in collaboration with the Food for Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other partners, a side event was held titled “Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages to Reduce Spatial Inequalities and Poverty by Leveraging Sustainable Food Systems Actions”. The event brought together actors and partners from organizations working in both urban and rural sectors, such as C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Centro Latinoamericano para el Desarrollo (RIMISP), Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), UN Environment, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), French Agricultural Research Center for

International Development (CIRAD), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Mazingira institute, Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), RIKOLTO, and the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). Themes such as food systems, climate change, biodiversity, economic development, and urban and territorial planning were discussed. The meeting concluded with the report [Strengthening urban-rural linkages to reduce spatial inequality and poverty by leveraging sustainable food systems actions](#).



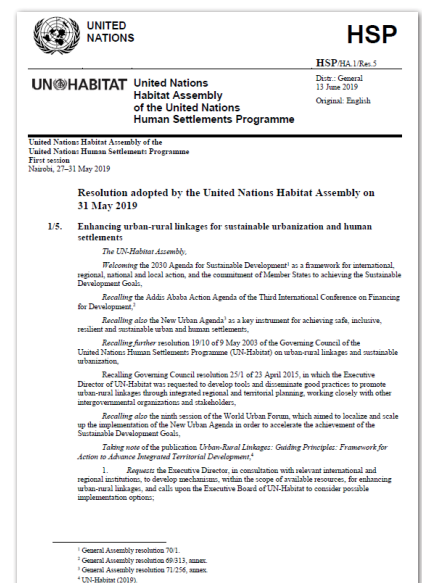
Participants of the URL-GP Side Event in the First UN-Habitat Assembly, 27-31 May 2019, Nairobi, Kenya

• **Urban-Rural Linkages Resolution passed during the First UN-Habitat Assembly**

Following the side event held during the first UN-Habitat assembly, at the closing plenary, Member States adopted the resolution Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlements. This resolution calls for new mechanisms to strength urban-rural linkages.

A progress report on this matter should be provided in four years at the next UN-Habitat Assembly.

The Resolution **HSP/HA.1/Res.5** on “Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization” can be found <http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/URL-GP-Resolution-english-version.pdf>



- **Launch of the Spanish Version of the URL-GP at the MUFPP First Regional Forum in Latin-American**



From **29 to 31 May 2019**, representatives from 12 cities of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), researchers, representatives of institutions such as the UN-Habitat, FAO, World Health Organization (WHO), companies and civil society organizations gathered in Rio de Janeiro for the First Regional Forum of Milan Pact Cities in Latin America. During the forum, UN-Habitat officially launched

the publication *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP)* in Latin America. The forum concluded with the Rio Declaration on Healthy and Sustainable Urban Food Policy. You can find the Rio Declaration on Healthy and Sustainable Urban Food Policy in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

- **Urban-Rural Linkages Training Event in Mozambique**



On **27-29 August 2019**, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACCD) successfully held the workshop *Towards the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA)* through Integrated

Territorial Development in Maputo, Mozambique. The three-day workshop introduced the participants to the tools and methodologies for integrated territorial development through the strengthening of urban-rural linkages.

- **Regional Expert Group Meeting in Zanzibar**



On **23-25 October 2019**, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Localizing URL Tools and Methodologies took place in Zanzibar. This EGM was designed to support the implementation of the UN Development Account project on mainstreaming urban-rural linkages in policies of four African countries Nigeria (Niger State), Tanzania (Zanzibar), Cameroon, and Guinea Conakry.

The EGM aimed to guide authorities on how to integrate Urban-Rural Linkages in existing or newly formulated policies and regional and territorial development strategies. Participants received training on how to collect and use evidence for fostering cross-sectoral, multi-level policies, frameworks and action plans for integrated and inclusive territorial development.



The Regional Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Localizing URL tools and methodologies in Zanzibar 23-25 October 2019, Zanzibar, Tanzania



V. Upcoming Events

• First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages in Songyang, China



On **10-14 November 2019** the First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages will be held in Songyang County, Lishui city, and Zheijiang Province in China. The theme of the forum will be “Rural Revitalization through Innovations and Valorization”. The three-day international forum is organized by the UN-Habitat in partnership with Songyang County People’s Government and will gather over 200 participants. The theme of rural revitalization through innovation and valorization will draw upon the creative and inspiring practices implemented in the mountain village landscape of rural Songyang County in the context of an urbanized region.

Participants will discuss innovations that have contributed to revitalizing the rural area through empowering local people technically, financially and mentally. The forum will be of interest and benefit to a broad base of stakeholders: government authorities, relevant international organization representatives, academia, and other stakeholders working across the urban-rural continuum in different capacities. Harnessing the successful story of Songyang’s rural development is expected to provide valuable lessons and inspirations to both rural and urban areas worldwide. Find out more about the forum here:

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/ifurl/>

• World Urban Forum (WUF) 10

WUF10, taking place from **8 – 13 February 2020**, will be hosted for the first time by an Arab nation – Abu Dhabi, the capital and the second most populous city in the United Arab Emirates and capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The forum will be an opportunity to welcome more than 25,000 international visitors, including urban experts and local and regional leaders, to foster diverse dialogue and discussion to overcome the challenges

of implementing the New Urban Agenda (NUA). During the WUF 10, side events, networking and training events on the thematic applications of urban-rural linkages for strengthening integrated territorial development are planned. Stay tuned for more information on this in coming months.



• Sustainable and Resilient Urban-Rural Partnerships in Leipzig, Germany



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The conference “Sustainable and Resilient Urban-Rural Partnerships” URP2020 will take place in Leipzig, Germany, **25-27 November 2020**. Both the Agenda 2030 and NUA acknowledge the importance of regional and territorial approaches that integrate urban and rural functions to meet their goals and objectives. By focusing on sustainable and resilient urban-rural partnerships, the international URP2020 conference aims to develop new urban-rural imaginaries, integrating strategies and projects that

explore present and future potentials in terms of sustainability and resilience. The conference will provide insights at various levels, covering the local level via entire regions to the broader European understanding of integrated urban-rural development. For further information on the conference topics, key dates, agenda and venue, please browse through the following website (<http://www.urp2020.eu/>) and download the URP2020 conference flyer.

VI. UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages Projects

• **Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa**



UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), seeks to support four African countries in strengthening their urban-rural linkages. The project “Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa” aims to support Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Nigeria (Niger State) and Tanzania (Zanzibar) to overcome the urban-rural divide by integrating urban-rural linkages into National Urban Policy. To this end, the project aims to enhance capacities of policy makers and change agents at all levels to collect and use evidence for fostering cross-sectoral, multi-level frameworks, strategies, and action plans for integrated and inclusive territorial development. Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) to guide authorities on how to integrate the URL-GP in existing or newly formulated policies and regional and territorial development strategies is one important instrument for this project. The EGM on Localizing Urban-Rural Linkages Tools and Methodologies in Zanzibar from 23rd to 27th October 2019 is part of the planned activities to carry out this important project (described above). For more information about this project please email us at unhabitat-updb-rmpu@un.org

• **Strengthening Integrated Territorial Development for the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Mozambique**



The project “Strengthening an Integrated Territorial Development for the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Mozambique” aims to support Mozambique’s government authorities (national and local levels) to formulate recommendations for improved urban development processes. In this project, the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP) plays a fundamental role and was used for the first time are used as tool to develop methodologies and to review the

policy frameworks in a specific context. The project also aims to strengthen the capacities of local authorities and relevant partners by using existing tools such as the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP). This project is implemented by UN-Habitat with support of the Catalonian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (ACCID). For more information about this project please email us at unhabitat-updb-rmpu@un.org

• **Supporting the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda through National and Subnational Urban Policies in Burkina Faso and Senegal**



UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Africa (ROAf)
Partners in Burkina Faso and Senegal
UN Habitat’s Office in Spain

UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AACID), UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Africa (ROAf), partners in Burkina Faso and Senegal, and UN Habitat’s Office in Spain are carrying out the project titled “Supporting the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda through National and Subnational Urban Policies in Burkina Faso and Senegal”. The project aims to support the development of action plans in Burkina Faso and Senegal

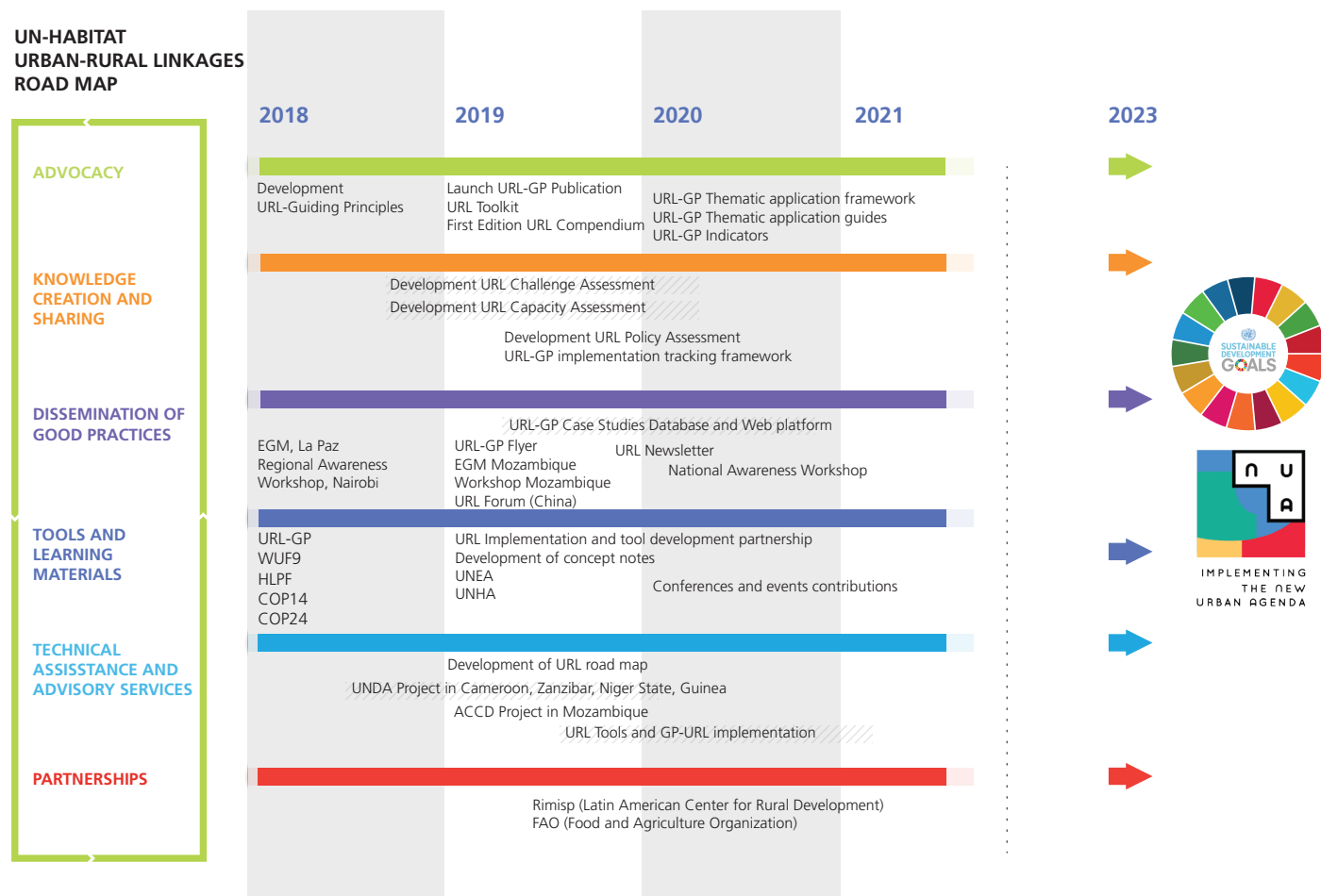
to strengthen urban-rural linkages and territorial approaches within the National Urban Policy process based on the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda. This project will also serve as guidance to governments at national, regional, sub-national and local levels and to other urban and rural stakeholders in order to work collaboratively towards a more integrated territorial development while reducing the inequalities across the urban-rural continuum. For more information about this project please email us at unhabitat-updb-rmpu@un.org



VII. A Road Map for Implementation

Further to UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions, the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the resolution HSP/HA/1/1.8, “Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements” adopted by Member States at the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019. The Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development (URL-GP) will be

applied and adapted by countries, territories and cities across the urban-rural continuum. For the next four years (2020-2023) the URL-GP are planned to be strengthened mainly through six key pillars: advocacy, knowledge creation and sharing, dissemination of good practices, tools and learning materials, technical assistance and advisory services, and partnerships.



VIII. Opportunities for Partnering with UN-Habitat to apply the URL Guiding Principles and Framework for Action

Urban-rural linkages touch on a broad variety of thematic areas ranging from regional and territorial planning to strengthening small and intermediate towns, from enabling spatial flows of people, products, services and information to fostering food security systems, addressing mobility and migration, reducing the environmental impact in urban-rural convergences, developing legislation and governance structures and promoting inclusive financial investments among many others. There are several ways you can take

action to address urban-rural linkages challenges and advance integrated territorial development. UN-Habitat offers you the opportunity for collaboration and engagement on the basis of five areas:

- 1. Advocacy:** We welcome ideas and projects on communication for increased awareness of the importance of urban-rural linkages for sustainable territorial development.



2. **Knowledge creation and sharing:** We welcome projects and opportunities to improve and develop new materials and products, looking towards addressing the need of different social actors seeking to reduce reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum.
3. **Dissemination of good practices and policies:** We look forward to undertaking joint projects to identify, collect and disseminate innovative and adaptable practices touching on the broad variety of thematic areas to strength urban-rural linkages.
4. **Tools and learning materials:** We welcome the opportunities to collaboratively develop new tools and learning methodologies for training and use by decision makers and planners when formulating intervention and policies across the urban-rural continuum.
5. **Technical assistance and advisory services:** Supporting member states is key for the implementation of the URL-GP in national and subnational policies, plans and strategies. We welcome the opportunity to establish collaboration with government agencies at all levels.

POSSIBLE AREAS OF COLLABORATION

ADVOCACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *URL page in https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/urban-rural-linkages/ *The First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages at Songyang, China 10-14 Nov 2019 *Partnering in events and projects, *Case studies *World Urban Forum 10 (WUF 10) Abu Dhabi
KNOWLEDGE CREATION AND SHARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *URL Assessment tools, *Policy assessment tools, *Regional plans assessment tool
DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thematic guides, *National Urban Policy and Urban-Rural Linkages *URL-GP and food systems, *URL-GP and climate change, *URL-GP and migration*Second Compendium of Inspiring Practices on URL
TOOLS AND LEARNING MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *URL-GP Training manual, *URL Training events/ workshops *URL Toolkit
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *URL - Mozambique, Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Zanzibar, Niger state, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Senegal NUP *NUP - +50 countries
PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Policy review, * Strengthen URLs for territorial development (FAO, TP4D, RIMISP, UNSCN, World Bank, Rikolto, CBD, UN Environment, Regions for Development, ICLEI, etc), * Selected countries or subnational governments

6. Fostering partnerships – between urban and rural actors and areas at the local level are crucial for a transformative agenda. We welcome the opportunity to establish and strengthen strategic relationships with a diverse range of partners at national, regional and international levels, including political actors, civil society, professional organizations, and private sector. Please contact us at unhabitat-updb-rmpu@un.org for more details.

Recent Partners Activities



Rimisp (Latin American Center for Rural Development) is a network that generates and systematizes knowledge, with the aim of understanding the transformations of the rural world and contributing to the formulation of improved strategies and policies for a sustainable and inclusive development.

UN-Habitat has integrated Rimisp's methodologies for the identification of functional territories across the urban-rural continuum. This methodology has been included in the current tools developed by UN-Habitat to include the URL-GP in development policies.



FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) is a partner with UN-Habitat in ongoing efforts to strengthen urban-rural linkages in selected African countries and is working on incorporating food in urban policies and planning. The knowledge products of both FAO and UN-Habitat

will be useful for those actors whose priorities are to integrate territorial food systems to address hunger, food security and nutrition. FAO and UN-Habitat have recently been collaborating to provide technical assistance and support to cities that have signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP).



UNSCN (United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition): A paper applying the nutrition lens to the URL-GP will be published in late fall 2019 UNSCN and presented in Songyang at the International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL).

This is the first in-depth analysis that applies the guiding principles and actions in the URL-GP to a specific theme, in this case, nutrition. This is also the first substantive effort to examine the governance of nutrition-related interventions in an integrated urban-rural framework.

Bioversity International: As an international research center Biodiversity International (CGIAR) is the host of the Biodiversity, Food and Nutrition project and is publishing a new book on biodiversity, food and cities.

One chapter titled “Bioersity, food systems and urban-rural linkages” takes biodiversity as a thematic issue in the context of urban-rural linkages and uses the URL-GP as a working framework.



Contact us

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