

## POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



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## ABOUT THE PLG COP

The Policy Legislation and Governance Community of Practice (PLG CoP) is an open platform that facilitates agency-wide learning and collaboration through inviting UN-Habitat colleagues to share practices, lessons, tools, and knowledge products under the themes of policy, legislation, governance, integrated development planning, urban-rural linkages, and metropolitan management. The CoP is held every two months formatted as thematic presentations followed by discussion sessions which enhance an open diffusion of knowledge, experiences, and ideas and provides opportunities for collaboration in co-developing new tools, methodologies and/or knowledge products.

Since its inception, there have been eight (8) PLG CoP sessions, covering various thematic areas, such as citizen participation in governance, health and climate change, while involving panelists and participants from diverse UN-Habitat's branches, sections, regional and country offices. The PLG CoP provides access to resources and information through its open Microsoft Teams page. The [PLGS website](#) also provides information about the Section in greater detail.

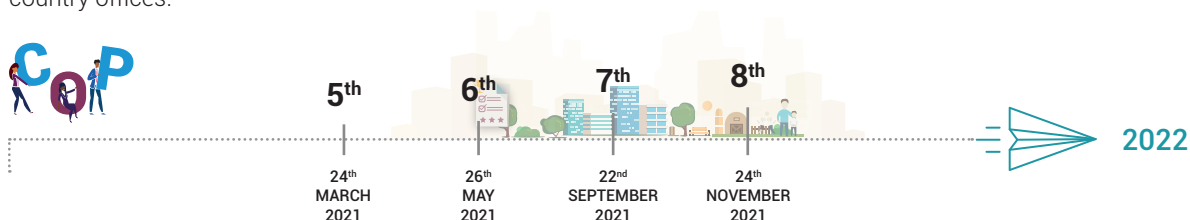
This is the second issue of the PLG CoP newsletter. It summarizes highlights from the last four (4) CoPs which were held between March 2021 and November 2021.



## PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

A collection of surveys from the four (4) CoP sessions (February to December 2021) indicates that the PLG CoPs have been composed of participants from several UN-Habitat branches, sections, regional offices, and country offices.

These participants have continued to contribute to the sessions with their diverse range of experience and expertise in thematic topics related to policy, legislation, and governance.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FOUR COP SESSIONS



The fifth session of the PLGS CoP was virtually held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with the topic being **Housing, Land and Property rights in the Middle East**. It featured presentations by colleagues from PLGS, the Land, Housing and Shelter Section (LHSS) as well as colleagues from the Syria Country Office, on: a) Legal assessment of HLP rights in the Syrian legal framework; b) HLP claims mapping of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Iraq and; c) Applications of STDM for housing reconstruction and strengthening the tenure security of Yazidis in Sinjar, Iraq.

Attended by 60 participants, the session provided an opportunity to review UN-Habitat's progress and impact on enhancing housing, land and property rights in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria.

A key opportunity from the session was the need to map out on the ground experiences and validate the tools against global norms and encourage implementation of the tools by Member States; b) Continue promoting replication of the work in other areas (countries) or by other entities.



The sixth PLG CoP session took place on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, under the topic of **Urban Governance and Civic Engagement with a Focus on Latin America**. It featured presentations on Urban Governance and Civic

Engagement (PLGS); Perspectives on Urban Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and Participatory building of the Bolivia NUP and governance challenges (UN-Habitat Bolivia).



With examples drawn from various countries in Latin America, it was clear that civic engagement has a significant impact on the success of urban governance initiatives. Participants also agreed that **social innovation** could be a tool to build a bridge between community participation and decision-making and therefore, improve Urban Governance.

Some key outcomes and opportunities that were displayed include:

- Development of **principles of effective governance** which can be looked at as the reference point, and promoted globally.
- UN-Habitat can populate a vade mecum (handbook/guide) of tools of different specific governance solutions
- Continuous engagement in innovative approaches to urban governance.



The seventh PLG CoP was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 in collaboration with the Sub-Programme on Climate Change and Environment, themed **Policy, Legislation and Governance for Effective Climate Action**. The meeting showcased country experiences and efforts in climate action where policy, legislation, and governance have been integrated. The session also presented the 'Multi-Level Governance for Effective Urban-Related Climate Action in Developing Countries, under development by PLGS. Country case studies from the Philippines and Colombia on climate action from the perspective of legislation, policy, and governance were also presented to give an in-depth overview of actions that have been made.

Several participants agreed that climate action and urban policies should be the main entry points as they reinforce each other. However, some argued for using climate change as the entry point to facilitate sustainable urban development as it would be more effective. Practical examples from Malawi and Arab States were raised to highlight how climate change can be mainstreamed into urban policies.

A key takeaway raised by participants was the importance of communication on climate change. Communication beyond "experts" is a huge gap in advocating climate change issues not only on policy but also the project implementation.



The eighth and final PLGS CoP of 2021 took place on 24<sup>th</sup> November, themed **Urban Health and Launch of the Guide on Leveraging Multi-Level Governance Approaches to Promote Health Equity**.

The session featured four insightful presentations; a) Global perspective on how policy, legislation and governance frameworks can be utilized to address or anticipate future health threats;



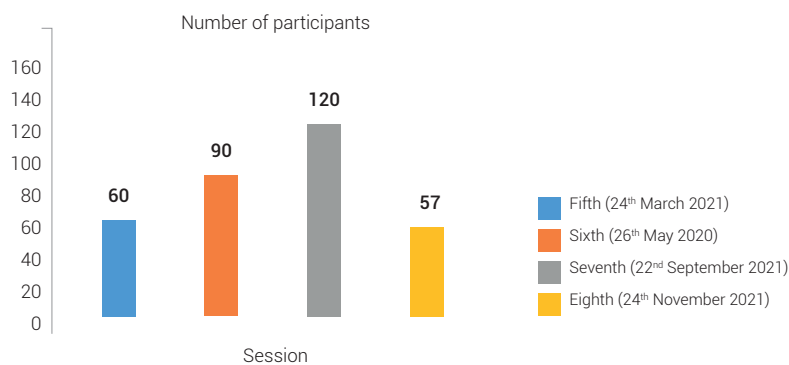
b) Regional Perspective on the challenges and opportunities the Asia-Pacific region is facing on policy, legislation, and governance to achieve healthier and equitable urban spaces; c) Practical experiences on how Multi-Level Governance can benefit health outcomes through urban and territorial planning and; d) a discussion of UN-Habitat's report on *Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future* on how urban policy, legislation and governance frameworks contribute towards the New Social Contract and a healthy urban future.

Some outcomes and opportunities arising from this session include:

- It is important to make more of the innovative or value-added aspects of UN-Habitat's work on Urban Health and to **state clearly the novel and different approaches from other leading agencies such as WHO.**
- UN-Habitat can provide expertise in spatial mapping vis-à-vis urban health.
- It is important for UN-Habitat to demonstrate how it is connecting and using new partnerships and technology to promote **urban integrated multi governance approach to health.**
- UN-Habitat needs to continuously engage in **innovative approaches to urban health.**

## PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

All the four PLG CoP sessions have been well attended by more than 55 participants each.



For each CoP session, participant feedback was collected using Mentimeter surveys. From the survey shared during the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) CoP, participants gave a 4.3 rating out of 5, on the content of the PLGS CoP so far.

They gave generally positive feedback about the sessions' format and overall usefulness. The suggestions collected continue to be used to improve the PLGS CoP.

Some elements that participants have shared in the evaluation forms:

**On the content:** *Very interesting and informative; Quite relevant.*

**On what is working:** *Moderation; Thematic approach; Participation of country offices.*

**On what could be improved:** *More time for interactive discussion and learning; Identification of concrete actions going forward.*

**Suggestions:** *Shorter presentations; Provide more time for discussions; Share resources; Invite project partners.*





## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS FROM LAST FOUR COP SESSIONS

PROPOSER	ACTIONS/SUGGESTIONS	COORDINATOR
Maria Telez Soler	Organization of Regional CoPs to be discussed	Remy Sietchiping
Mentimeter suggestion	Share resources	Anne Amin/Antonio Kipyegon.  Resources are conveyed through a PLG dedicated <a href="#">Microsoft Teams page</a> where documents are shared and accessible.
Mentimeter suggestion	More interactive session- consider exercises	Anne Amin
Thematic areas suggested	Cross-workstream collaboration; Planning and Design; Urban Mobility.	

## PLGS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Next PLG CoP- February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022- National Urban Policies in the Arab Region
- Upcoming PLG events- TBC

## RECENT PLG KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



### A Guide: Leveraging Multi-Level Governance Approaches to Promote Health Equity

This guide provides knowledge and resources on the multi-level governance strategies and tools that government at all levels (national, subnational, and local) can utilize for emergency health preparedness and the achievement of health equity.

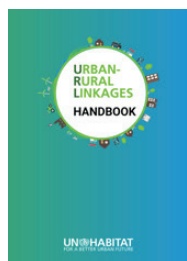
Link: <https://unhabitat.org/a-guide-leveraging-multi-level-governance-approaches-to-promote-health-equity>



### Urban-rural linkages newsletter- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

The handbook provides substantive knowledge on urban-rural linkages, including the background, URL implementation strategy and the current URL projects.

Link: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-rural-linkages-newsletter-march-2021->



### Urban-Rural Linkages Handbook

This edition includes insights from nine global webinars organized between May and December 2020. It also contains short country example articles on urban-rural linkages, such as in Germany and Morocco.

Link: <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/URL-Handbook.pdf>



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### Editorial Team

**Focal points:** Remy Sietchiping, Anne Klen-Amin | **Editor:** Antonio Kipyegon

**Design & Layout:** Jean Robert Gatsinzi

