

CONCEPT NOTE

Call for Inputs for UN-Habitat World Smart Cities Outlook

Purpose of the Call for Inputs

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, are seeking contributions to inform the World Smart Cities Outlook and the development of International Guidelines for People-centered Smart Cities. The aim is to gather best-practices, insights and experiences from UN Member States, UN-Habitat partners, and organizations and individuals operating in the smart city domain, regarding the implementation and impact of people-centered smart cities across regions worldwide. The focus of this call is on the following key areas:

- **Best Practices and Case Studies:** Identifying exemplary instances of people-centred smart city project implementations in different regions of the world. Interest is in initiatives that demonstrated impact and could offer valuable lessons for future smart city projects.
- **Impact Assessment:** Evaluating demonstrated impact of these smart city initiatives on sustainability, resilience, equity, social inclusion, accessibility, security, and overall quality of life in urban settings.
- **Drivers and Constraints:** Understanding the primary forces behind these people-centred smart city initiatives and the obstacles that they experience in various regions, by shared recommendations and lessons learned

All submitted best-practices will be evaluated to inform the World Smart Cities Outlook (WSCO) and the development of International Guidelines for Smart Cities, with an emphasis on incorporating a global perspective that reflects and integrates regional characteristics. The best-practices selected to be included in the World Smart Cities Outlook report highlight clear evidence of change and impact.

The World Smart Cities Outlook

The WSCO will serve as a reference providing the qualitative and quantitative evidence base during the drafting process of the guidelines. The assessment will provide robust data on smart city trends, challenges, and opportunities, including regional variations, grounding the study on solid evidence and global knowledge. The report has the following specific objectives:

- Evaluate the current state of smart city development across cities and countries worldwide by developing a knowledge platform based on big data.
- Assess the impact of smart city technologies and strategies on sustainability, resilience, and quality of life in urban areas for monitoring and evaluation.
- Highlight best practices and successful case studies of smart city implementation to provide valuable insights for future development that supports capacity building and knowledge-sharing.

- Identify and analyze the key drivers and anticipate expected future trends and impacts of smart city development for multi-sectoral and multi-factorial awareness and engagement.
- Drive Smart City Innovation Centers by region.
- Offer recommendations and guidelines to foster people-centered smart city development that enables the building and comparison of global communities.

The International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities

With Resolution [HSP/HA.2/Res.1](#), approved at the UN-Habitat Assembly in its second session, UN-Habitat is mandated to devise global guidelines, acting as a foundational structure for shaping smart city policies, strategies, and regulations at national and local scales. The guidelines are a non-binding framework, which will ensure that digital urban infrastructure and data contribute to making cities sustainable, inclusive, participatory, prosperous and respectful of human rights. The objectives of the guidelines are:

- Develop a global normative framework
- Advocate for people-centred smart cities
- Provide practical guidance
- Enable global cooperation

Type of Call for Inputs

This is an Open Call for Contributions

Main target

UN Member States, Local and regional governments, and other organizations and individuals actively engaged in smart city development activities.

Issued by

This call is jointly issued by UN-Habitat and Edinburgh Napier University.

Period

Interested contributors will be invited to submit their inputs from June 17th 2024, to 1st of September 2024.

Approach

The call seeks to draw upon a broad range of experiences and insights to inform the World Smart Cities Outlook (WSCO) and the development of International Guidelines for Smart Cities, with an emphasis on incorporating a global perspective that reflects and integrates regional characteristics. Contributors will be encouraged to submit their inputs via Qualtrics or via **email** within the specified period, detailing their experiences, insights, and recommendations related to smart city development. Contributions can address one or more key areas. All submissions will be treated with confidentiality.

Main contact point

Queries and submissions will be managed by Dr Paolo Gerli (Edinburgh Napier University, p.gerli@napier.ac.uk) and Milou Jansen (UN-Habitat, milou.jansen@un.org). These contacts will also offer support to potential contributors, ensuring an inclusive and informative submission process.

Data governance

The data collected through this open call will be anonymized and treated confidentially, in compliance with existing data protection and research ethics regulations. All data will be safely stored in the servers of Edinburgh Napier University and deleted upon the completion of this project. If you have inquiry about the storage and management of the data collected through this open call, please contact Dr Paolo Gerli (p.gerli@napier.ac.uk).