



Public Space Policy

For local governments units

2024



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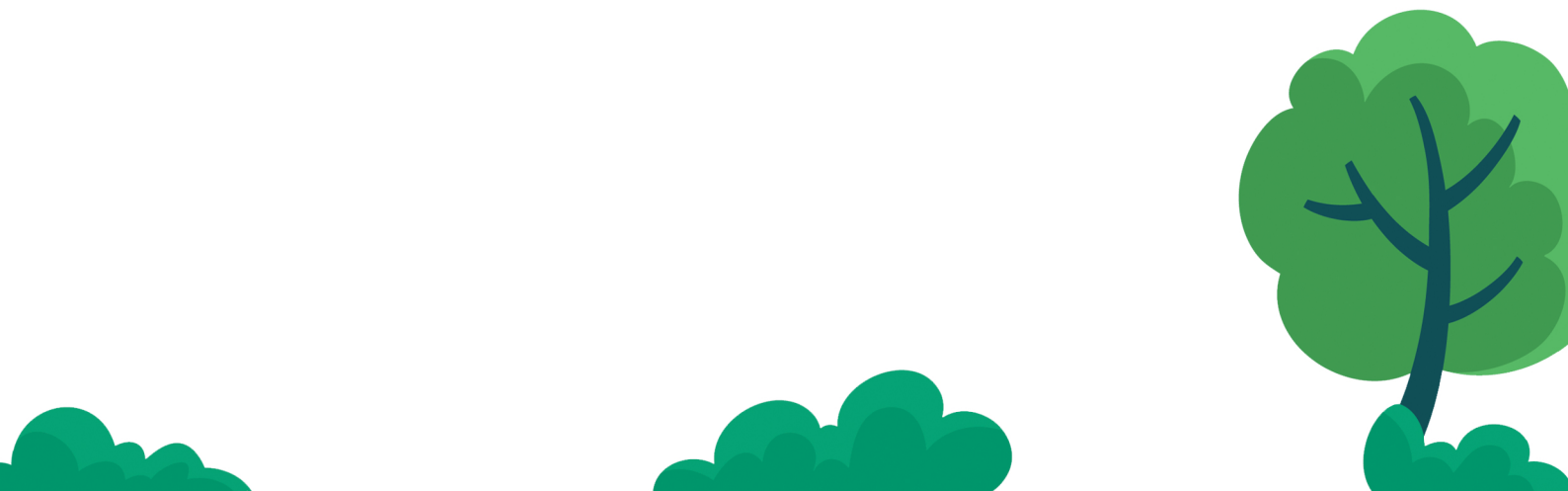
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Introduction

This Policy Paper aims to encourage Palestinian local authorities to work on developing and improving public spaces within their boundaries, to improve their citizens' quality of life.

The Paper is aligned with the global vision of public spaces and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG (11), target (7) that aims to provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green, public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities. It is also in line with the Ministry's vision and the objectives of the sectoral plan of local government, calling for the creation of an integrated urban development system and the improvement of the services provided to citizens. Emphasizing the rights of citizens throughout the country, both in urban and rural areas, the Ministry of Local Government seeks - through the launch of this Policy to - bridge the gaps resulting from the lack of public spaces, improve their geographical distribution, and raise the quality-of-service provision. This can be achieved by directing Local government bodies to work on the well-being and quality of life so that public spaces become an essential element of helping communities live a decent life. This would put an end to violence and discrimination, provide equal opportunities for citizens, ensure fair access to benefits, and preserve the environment while taking climate change into account. This Policy calls for the integration of public space strategies within the local authorities' Strategic Development Planning as a tool for local development and its institutionalization. It also calls for laying the foundations for the preparation, planning, implementation, management, maintenance, and operation of public spaces. In addition, the Policy seeks to link and align strategic development planning, structural urban planning, and development budgets of local authorities with public space strategies at the local level. Furthermore, it aims to clarify the roles of stakeholders involved in the process of developing and optimizing public spaces integrally.

The Policy Paper involves a comprehensive integration of culture, urbanization, economy, and social life sectors into sound governance and legislation regulating the development of public spaces, defining a roadmap toward the desired goals and laying the foundations for doing so. Accordingly, we call on all parties to unite in order to achieve these goals, focusing on the less developed areas which are still under the control of occupation, to reach all community groups without discrimination.

In conclusion, I shall extend thanks and gratitude to the working group because the development of this Policy is the culmination of the efforts made within the joint program (Hayat: Elimination of Violence against Women) funded by the Government of Canada in partnership with UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Local Government and in cooperation with the partner municipalities benefiting from the program, and the joint efforts of the national team.


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Contents

CONTENTS	3
DEFINITIONS	4
THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH THE PUBLIC SPACES POLICY WAS BASED	5
Legal Framework and Governmental Plans	5
Purpose and Objectives	5
The Position of Policy on the Hierarchy of the National Priorities	6
JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC SPACES POLICY	6
PUBLIC SPACE POLICY PILLARS	8
Social and Cultural Pillar	9
Economic Pillar	10
Governance and Legal Framework Pillar	11
Environmental and Urban Pillar	12
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC SPACES POLICY	13
Planning Requirements	13
Legal Requirements	13
Procedural Requirements	13
KEY INDICATORS	15
CONCLUSION	16
ANNEXES	17

Definitions

Local authorities: Municipalities, local councils and village councils.

Public sector: Ministries and government institutions.

Private sector: Public and private institutions including companies and for-profit investments and projects.

Public space: Places that are publicly owned or designated for public use and are accessible and enjoyed by everyone for free and without a profit motive. Public spaces need to be safe, inclusive, and accessible to all user groups.

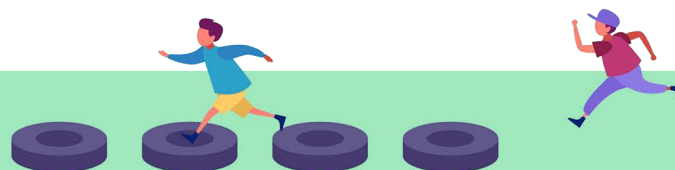
Stakeholders: Groups, persons or institutions that are expected to affect or be affected by the process of planning, designing, implementing, operating, and maintaining a public space.

Community: A group of residents in a specific place. This community can be a city, town, village or a set of villages, towns, or cities.

Multi-functional spaces: Spaces that are used for different types of activities at different times of the day.

Antisocial behavior: Anti-social behaviors are acts that create community concern. These range from misuses of public space, such as fighting or drug use and dealing, to disregard for community safety, such as dangerous driving or drunk and disorderly behavior. Other examples include acts that cause environmental damage, such as graffiti or litter. Anti-social behavior can range from what is socially unacceptable to acts that break the law.

Gender equity: The process of being fair to both women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must be available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Gender equity strategies are used to eventually attain gender equality in all fields.





The Foundations on which the Public Spaces Policy was Based

Legal Framework and Governmental Plans

The Public Spaces Policy for local authorities is based on the laws and regulations in force in the State of Palestine including:

- Palestinian Local Authorities Law No.1 of 1997 and amendments
- The Law of Towns, Villages and Buildings Planning Law No. 79 of 1966 prevailing in the West Bank, and Town Planning Ordinance No. 28 of 1936 in the Gaza Strip and their amendments.
- Local Government Sector Strategy (2017-2022).
- The government's cross-sectoral plans (2017-2022), including the cross-sectoral environmental plan, cross-sectoral gender plan and cross-sectoral youth plan.
- The National Development Plan (2017-2022).

Purpose and Objectives

The Public Spaces Policy aims to:

- Encourage Palestinian local authorities to work on developing and improving public spaces within the scope of local authorities in order to improve the quality of life of Palestinian citizens.
- Be compatible with the global vision of public spaces, especially the vision of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), so that the goals of the 2030 Agenda (for Sustainable Development) are set: Achieve sub-goal No. (7) of (SDG11) in sustainable cities and human settlements which affirms the development of cities to be safe, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable. So that a public space becomes an essential element for other strategic goals, such as: (SDG3) which is concerned with ensuring healthy lives for all, (SDG5) which aims to end violence and discrimination against women, and provide equal opportunities, (SDG6) which is concerned with equitable access to water and utility and (SDG13) which is concerned with preserving the environment while taking climate change into account.
- Adopt strategies for the inclusion of local authorities' public spaces in the Strategic Development Planning methodology as a tool and means for local development and its institutionalization.
- Lay the foundations for the preparation, planning, implementation, management, follow-up and operation of public spaces and periodically update these plans at the local level.

- Lay the foundations for linking and aligning strategic development planning, structural urban planning and development budgets of local authorities with public space strategies at the local level.
- Integrally clarify the roles of stakeholders involved in the process of developing and optimizing public spaces in each of the following: central government, local authority, and the local community.

Enhance the sense of belonging and ownership of public spaces by providing an enabling cultural and economic environment.

The Position of Policy on the Hierarchy of the National Priorities

The Public Spaces Policy is linked to other policies pertaining to the Palestinian government's plan and some policies and strategies emerging from it which generally share the issue of public spaces. The Public Spaces Policy shares various issues with the government plan and the Palestinian cross-sectoral plans, particularly on climate change and environmental preservation, equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination, involvement of women and girls within the local government and preservation of rights to access services in a fair manner for all. The Policy is also related to making positive changes in the areas of the local and urban economy, touristic and leisure activities, in addition to promoting tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites. Furthermore, public spaces can generate income for municipalities by including some events and services in the public space in the form of Public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Justifications for the Development of the Public Spaces Policy

In addition to the geopolitical challenges and restrictions imposed on urban planning, there are several other challenges which affect public spaces in Palestine, as follows:

- Absence of a legal framework for the criteria used in the provision of public spaces and lack of laws and procedures pertaining to urban planning and development, determination and allocation of proportions and areas of public spaces.
- Poor coordination between stakeholders in the initiatives of public spaces.
- The low position of public spaces in the list of priorities of many local authorities.
- Poor infrastructure and services provided by local authorities in public spaces.
- Poor effective community participation in planning, building, and following up the operation and maintenance of public spaces.
- Poor financial performance of local authorities and limited sources of funding for public space projects.
- Lack of expertise in development and optimization of public spaces at the national and local levels.
- Absence of sectoral information and databases related to public spaces and their areas, the per capita share of public spaces, the area of green spaces and the ratio of built-up areas to open areas.

Therefore, the importance of developing and improving public spaces in all regions lies within international standards, setting clear policies for local authorities to upgrade public spaces and applying gender and environmental requirements in them. Except for a few places, the current public spaces limited to specific groups and are void of the required comfort. Moreover, some public spaces which were not developed or maintained regularly have become health and social abominations. A public space no longer plays its positive role for the benefit of society and the environment. This calls for intervention at the level of national policies and government strategies as well as at the level of municipalities and village councils.

It is expected that enforcing this policy will reflect positively and significantly at the level of public spaces in the country, to ensure justice in all respects for all groups that make up the social fabric and promote the welfare of society and the effectiveness of these spaces and the segments that use them. It will also have a significant environmental impact that contributes to the aesthetics of urban areas and a positive impact on the climate, including increasing the percentage of oxygen, providing shade on hot and sunny days, and providing green spaces within the urban area and between various buildings. This will have a significant environmental dimension since it will contribute to reducing the effects of climate change and raising the environmental footprint of society in general.

By properly and effectively developing and optimizing public spaces with high standards, they will become a destination for social, economic, artistic, sports and cultural events for the various segments of society. If these spaces are properly managed, they will have an effective role in the health of society in general, self-recreation, and the holding of many activities - such as artistic and sports events - that are ignored or not provided for due to the lack of a suitable place. They will also provide economic and administrative capacities to the local authorities.



Public Space Policy Pillars

The promotion and institutionalization of the development of public spaces within the scope of local authorities and the implementation of specific policies will have positive impacts in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of the local authority, increasing citizens' sense of satisfaction, belonging and ownership of accomplishments and resources, as well as preserving and maintaining them by all means. Below is a set of policies distributed according to the themes:



Social and Cultural Pillar



Social and Cultural Pillar

Policy No. (1): Revival of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and establishment of the Palestinian identity in public spaces

Displaying, promoting and enhancing community's role in preserving the tangible and intangible Palestinian cultural heritage in public spaces that reflects the culture identity of the Palestinian society through the organization of cultural activities that target segments of society and all age groups. Media promotion of cultural activities in public spaces and revival of such positive practices as the provision of reading corners in public spaces, use of public spaces for arts, festivals, drawings, murals, etc. and paying attention to public spaces in marginalized and threatened areas.

Policy No. (2): Community awareness and the promotion of a sense of belonging and ownership of public spaces

Educating the local community about the importance of public spaces through voluntary campaigns, focusing on schools and kindergartens, on how to take care of public spaces and combat harmful behaviors and enhancing the participation of all groups of society and of all ages, in planning, designing, implementing, operating, and maintaining public spaces.

Policy No. (3): Achieving social justice by creating inclusive public spaces

Diversification of events and activities within public spaces, expanding the scope of use and users and provision of all basic services and public utilities that serve all groups of users of public spaces.

Policy No. (4): Enhancing security and safety in public spaces

Ensuring a sense of security and safety in public spaces for all groups of society, especially women and girls, through the openness and spaciousness of the public space, allowing visual connection within the site and around it, showing the entrances and enhancing accessibility, distributing the use of public spaces over time between users, street vendors and retail kiosks, providing good lighting in and around the public space, carrying out continuous maintenance , improving its hygiene, providing a map of the public space and signboards to make movement easier and separate pedestrian traffic, providing security personnel when necessary and leveraging technology, cameras and other mechanisms to foster a sense of security.

Economic Pillar



Economic Pillar

Policy No. (5): Strengthening partnerships with the private, civil and community sectors, to develop and establish new public spaces, and to participate in their operation and maintenance

Working on finding partnerships with the public, civil and private sectors in order to develop and operate existing public spaces and establish new ones through the corporate social responsibility contributions of private companies and major investors, and through activating communication between local authorities, the private sector and the community-based organizations and women's economic associations. This also includes activating partnerships with the Palestinian diaspora to enhance their contributions in this regard through the relevant official channels.

Policy No. (6): Promoting economic activities in public spaces, especially in marginalized areas, and identifying locations for potential projects and enabling sustainable growth within public spaces.

Encouraging economic activities in public spaces especially in marginalized areas, by promoting the use of public spaces for seasonal markets, or through developing urban farming projects on the sidewalks and inside public spaces or by creating some tourism projects to revive public spaces and generate income for the local authority that covers the costs of maintenance and operation of the public space and create job opportunities. In addition to encouraging and promoting investment in small enterprises, in accordance with the context of each village and city and the general characteristics of the public space.

Policy No. (7): Maintaining the resilience and sustainability of public spaces financially and administratively

Finding mechanisms and tools that preserve and sustain the public spaces, by creating sources of income to operate, develop and maintain them periodically and in partnership with the private and civil sectors, so that these public spaces become economically sustainable, and do not constitute a burden on the local authority's budgets.

Policy No. (8): The contribution of public spaces to the economic empowerment of marginalized groups, especially women and youth

Making public spaces work as platforms for creating economic opportunities to empower marginalized groups, especially women and youth. This can be achieved by allocating corners to sell the products of women and people with special needs, creating (seasonal) bazaars, and rehabilitating markets to serve these groups.

Governance and Legal Framework Pillar



Governance and Legal Framework Pillar

Policy No. (9): Promoting community participation and accountability

Promoting community participation and accountability by all segments of society in planning, developing, implementing, and maintaining public spaces, activating the role of civil society committees and neighborhood committees in this process and facilitating the filing of complaints about public spaces for stakeholders to follow up.

Policy No. (10): Activating comprehensive management, follow-up, and control of public spaces

Activating management, follow-up, and control of public spaces by stakeholders and carrying out their periodic maintenance, introducing or creating working procedures that include the effective management of public spaces within the local authority's governance structure and distributing roles among stakeholders to follow up on the operation and maintenance of public spaces and monitoring their performance, and encouraging the adoption of innovation and smart systems for the management, operation, and maintenance of public spaces.

Policy No. (11): Reviewing and developing legal frameworks for increasing the areas allocated for public spaces and to be based on community participation.

Reviewing laws and legislation related to public spaces, such as: The Law of Towns, Villages and Buildings Planning Law No. 79 of 1966 prevailing in the West Bank, and Town Planning Ordinance No. 28 of 1936 in the Gaza Strip and their amendments and bylaws, and focusing on the role of master plans as the tool for increasing the areas allocated for public spaces, enacting and legislating laws and regulations and creating incentives and penalties system to protect public spaces, and monitoring the execution and enforcement of existing ones. As well, developing regulations to determine the planning and organizational standards to ensure fair distribution of public spaces, and that the local authority adheres to the requirements of public spaces. In addition, to develop regulations and standards to ensure free access to public spaces by all groups of society without exception. Moreover, encouraging the increase of public land ownership designated for public spaces, the use of sidewalks and the use of the left-over land resulting from the processes of land subdivision and demarcation as public spaces.

Environmental and Urban Pillar



Environmental and Urban Pillar

Policy No. (12): Providing a healthy, green and sustainable environment within public spaces

This includes providing and planting trees and plants inside the public space in an amount commensurate with the area and use of the public space, using clean energy, designing and implementing buildings and all elements of the public space from environmentally friendly materials, and leveraging the recycling process during the design and implementation of public spaces.

Policy No. (13): Setting appropriate standards for public spaces per capita and in proportion to built-up areas

This includes conducting studies to calculate and approve the per capita share of a public space and adjusting the master plans in local authorities to ensure the per capita share of a public space according to the nature of the locality, taking into account the geographical distribution of these public spaces within the local authority.

Policy No. (14): Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

Through good planning, public spaces can contribute to increase the resilience of cities by subordinating the design and implementation of public spaces to the requirements and conditions of disaster risk reduction, and by making changes to existing endangered public spaces such as valleys and beaches. As well, public spaces can contribute to climate change adaptation by encouraging water harvesting in public spaces that can be used for irrigation, and promoting the use of clean energy, encouraging the culture of walking, and reducing dependence on polluting modes of transportation.

Policy No. (15): Improving the accessibility to public spaces and connectivity with surrounding areas

Improving and preparing the infrastructure of pedestrian paths and sidewalks in public spaces, separating them from the path of vehicles, improving the traffic circulation around the public space, planning clear paths in and around the public space to facilitate access, providing public transport stations and parking spaces sufficient for the size of the public space, and leveraging technology to improve access to public spaces, such as: map applications, placing public spaces on the cities' tourist maps, and using technology to promote public spaces as a breathing spaces for all.

Policy No. (16): Planning and designing public spaces in an inclusive, safe and environmentally friendly manner

Designing and rehabilitating public spaces to facilitate access for all groups of society in general, especially people of special needs (vision, hearing, mobility), adopting design standards when developing public spaces, diversifying the uses of public spaces to suit all groups of society and all ages, using safe facilities such as furniture and children's toys and making them from safe and environmentally friendly materials.

Requirements for the Implementation of the Public Spaces Policy

The following are the basic requirements to initiate the implementation of the Public Spaces Policy, including legal reviews of laws and regulations in force in the state of Palestine, and conducting some field studies and surveys, in addition to some administrative procedures:

Planning Requirements

- Conducting field surveys to evaluate public spaces within the boundaries of the local government units in terms of number, type, areas and geographical distribution, and calculating the ratio of green areas and open public spaces to built-up areas in order to decide on the current state of public spaces at the local level and set a specific percentage for the area of public spaces in relation to the of built up area, and set criteria for the distribution of public spaces within the local authority's boundaries, following a participatory approach and after obtaining all relevant approvals.
- Conducting studies to calculate the per capita share of public spaces at national level and conducting planning studies to set the goal and value of the future per capita share and integrating it as a main objective in the National Plan until 2030.
- Encourage the local government units to take advantage of all measures that increase public land property and to convert it into public spaces as much as possible to increase the areas allocated to public spaces.
- Modifying the master plans of at the local authorities' level, taking into account the requirements of public spaces in terms of their areas, geographical distribution, and their design and standard requirements.

Legal Requirements

Amending laws and regulations in force at the Ministry of Local Government to comply with the provisions of this Paper, especially the Law of Towns, Villages and Buildings Planning Law No. 79 of 1966 prevailing in the West Bank, and Town Planning Ordinance No. 28 of 1936 in the Gaza Strip and their amendments, prevailing in the Gaza Strip and adding specific clauses on public spaces as per the results of the above-mentioned planning studies. This also includes the Palestinian Cultural Heritage Law of 2018, as well as the Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) of 2000 and the regulations and legislations issued in accordance with them.

Procedural Requirements

- Circulating this Policy Paper in the appropriate ways to all concerned parties including ministries, general directorates, and local authorities to work accordingly.

- The employees in all public administrations and departments of the Ministry of Local Government and local government directorates shall prepare, arrange and develop their internal work procedures, including work schedules, the distribution of tasks to employees, and their internal procedures manual, so as to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Paper, each according to their position and the nature of their job, provided that these preparations shall end before the lapse of six months.
- For the purposes of building the capabilities of the local authorities, the training needs of all concerned personnel shall be identified, and the implementation of training programs shall be completed within a year from the approval of these policies.
- All local authorities are required to develop a strategic plan for public spaces, consistent with the provisions of this Paper and to form a committee from all concerned departments in the local authority to follow up and implement this Paper in order to improve and develop public spaces within the local authority.
- Employees in all concerned administrations, departments and sections must assume their duties, ensuring the implementation of this Paper, each according to their position and the nature of their job.



Key Indicators

To determine the performance of local authorities regarding the implementation of the Public Spaces Policy, the following indicators were identified to measure to which extent the local authority succeeded in the implementation of this Policy, and to monitor and evaluate the extent to which the goal of this Policy is achieved, focusing on the first three indicators.

No.	Indicator	Type	Frequency
1	Citizen satisfaction	Qualitative	every four years
2	Number of users	Quantitative	every two years
3	Per capita share of public space	Quantitative	Every two years
4	Negative behaviors, crimes, and accident rates within the public space (Security and safety)	Quantitative	Every two years
5	Number of events and activities	Quantitative	Every two years
6	Financial Returns from public space	Quantitative	Every two years
7	Number of economic activities	Quantitative	Every two years
8	Number of PPPs	Quantitative	Every two years
9	Number/percentage of beneficiaries from the public space	Quantitative	Every two years
10	Percentage of increase in the number of public spaces within the local authority's boundaries	Quantitative	Every two years
11	Percentage of security and accessibility achieved in public spaces	Quantitative	Every two years

Conclusion

The Policy Paper applies to both indoor and outdoor public spaces within the scope of local authorities.

This Paper was endorsed by the cabinet decision number (أ.م/9.م/18/249/12) on the 25th of March 2024; thus, the Public Spaces Policy, methodology and guidelines are adopted as an approved tool for local urban development in Palestine, and shall be its reference guide for preparing, implementing, managing, monitoring and evaluating public spaces at the local level.

-The end-

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Annexes

Annex No. (1): Users and how to Use the Public Space Policy

Annex No. (2): Roadmap towards safe and inclusive public Spaces (2024-2030)

Annex No. (1)

Users and how to Use the Public Space Policy

User	Use
Local authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A reference for the preparation of the local public space strategy. - A tool for coordinating and managing the work of various municipal departments and for measuring and evaluating the quality of public spaces. - A reference for defining priorities, programs, and their components/projects and making decisions on public spaces. - A tool and mechanism for coordinating efforts with the private sector and communicating with the local community. - A tool for linking with the local development plans and budgets and reflecting them spatially.
Central government and its regional departments	
Ministry of Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tool for monitoring and supervising the performance of local authorities. - A tool for obtaining local authorities' data related to public spaces regularly and using them to build policies and plans for the local government sector to raise the level of service provided to local citizens.
Ministry of Culture Ministry of Interior Environment Quality Authority Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities The Palestinian Ministry of Labour Other sectoral ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A reference for developing national sectoral plans and policies, coordinating development work, and allocating funds to establish safe and inclusive public spaces.
Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tool for measuring the performance of local authorities and allocating the necessary support for performance development. - A tool that helps in evaluating program and project proposals submitted by local authorities and approving their funding.
Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tool to know the developmental needs of its members, and to lobby to allocate resources to meet these needs. - A tool for developing technical support programs and exchanging experiences to help implement public space strategies.
Private sector and investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A reference for defining investments and economic activities related to public spaces within the boundaries of the local authorities. - A reference for identifying and making partnerships with local authorities.
Local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tool for coordinating community work in public spaces. - An introduction to partnerships and creation of job opportunities within public spaces. - A tool for achieving justice and providing the right to the city for all community groups, especially women, children, youth and people with disabilities.
Academic institutions and research centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An introduction to conducting meaningful studies and research. - A tool for developing academic programs and curricula.
Donors and international institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tool for directing, building and implementing support and aid programs.

Annex No. (2)

Roadmap towards safe and inclusive public Spaces (2024-2030)

The road map was developed by the national team to direct the Ministry of Local Government and the local authorities to develop and improve public spaces. It serves as a preliminary action plan that can be used and deduced to develop public spaces, bearing in mind that the interventions referred to below are just an example, and the relevant authorities and local bodies can amend them by adding to them or implement part of them as deemed appropriate, according to the needs of their public spaces. Note that this action plan was prepared and developed according to the themes and sub-policies stated in the Public Spaces Policy. They are as follows:

- **Requirements for Initiating the Application of the Public Spaces Policy**

Action	Responsibility	Examples of proposed interventions	Time frame
A. Planning requirements and preparatory studies	Ministry of Local Government and its partners	Baseline surveys: Survey of citizens' satisfaction with local services (once every four years), Survey of public spaces (once every two years) and developing and conducting the survey form and indicators.	2024
		Encouraging the local government authority to take advantage of all measures that increase public land ownership, and convert it into public spaces as much as possible to increase the areas allocated to public spaces.	2024-2025
		Updating the master plans of local authorities to consider the requirements of public spaces in terms of their areas, geographical distribution, and their design guidelines and standards.	Ongoing
B. Legal Requirements	Ministry of Local Government and United Cities and Local Governments Official Newspaper	Amending the bylaws and regulations related to public spaces that are in force in the Ministry of Local Government to comply with the provisions of this Paper, especially The Law of Towns, Villages and Buildings Planning Law No. 79 of 1966 prevailing in the West Bank, and Town Planning Ordinance No. 28 of 1936 in the Gaza Strip and their amendments and bylaws and adding specific clauses on public spaces as per the results of the above-mentioned planning studies. This also includes the Palestinian Cultural Heritage Law, as well as the Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) of 2000 and the regulations issued in accordance with them.	2025
C. Procedural Requirements	Ministry of Local Government, United Cities and Local Governments and local authorities	Circulating and disseminating the Public Space Policy.	2024
		Identification of training needs and capacity building programmes.	2024-2025
		Promoting the development of local public space strategies and their preparatory studies (Citywide Public Space Assessment).	2025-2026
		Encouraging the institutionalization of the work and procedures at the levels of the Ministry of Local Government and the local authorities.	2024

▪ **Social and Cultural Pillar**

	Policy	Responsibility	Intervention	Time frame
1	1.1 Revival of cultural heritage and the national identity	The Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities and local partners	Media promotion of cultural activities in public spaces.	2024-2030
			Provision of reading corners in public space.	
			Organization of cultural activities that target the different segments of society and all age groups.	
			Preservation of tangible cultural heritage.	
			Revival of arts that reflect the culture and identity of the Palestinian society (by using murals, symbolic elements, and cultural activities).	
2	1.2 Promotion of a sense of belonging and community awareness	Local authorities and local partners in collaboration with sectoral ministries (Education, Agriculture, Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institute, Environment Quality Authority, the Higher Council for Youth and Sports ... etc.)	The use of school broadcast (Education) in schools and kindergartens for educating and training children on the use and preservation of public spaces.	2024-2030
			Activating volunteering campaigns to maintain the cleanliness, beautification, and greening of public spaces by planting trees.	
			Participation of all groups of society and of all ages, in planning, designing, implementing, operating and maintaining public spaces, (participating at all stages of the project's life).	
			Conducting competitions / activities / initiatives to develop, operate and maintain the public spaces.	
3	1.3 Achieving social justice in public spaces	Local authorities and local partners	Diversifying events and activities within public spaces and integrating all segments of society.	2024-2026
			Expanding the scope of users of public spaces by providing various means of transportation around the public space.	
			Placing public spaces on tourist maps and using technology to promote them.	
			Providing all basic services and public utilities that serve all groups of users of public spaces and appropriate technology such as free Wi-Fi networks.	
4	1.4 Enhancing security and safety in public spaces	Ministry of Interior (police, civil defense), local authorities	Ensuring openness and spaciousness of the public space and allowing visual communication within it and with the surrounding streets.	2024-2029
			Activating and distributing the use of public spaces over time by users, street vendors and retail kiosks.	
			Safe design of the public space, such as providing good lighting and safe pathways and ramps.	
			The permanent presence of security and police personnel inside the public space.	
			Continuous maintenance of the public space and improving operating efficiency and the quality of use.	
			Providing a map of the public space and signboards to make movement easier and promote safety.	
			Activating and using technology applications in complaints and reporting of accidents and providing safety in the public space.	

▪ Economic Pillar

	Policy	Responsibility	Intervention	Time frame
5	2.1 Strengthening partnerships with the private and civil sectors	Ministry of Local Government, local authorities (departments and units of development and investment, and engineering departments) civil and women's institutions and chambers of commerce	Activating communication between local authorities and private companies or major investors to develop public spaces as part of corporate social responsibility including Palestinian diaspora.	2024-2030
			Activating communications with economically productive women's associations.	
			Consider investors' requirements when developing public spaces.	
			Facilitating investment procedures for managing public spaces.	
6	2.2 Encouraging economic use in public spaces, especially in marginalized areas, and ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the public space financially and administratively.	Local authorities (public relations, financial departments, and engineering departments), Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institute, Municipal Development and Lending Fund, Ministry of Labour and international partners	Implementing agricultural projects (planting trees on sidewalks).	2024-2030
			Developing tourism projects in public spaces.	
			Diversifying the uses of public spaces, which ensures the use throughout the day.	
			Using green energy resources where possible, for instance by installing solar panels to produce electricity.	
			Promoting seasonal markets in partnership with the private/ civil/ public sectors with nominal fees.	
7	2.3 Maintaining the resilience and sustainability of public spaces financially and administratively	Local authorities (departments of development and investment, financial departments)	Creating sources of income to operate, develop and maintain public spaces periodically and in partnership with the private and civil sectors.	2024-2030
			Incorporating public spaces development requirements into the municipal plans and budgets.	
8	2.4 Contributing to the economic empowerment of	Public authorities, civil society (civil and women) and sectoral	Organizing and establishing seasonal markets.	2024-2030
			Allocating corners to sell the products of women and people with special needs.	

<p>marginalized groups, especially women, youth, and people with disabilities. In addition to encouraging and promoting investment in small enterprises, in accordance with the context of each village and city and the general characteristics of the public space.</p>	<p>ministries (Women's Affairs, Agriculture, Palestinian Agricultural Credit Institute, etc.)</p>	<p>Rehabilitating markets to serve marginalized groups, especially women. This includes organizing street vendors and designating places for such activities in a way that does not cause traffic congestion or affect the aesthetic appearance of the area.</p>	
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▪ **Governance and Legal Framework Pillar**

	Policy	Responsibility	Intervention	Time frame
9	3.1 Promoting community participation and accountability	Civil society, neighborhood committees, local authorities and Municipal Development and Lending Fund	Activating the role of civil society and neighborhood committees in the operation, maintenance, and oversight of public spaces.	2024-2026
			Activating the community accountability guide.	
			Engaging civil society groups in all stages of planning, designing and implementation of public spaces.	
			Facilitating the filing of notes and complaints mechanisms.	
10	3.2 Activating comprehensive management, follow-up, and control	Ministry of Local Government, United Cities and Local Governments and local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture. In case that public spaces are heritage sites, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities must have a role.	Periodic supervision by relevant stakeholders of the operation and maintenance of public spaces.	2024-2026
			Introducing or creating working procedures that ensure the management of public spaces in local authorities' units and developing strategies to manage these spaces.	
			Distributing roles among stakeholders, following up and monitoring their performance.	
11	3.3 Reviewing and developing legal frameworks (to be compatible with the public space policy, and be based on community participation)	Ministry of Local Government, United Cities and Local Governments, local authorities and the Official Newspaper	Enacting and legislating laws and regulations (by introducing incentives and penalties system) to protect public spaces and monitor the execution and enforcement of existing ones.	2024-2026
			Introducing bylaws that identify planning standards, and ensure fair distribution of public spaces, and developing planning systems and standards to ensure that local authorities adhere to the requirements of public spaces.	
			Introducing bylaws and regulations that ensure free entry to public spaces for all segments of society without exception.	
			Encouraging the increase of public land ownership designated for public spaces and the use of the left-over land resulting from the processes of land subdivision and demarcation as public spaces.	

▪ **Environmental and Urban Pillar**

	Policy	Responsibility	Intervention	Time frame
12	4.1 Providing a green, healthy, sustainable environment (geographical distribution, the use of environmentally friendly materials)	Local authorities, Environment Quality Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture	Planting trees and vegetation that are suitable for the location / climate in public spaces.	2024-2030
			Designing and implementing buildings and all elements of the public spaces from environmentally friendly materials (green buildings).	
			Leveraging the recycling process during the design, implementation, and operation of public spaces.	
			Setting the appropriate standard for public spaces percentage in proportion to built-up areas (in public and private areas and in building permits).	
13	4.2 Setting appropriate standards for public spaces per capita and in proportion to built-up areas	Ministry of Local Government and local authorities	Conducting a study to calculate and approve (the per capita share) of a public space.	2024-2030
			Adjusting the master plans to ensure the per capita share of a public space, taking into account the geographical distribution.	
14	4.3 Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (strengthening the resilience of cities)	Ministry of Local Government, local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture	Introducing water harvesting systems inside public spaces to collect rainwater.	2024-2026
			Making changes to existing endangered public spaces, such as: (valleys and beaches), to increase their safety and resilience.	
			Subordinating the design and implementation of public spaces to the requirements and conditions of disaster risk reduction. In addition to using modern technologies to adapt to climate changes and implementing an early warning system to mitigate disasters	
15	4.4 Improving accessibility, and connectivity with surrounding areas	Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Local Government, local authorities and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing	Using digital communication technologies to improve access to public spaces (such as maps applications).	2024-2030
			Improving and preparing the infrastructure of pedestrian paths and sidewalks in public spaces and separating them from the paths of vehicles.	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Improving traffic conditions in terms of roads and their capacity, traffic signals, signboards, display screens, pedestrian crossings, and parking spaces suitable for the expected number of vehicles based on a traffic impact study. The right-of-way for roads should also be considered according to their classifications, and their locations should be determined in coordination with the traffic police B. Rehabilitating and planning clear pathways around and within the public area to facilitate access using environmentally friendly transportation methods and providing transport stations 	
			Providing transport stations and parking spaces suitable for the size of the public space.	

16	4.5 Planning and designing public spaces in a comprehensive and safe manner	Local authorities in partnership with the local community and the Ministry of Labour	<p>Designing and rehabilitating public spaces to facilitate safe access for all groups of society, especially people with disabilities (vision, hearing) and developing design standards for public spaces according to the type of the public space. These standards should include safety, inclusiveness, accessibility, green environment, and comfort in the public spaces, with consideration given to providing appropriate sanitary units in accordance with Article 10 of the “local authorities building and regulation” bylaw.</p> <p>Diversifying uses in public spaces to suit all groups of society and all ages. In addition to setting guidelines and instructions and taking the necessary measures to provide a safe and healthy work environment that meets occupational safety and health requirements for all workers in these public spaces, in accordance with Palestinian Labor Law No. (7) of 2000 and the regulations issued in accordance with it.</p> <p>Using safe facilities such as furniture and children’s toys and making them from safe and environmentally friendly materials.</p>	2024-2030
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