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International guidelines on people centred smart cities

(UNHA Resolution 2/1)

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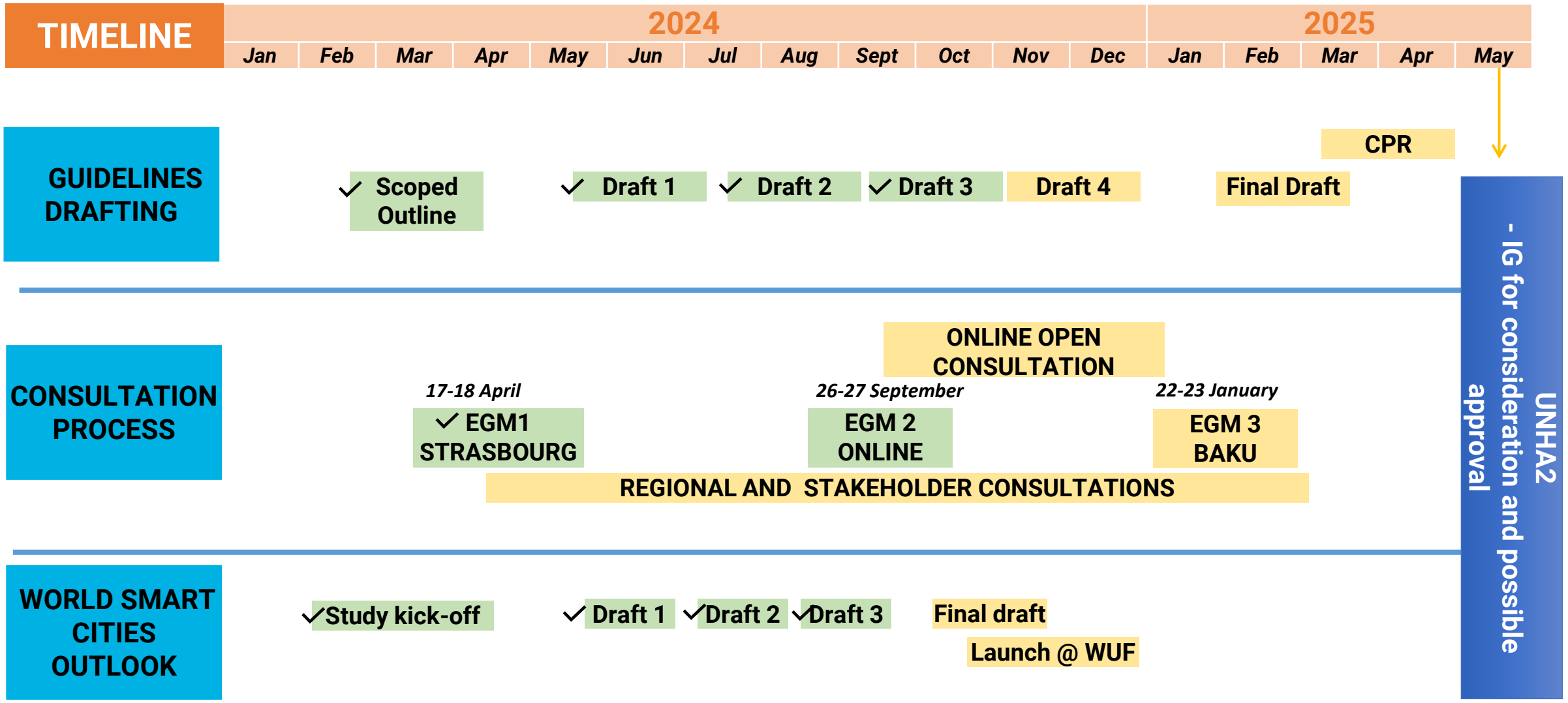
Achievements and key milestones



Consultative process: consultation plan

Global consultation		
Meeting	**Date**	**Location**
EGM1	17-18/04	Strasbourg
EGM2	26-28/09	Online
EGM3	22-23/01/25	Baku

Stakeholders and thematic consultations		
Stakeholder	**Date**	**Location**
CSO	9-10/05	Civil Society Conference (Nairobi)
Academia	18-20/06	UNITAC (Hamburg)
LRGs	10/09	Online
Climate	11/09	Innovate4Cities (Montreal)
UN-Habitat consultation	12/09	Nairobi/online
International organizations	25/09	Online
Private Sector	2/10	Carnegie (California)
Open Online consultation	*Oct/Nov*	*Online*

Regional online consultations	
Region	**Date (2024)**
Africa	*18 November*
Latin America	*20 November*
Eastern Europe	*22 November*
Western Europe and other States	*26 November*
Asia Pacific	*28 November*

Regional in person consultations	
Region	**Date (2025)**
Eastern Europe + WEOG	*15-16 January TBC*
Asia Pacific	*11-12 February TBC*

Consultative process: LRG communique

The Communique calls for the explicit recognition of LRGs as pivotal actors for closing the digital divides and localizing the objectives and principles of the GDC

Joint Global Communiqué

The Role of Local and Regional Governments in the Global Digital Compact

Purpose

We, as organizations representing the interests of Local and Regional Governments (LRGs), convened a consultation 10 September 2024 co-hosted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), to deliberate on the role of LRGs in the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

Through this Communiqué, we convey our position and call for the explicit recognition of LRGs as pivotal actors for closing the digital divides and localizing the objectives and principles of the GDC for an open, safe, sustainable and secure digital future across cities and communities.

As we navigate the digital age, it is essential that Member States and all stakeholders, including mayors, LRGs, communities, international organizations, private sector partners, civil society, academia, and the global community, unite in efforts to shape a digital future that is inclusive, people-centered, and aligned with the principles of sustainable urban development as framed by the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

We therefore urge Member States to meaningfully engage with and include the views and role of LRGs in the upcoming review processes of the draft GDC towards localizing its principles and objectives.

We further call for an explicit reference, in the GDC, of the role of cities and local governments.

The key role of Local and Regional Governments in implementing the GDC

The digital era is unfolding in a world where most of humanity is urban. In this context, urban and digital transformation are closely linked. Further, as the closest actors to communities and responsible for delivering essential services, LRGs play an indispensable role to ensure that digital transformation aligns with the needs and aspirations of local communities, including the most vulnerable, ultimately fostering inclusive and sustainable digital ecosystems. The key role of LRGs in implementing the GDC should be recognized, as they drive actions towards the following aspirations, with the goal of achieving a people-centred digital transformation:

1. ***Close the digital divide and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

LRGs are essential to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that all residents, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have equal access to digital tools and services. An enabling environment that supports LRGs to foster partnerships, conduct comprehensive assessments, and implement tailored solutions and educational opportunities to address digital capacities is needed so that no one and no place is left behind in the digital age.

2. ***Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all***

By creating supportive environments to promote digital innovation and local entrepreneurship, LRGs can empower all residents to participate in and benefit from the digital economy and contribute to building equitable public digital infrastructure. This involves updating regulatory frameworks, supporting digital startups, and ensuring that local businesses can thrive and seize the opportunities of an increasingly digital world.

3. ***Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights***

Given their proximity to people and communities, LRGs have a unique role to ensure that digital environments respect human rights and promote civic participation both offline and online. By raising awareness of both opportunities and threats deriving from digitalization processes, fostering equitable

Link to the online document here

Consultative process: Our partners

EURO CITIES

2024 UNITED NATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY

UNIDO

Group of Friends of the Smart Cities

UCLG United Cities and Local Governments

GLOBAL CITIES HUB GENEVA

UNDP

OPEN NORTH NORD OUVERT

GSMA

ODC open data charter

SMARTCITY EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

SMART SUSTAINABLE CITIES FOR ALL

WeGO

European Commission

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

OECD

European vestment Bank

unesco

HAMBURG UNITAC

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

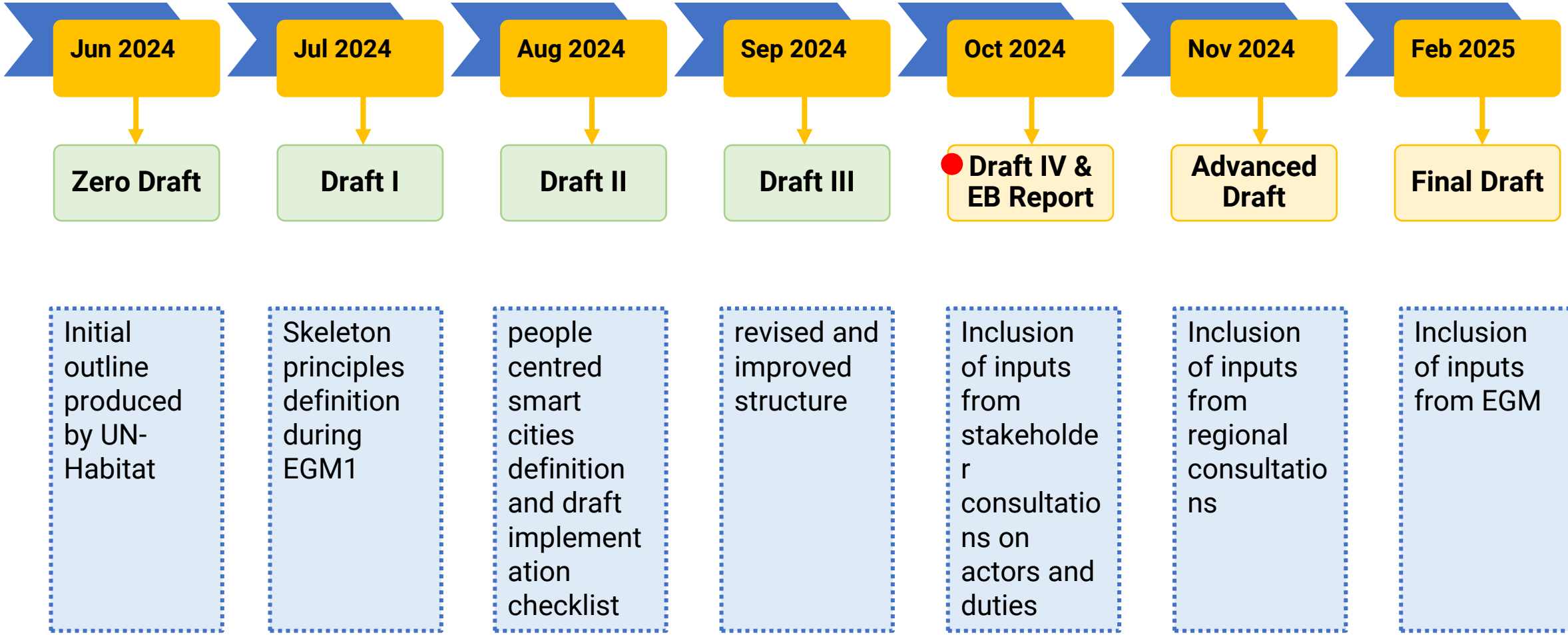
ITU

United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology

ECA

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Guidelines drafting process



The guidelines: outline

1: Introduction

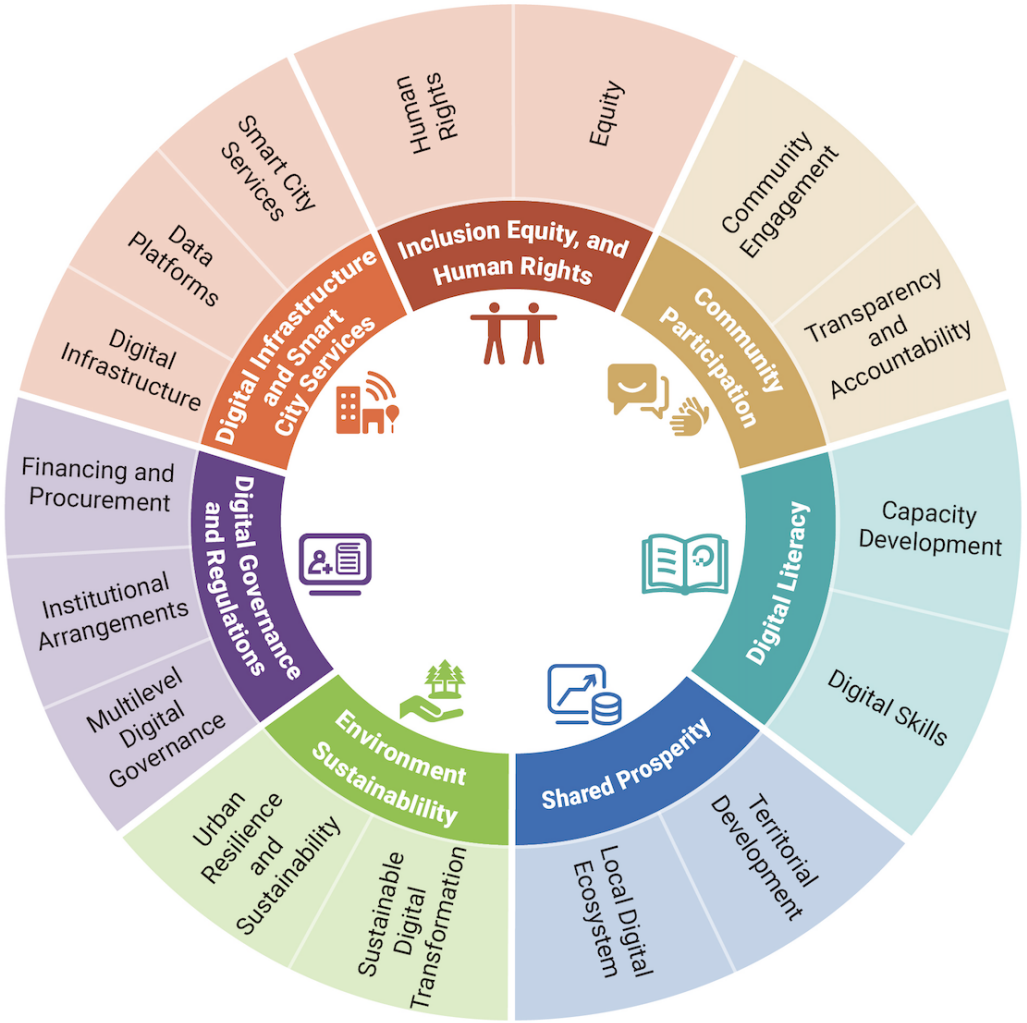
- Objectives of the guidelines
- Definition People-Centred Smart Cities
- Embracing a new paradigm of smart city development
- Preparatory process for the development of the Guidelines

2: International Guidelines

- Structure of the Guidelines
- Principles and Duties
- Implementation mechanisms

3: Annex

- Annex I: Resolution
- Annex II: Implementation of the guidelines
- Annex III: Actors
- Annex IV: Glossary



The guidelines: Principles and Duties

Inclusion, Equity and Human Rights	Community Participation	Digital literacy	Shared prosperity	Environmental Sustainability	Digital Governance and Regulations	Digital Infrastructure and Smart City Services
Human Rights	Participation and collaboration	Capacity development	Local digital ecosystem	Sustainable digital transformation	Organizational structure	Digital infrastructure
Equity	Transparency and Accountability	Digital Skills	Territorial development	Urban resilience and sustainability	Multilevel digital governance	Data platforms
					Financing and procurement	Smart city services

The guidelines: defining a People-centered Smart City

Definition according to the **31 experts** of the **Expert Working Group**

*A people-centred smart city leverages technology to improve the **quality of life** of people and the sustainability and resilience of the environment, while advancing shared prosperity and inclusion. It ensures that smart city innovations are developed through **participatory approaches and collaboration**, providing equitable access to digital services, skills and infrastructures especially for people in **vulnerable** situations. It respects, **protects and promotes human rights**, with **multi-level governance** systems and regulations ensuring that technology supports sustainable development rather than becoming the goal itself*

World Smart Cities Outlook

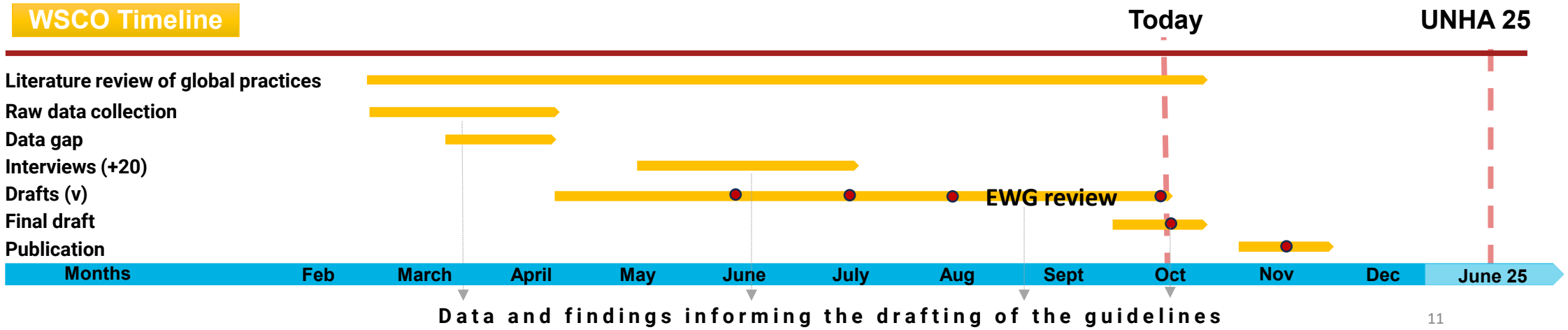
The outlook provides empirical evidence and global knowledge on the state of smart city development, including regional variations to

1. assess the **current state of people-centred smart city developments** across cities and countries globally **and insights for future developments**
2. evaluate the **impact of smart city technologies and strategies** on sustainability, resilience, equity, social inclusion, accessibility, security, and quality of life in urban area
3. offer **recommendations** to foster people-centred smart city development that enables global community building, standardization, and benchmarking.

How

Primary and secondary data and best practices' collection of people-centred smart city implementation.

Validation by the global EWG and regional and stakeholder consultations



Update on the financial situation

Donor	Purpose of funding	Amount	Type	Status
France (MoFA)	implementation of UNHA 2/1 Resolution	**~$327.000**	Voluntary	Partially received
France (Eurométropole de Strasbourg, Grand Est Region, MoFA)	EMG1	**$102.000**	In-kind	Received
Azerbaijan (SCUPA)	EGM3	**~$83.270**	In-kind	Planned (TBC)
Slovakia (MIRDI)	Regional consultation	**~$59.020**	In-kind	Planned (TBC)
China (China Academy of Urban Planning and Design Shenzhen Branch)	Regional consultation	**$216.309**	In-kind	Planned (TBC)
Grand total (received & planned)		**$787.599**		

THE GAP

¼ of desired voluntary contribution received

- **regional online consultations**
- **Internal resource burden**

Roadmap to implementation: Next steps

Consultation process:

- **Concluding consultations**: regional consultations, EGM3, online consultation (open to general public)
- **Call for nomination of Experts for regional consultations**: NV to Member States (26/09/24), deadline 8th November

Drafting process:

- **Finalizing the WSCO** and integrating the results in the guidelines
- **Report to Executive Board** - December 2024
- **Final version** - February 2025

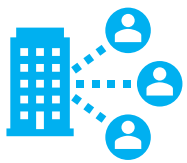
Roadmap to implementation: Future prospects

1. Guidelines finalization

- Further guidance to the drafting through online open consultation (October) and online regional consultations (Nov 2024) and in-person regional ones, along with the intergovernmental processes

2. Advocacy and dissemination

- Share and refer to the principles of the guidelines and feature at relevant events and platforms



3. Implementation

- Supporting the implementation of the guidelines through pilot projects and initiatives, leveraging on regional commissions and other partners

Thank you!

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IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES