

UN-H EGM 2 | IG-PCSC | Day 1 – 26-09-2024

Agenda:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Taking Stock of Progress and Way Forward
- Presentation of the Latest Draft of the Guidelines + Q&A
- Presentation of the World Smart Cities Outlook (WSCO)
- Q&A on the World Smart Cities Outlook (WSCO)
- Break-out Rooms: Core Aspects of each thematic Area
- Plenary Summary of the Break-out Discussions
- Closing Remarks.

Noted Feedback and Discussions

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Welcomed the experts to the review of the progress made thus far in the drafting of the IG-PCSC and the WSCO.
- Noted that considerations are ongoing to consider the end users which would inform the implementation and guide them.
- Noted that diverse consultations have been done to ensure the contributions towards the guidelines.
- Hoped to get contributions from the experts that would also inform the WSCO.

Taking Stock of Progress and Way Forward

- Noted that the discussions informing the drafting of the guidelines have been very effective and would greatly help in making the guidelines more implementable.
- Noted that there was a challenge in the technological and financial resource that would be able to assist in meeting various aspects of the guidelines in South Africa.
- Reported that it was considered to use the guidelines as a form of framework to assist South Africa ensure coherence in what a Smart City is.
- Noted that there will be an opportunity to reflect during the next EGM in Baku where colleagues will be able to physically make any further contributions.

Presentation of the Latest Draft of the Guidelines + Q&A

- Reported the reduction of the initial draft to 35 pages and 46 pages including the annexes.

- Reported that the following internal consultations outcomes were added that would provide a linkage between the guidelines and the mandate of UNH.
- Added Territorial Development component to add effect on Spatial Component
- Added a new annex that removed the readiness levels but instead implementations even though there is a consideration to see how to find a way of including this.
- Reported that following further contributions the definition was proposed to be reverted to the initial that had three sentences.
- Provided a keen review of further changes made and modifications made following the previous meeting with experts and consultations.
- Informed experts that for Day 1 and 2 the document would remain open to allow live additions and contributions.
- Member of the Experts committee proposed that a note be made that countries would be allowed to adapt the definition to their specific context.
- Emphasized that all variables should not be left behind hence the issue of able governance and coordination needs to be featured.
- Stressed that efforts should be made to ensure that there tracking mechanism for the implementation of the guidelines which could also be included in the document with possible period indicated.
- Responded that the issue on tracking the implementation is ongoing with this in later stages of development for addition into the draft.

Presentation of the World Smart Cities Outlook (WSCO)

- Introduced the update on key findings and welcomed feedback from experts indicating the role played by the University in developing the report.
- Reported qualitative and quantitative sources of data that were used as key in enriching the outcome of the report.
- Noted that strategic documents are being implemented worldwide but that strategy making is common practice with local adjustments to city levels.
- Noted that participatory planning remained a challenge due to wiliness for participation and the need to improve the tools created.
- Indicated that there is a struggle to track and monitor the smart city implementation and need to harmonize efforts to local governments on who needs to be involved.
- Noted that smart city units (to coordinate smart city development) are useful in coordination and implementation of the smart city projects and need to have sufficient resources to be effective.

- Confirmed that digital skills literacy was identified as a critical gap especially in Latin America and Africa.
- Added that Human Resource and skills remained an existing weakness in the development of smart city projects.
- Reported that leveraging the data collected and shared remains a challenge due to lack of data standards and governance.
- Noted that the Global Review showcased global inequalities, fear, inadequate knowledge and lack of skill set as some of the challenges to ensure smart city development.
- Reported that some local and municipal units were struggling due to lack of national policies to guide smart city development.
- Recommended supporting participation of residents to prevent negative consequences of smart city solutions since most available do not have
- Highlighted the need for instituting proper digital strategy to close the digital divide.
- Proposed business environmental programs that represent those from communities that are not included such as other towns and rural areas to ensure that communities on the margins of the areas of implementation are covered.
- Indicated the need for harmonizing policies as a way of ensuring that there can be a more structured policy-wise approach to smart city solutions.
- Reported that the WSCO would be launched during the World Urban Forum.

Contributions:

- Proposed the including of a space for overseeing implementors and involving the state in the implementation too.
- Noted that there is an existing challenge in the quality of digital infrastructure such as energy especially in Africa.
- Responded that this has been captured in the draft in terms of the type of connectivity.
- Emphasized the need for including the component of data security and the collaborative ecosystem around data management.
- Noted the need to define the role of the community in the development of smart cities.
- Indicated that there is an interest that was indicated in the report to emphasise horizontal cooperation between cities and towns.
- Indicated a growing interest in developing a guideline on data sharing and governance that would be of benefit to highlight the challenges in this regard and

- Observed that the need for coordination units was noted as important but it is important to align this to the institutional framework due to different governance structures.
- Proposed that there should be a review on attracting private sector towards the development of smart cities.
- Pointed the bias that has led to the viewing of smart city development as a real estate development venture and hence a need for a more wholistic implementation plan that is drawn away from spatial planning.
- Highlighted the lack of scalable sustainable smart city models which discourage investors from smart city projects which may also provide an opportunity to redevelop technologies in a more scalable manner and reduce reliance to large scale suppliers.
- Proposed building local solutions as a way of promoting integration and further coordination.

Break-out Rooms: Core Aspects of each thematic Area

Room 1: Digital infrastructure, city-services & Governance

Moderator: Florencia Serale

Members: Francois Ossama, Anar Valiyev, Biyu Wan, Kunal Kumar, Sharone April, Ekaterina Baranova

Note-taker: Alice Kagumba

Principles Covered: Institutional arrangement, multi-level governance

- Noted that oversight of Smart City infrastructure was also key.
- Indicated that the term 'Smart City' was perceived as anything to do with computers or ICT departments and therefore the need to demystify this within governments to include leadership and specific skills that cover domains beyond technology.
- Pointed out that academia had a responsibility of strengthening smart city governance by developing educational modules e.g. masters programs tailored to support smart cities development, data and digital infrastructure.
- Pointed out the importance of creation of regulations that encourage investments in digital infrastructure.

- Highlighted the need for promoting formulation of internationally recognized standards for digital infrastructure, urban services and governance to advance interoperability among different systems and platforms.

Room 2: Community Engagement, Participation and Capacity

Moderator: Hazel Kuria

Members: Rogelio Alcocer Gomez, Rini Rachmawati, Yukinari Tanaka, Juliet Chinemelu, Karen Laßmann

Note-taker: Nigel Kirstein

Principles covered: Community Engagement, Transparency & Accountability

Takeaways

- Suggested to reframe the first paragraph of the thematic area to make it more impactful for readers who will not go through the entire section.
- Highlighted more focus is on governments and CSOs, citing that other players like academia also play important role.
- Pointed out lack of clarity in non-digital means of communication-suggested in-person.
- Mentioned that listing societal differences like gender, ethnicity etc leaves out other groups that have not been listed like people with disabilities. Recommended use of “all individuals” which is universal.
- Noted the need to add more on people of different educational levels and how to make them understand smart city concepts.
- Enquiry was made about translation of the guidelines.
- Observed that in general, the document is clear.

Room 3: Digital Inclusion, Equity & digital human rights

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Room 4: Environmental Sustainability & Economic Development

Moderator: Roberta Maio

Members: Brigitte Mariol-Mathais, Rashnee Atkinson, Yame Nkgowe, Shahnaz Badalova

Note-taker: David Adawo

Principles covered: Environmental Sustainability & Economic development and shared prosperity

Recommendations on Language and Clarity of Language of the Guidelines

- Noted that the guidelines are clear in terms of smart city development, but this needs a way of indicating that these should be interlinked with other key components.
- Indicated that there was need for a recognition of the principles in the light of country-specific frameworks but does not address national and regional commitments.
- Observed that there is need for a recognition of the commitments that various countries are signatories to and how this could impact the implementation of the guidelines.
- Suggested the addition of financial institutions and development actors within the thematic areas.
- Highlighted the presence of gaps in what the local authorities are involved in hence need for a clear definitive policy.
- Urged that the financial and developmental segments of the draft need to be made clear.
- Proposed a recognition of multi-level governance and its impact on the development of smart cities as a way of curing the gaps that nations may have as in the case of climate cooperations.
- Proposed an added focus not just on climate change issues but also conflicts as a way of enhancing resilience of cities.

Closing Remarks

- Encouraged experts hoping to attend the World Urban Forum to submit their names for addition.
- Wished experts a good time reviewing the draft in preparation for the next day of meeting.

UN-H EGM 2 | IG-PCSC | Day 2 – 27-09-2024

Agenda:

- Welcome: Quick Recap Day 1 and Agenda Day 2
- Consultation Process; Key Findings
- Q&A and Feedback
- Breakout Rooms: Implementation by Different Actors
- Plenary Discussion on Key Takeaways
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Noted Feedback and Discussions

Welcome: Quick Recap Day 1 and Agenda Day 2

- Welcomed experts and colleagues to the discussions for the day and thanked everyone for their contributions on the previous day of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM).
- Recapped the previous day's contributions and introduced experts to the agenda for the day including the key speakers for the day.

Consultation Process; Key Findings

- Thanked the Academic Lead of UNITAC for the summary of discussions.
- Sought further clarification on what the discussion about trust regarding data collection was.
- Responded that it is important to create transparency and trust among those from whom data is collected especially in informal settlements by developing ethical relationships.
- Experts were invited to review the report and present any contributions they may have.

Q&A and Feedback

- Elaborated on the LRG consultations that were conducted and the role in helping to position Local and Regional Governments (LRG) strategically in the implementation of the guidelines and provide concrete pathways.
- Highlighted various contributions that were made during the LRG consultations.
- Noted that it was largely observed that it is important to consider the various contextual differences between cities that would inform more effective implementation of the guidelines.
- Reported the issues of the digital divide and the need to embed local and regional governments in the implementation of major projects around smart city development.
- Provided the results of the consultations for the Internal UN-Habitat Consultations and International Organizations (IO)
- Reported that linking Guidelines to urban context specifically territorial development was a key recommendation made during the internal consultations.
- Noted that colleagues recommended that the guidelines should be aligned to the UN-Habitat mandate.
- Reviewed the need by colleagues to know which specific components make the guidelines people centred.
- Indicated the key contribution on the role of SMEs in implementation of the guidelines that was raised during the International Organizations.
- Noted that a portion or whole draft may be shared on 7 October but closed after WUF on 8 November as part of the online consultation.
- Informed experts on the proposed regional consultations planned between 18-28 November online as well as two (2) in-person meeting meetings between 15 & 16 January and 11&12 February.
- Briefed experts on the intended private stakeholder consultations scheduled for 1 and 2 October.
- Recommended that there is a difference between a smart city and digital transformation and items such as urban planning and urban regeneration which need to be marked to ensure that it outlines how technology helps cities in very concrete domains in matters such as transportation.
- Proposed the inclusion of the concept of data spaces despite it being in the early stages.
- Asked to know how the guidelines will address technologies that may be at their early stages, but which will likely be hugely consequential in smart cities.
- Emphasised that there need to be a greater review of the conceptualisation and implementation of the implementation tools.

- Responded that there is a plan to do a reanalysis of data sets every two years to ensure that the changing trends are captured which may positively influence monitoring and evaluation of the guidelines.
- Commended the data collection techniques but sought to know if community information groups had been informed.
- Proposed to know the references on smart city and smart city implementation definitions about literature review.
- Observed that it is important to differentiate the variables working in the cities and look at the technology as a facilitator of the variables toward greater sustainability.
- Asked to know if the draft could be shared with other experts from different sections of the countries where the experts are from.
- Proposed separation of governance from regulations since the governance would involve an analysis of how the administrators are able to implement the guidelines.
- Responded that there is now a split of the governance and regulation aspects in the new document which lists the different actors and what their role is in relation to the guidelines.
- Sought to understand how to bridge the ITU guidelines and the IG-PCSC especially by evaluating the areas and making them more masterplan focused instead of technology focused such as through
- Responded that the ITU is not developed through an intergovernmental process and that the commencement of the IG-PCSC was done by a review of existing literature on the same subject.
- Noted that there were some gaps identified that informed the International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities especially through aspects such as human rights, equity and inclusion.

Breakout Rooms: Implementation by Different Actors

Room 1: How Current Duties Work for Different Actors & How They Can Be prioritized

Moderator: Florencia Serale

Members: Biyu WAN, Alanus Von Radecki, Francois Ossama, Huiwen

Note-taker: Alice Kagumba

Principles covered: Financing and procurement, Data infrastructure and data platforms.

Recap on previous discussions.

- A recap on the previous discussion was given touching on governance and regulations and institutional arrangements.

- A need to institute strong regulations in Smart City developments was emphasized.

Discussion on Financing, digital infrastructure and data platforms.

- Noted that having a risk management plan, conducting risk and cost benefit analyses was necessary before instituting a smart city project.
- Noted that government incentives in form of land, tax reductions or exemptions and other financial incentives were key in encouraging investments in Smart Cities. An example of Kenya's Konza City was cited.
- Integrating aspects of Smart Cities in urban infrastructure projects was also highlighted as an effective way of promoting Smart Cities. An example of including installation of sensors in road construction projects was sighted.
- Proposed that a section on other aspects that support digital infrastructure such as energy/ power sources be integrated into the guidelines.
- Noted the need for municipalities to have their own data centers. Encouraging data sharing culture is also necessary.
- Highlighted the need for capacity building to support the maintenance of digital infrastructure.

Room 2: Challenges Foreseen in the Implementation of Duties Associated with Principles

Moderator: Hazel Kuria

Members: Adbelkhalek Ibrahim, Samuel Seth Passah, Rini Rachmawati, Rogelio Alcocer Gomez, Yukinari Tanaka, Juliet Chinemelu, Karen Laßmann

Note-taker: Nigel Kirstein

Principles covered: Community Engagement

Recap on previous discussion:

Went over the discussions had on the previous day.

Discussion on Community Participation vs Community Collaboration

- Highlighted that Community Participation is more about communities being engaged and kept in the loop (inclusivity at all levels) for instance through townhalls whereas collaboration is about agencies and institutions working together instead of working in silos.
- Pointed out that in the context of urban development e.g. housing, room for ownership is available thus collaboration is more suitable to bring various actors together. Participation, on the other hand, implies listening to people especially

the marginalized, and as a result collaboration occurs (engaging and making sure agencies are working together).

- Noted that the discussion was on the viewpoint of actors. Community people/citizens should participate in dialogues/discussions that immediately impact them. National/Local governments, CSOs, academia, private sector etc should collaborate.
- Emphasized need to make the difference clear in the Guidelines.

Challenges foreseen in the implementation of duties

- Funding was mentioned as a major challenge for governments to implement their duties.
- Inadequate capacity (digital skills) among various stakeholders was also pointed out to be a major hindrance to successful implementation of duties.
- Conflicts and disputes in some cities are foreseen to hinder cohesion and thus overall implementation of duties.
- Mistrust in governments at various levels was also mentioned as a possible challenge to overcome.
- Societal/Cultural nuances highlighted as a challenge to ensuring community participation was inclusive.
- Lack of social accountability where citizens fail to hold their governments accountable or engage in community participation initiatives.
- Suggested need for guidelines to address different levels of development across regions.
- Proposed empowerment of all government levels on matters implementation, funding etc. in the Guidelines so as not to be too specific on who should do what.
- Cited availability of numerous guidelines and inquired into how we could bind governments across different levels in implementing these Guidelines.

Room 3: How Duties will be Translated into 'Actions' and the Possible Need for a Separate Document for This:

Moderator: Milou Jansen

Members: Ana Paula Bruno, Brigitte Mariol-Mathais, Hugo Isaak, Jung Hoon Lee, Rashnee Atkinson, Santiago Caprio, Selma Tabet

Note-taker: David Adawo

Principles covered: Urban Resilience and Sustainability

Recaps on previous discussion:

- Reiterated the points made the previous day during Room 4 discussions.

Main Observations: Environmental Impact of Digitalization.

- Noted the need to explore the way digitalization can be leveraged to prevent disasters.
- Proposed the need to examine the effect of digitalization on climate.
- Affirmed that digitalization can be a good tool towards the achievement of various urban services.
- Encouraged policy creation to mitigate the possible adverse impact of digitalization on climate.
- Noted that in countries where the policies exist, there is no clear way of achieving these.
- Suggested that it would be best to leave Urban Resilience as it is with the UN taking the lead on it.
- Proposed the need to redefine resilience data and integrate this through local cities and towns for a better implementation.
- Sought to know the role of the national governments in ensuring urban resilience.
- Noted the importance of data to tackle interoperability with urban areas.
- National governments need to promote creation of policies especially through creation of innovation centres that will promote resilience.
- Proposed advance critical education which would be useful in providing knowledge especially in cities.
- Encouraged the implementation of programs that promote urban circular economy to promote urban sustainability by the private sector when doing projects.
- Proposed the need for sustainable urban approaches towards building.
- Urged for a considerations for the locations where the lands proposed for smart cities are found and whether the appropriate infrastructure shall be instituted.
- Encouraged the consideration of the aspect of the financiers such as banking institutions in the promotion of urban resilience.
- Noted the need to ensure the need of ensuring the sustainability and resilience of main infrastructure in countries to prevent the collapse of the associated infrastructure.

Plenary Discussion on Key Takeaways

- Discussed the need to difference between governance and regulations that can enhance collaboration.
- Disussed the need to have investment in energy sources to have good infrastructure in smart cities.
- Discussed the data processing tools and innovations such as data spaces.
- Encouraged participation among citizens and collaboration of stakeholders involved in implementation such as which would require community participation and collaboration as the listed principle.
- Encouraged a rethink on the impact that digitalisation on climate.
- Encouraged the utilization of digital tools to assist in providing early warning systems and with the data gathered be able to make predictable outcomes that would promote resilience in urban areas.
- Stressed the need for creation of urban observatories with critical data that can be accessed by the public that can help those moving within the cities prior to undertaking their travels.
- Encouraged the consideration of the territorial approach of data.
- Urged for volunteer cities that can translate the guidelines to pilot the implementation of the guidelines.
- Highlighted the gaps in real cases and examples that demonstrate the possible actions and cities implementability of the guidelines.
- Pointed out the importance of the guidelines are understandable by cities including in languages that are understandable to them.
- Emphasised on the need to highlight the need for the gains and diverse benefits of implementation of the guidelines to ensure that they are easily adopted by governments.
- Stressed on the need for performance review and tracking that can be used by various countries especially during fora and particularly by countries.

Next Steps & Closing Remarks

- Mentioned that the consultations are being concluded and finalising the WSCO.
- Proposed that experts should have up to Tuesday to provide any feedback within the document before a live release on the 7
- Announced a physical EGM scheduled for the 22nd and the 23rd of January in Baku for EGM.
- Encouraged those intending to come to WUF and may need letters to forward their names for preparation of the same.
- Announced the next consultations for 31 October (last Thursday of the month) with the experts.

