



CONCEPT NOTE: SPECIAL EVENT & RECEPTION

How to uphold the principles and actions of the People-Centred Smart Cities Guidelines

Organized by UN-Habitat with the sponsorship of the Government of France
May 28, 2025, 13:00-14:00 EAT, Conference Room II
UN Campus, Gigiri, Nairobi

Background

The event titled **“How to locally apply the principles and actions of the People-Centred Smart Cities Guidelines?”**, organised by UN-Habitat with the sponsorship of the Government of the Republic of France and to be held on **28th May 2025 from 12:30 – 14:00** (EAT Time), aims to discuss and explore global and field experiences in adopting smart city approaches for sustainable and inclusive urbanization, in the context of the near to come adoption of the *International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities* on May 30th, during the last day of the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

The resolution 2/1, adopted during the second UN-Habitat Assembly in 2023, has mandated UN-Habitat to initiate the development of International Guidelines on People-centred Smart Cities through an inclusive consultative process. The guidelines are to be a non-binding framework for developing national and local smart city regulations, plans and strategies to ensure that digital urban infrastructure and data contribute to making cities and human settlements sustainable, inclusive, prosperous and respectful of human rights. 31 experts nominated by Member States, and representing 25 countries, have worked on the drafting of this document and facilitated the consultation and evidence collection processes.

The guidelines in its current draft are to be considered for possible adoption on May 30th, during the resumed second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

They define key principles and actions for main actors to build **people-centred smart cities**, organized around *four thematic pillars*, namely:





Key areas of a people centred smart city

Shared prosperity; Inclusion and Equity; Sustainability, resilience and crisis response; and Community participation and Collaboration

and four enabling conditions, namely:

Governance and regulation, digital public infrastructures, data and smart cities services, digital literacy and skills development, budgeting and financing (Figure 1).

The event will combine a keynote presentation and a discussion involving a variety of key actors in the people centred smart cities space, including national and local governments, working towards utilizing appropriate digital technologies and data for cities and human settlements to become more inclusive, safe, resilient,

and sustainable.

Most importantly, the event will showcase the importance of the guidelines' principles to build cities that are truly inclusive and sustainable leveraging innovative practices. Speakers will highlight through practical examples and case studies the nexus and proximity of these principles and the relevance of approaching them as a whole, refraining from a silos approach.

The aim is to highlight how a people-centred smart city approach can provide benefits for cities in times of global crises and digital divide by working towards the implementation of SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

To conclude, the event will showcase practical opportunities and foster ideas to practically apply the principles and actions of the International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities, by ensuring sustainable digital futures across urban and rural areas, stressing the importance of inclusivity, equity, collaboration and multilateral cooperation among different countries and communities.

Agenda

Time	Item
13:00 – 13:10	Opening Remarks
13:10-13:15	Setting the scene: Presentation of the International Guidelines on People-Centred Smart Cities
13:15 – 13:20	Member States' Keynote speeches
13:20 – 13:50	Panel discussion: Showcasing the principles of the guidelines
13:50 – 14:00	Closing remarks

